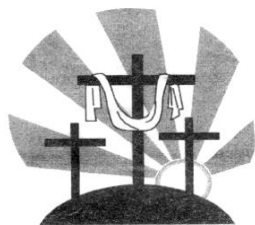


## REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for Sr. Philippine Stamp, IBVM, who died this week and for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Michael Rafferty and his son Mark; William Stokes; Mary Murphy; Emelia Brazil; Doreen Reynolds; Jimmy & Sadie Rigley; Don Curtin; Carmel & Tom Mangan; Phyllis Cronin; James Goulding; Marsha Loftis;

MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

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### CHURCH COLLECTIONS

The amounts collected last weekend are:

DATE	GREEN BASKET	Share
5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	€385	€50

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese.

The white basket is the collection for Share, which meets the needs both of poorer parishes and of central agencies of the Diocese.

We thank you for your contributions to the Church collections and for your continuing support of all the collections.

## WEEKLY BULLETIN



### *St. Mary's, Star of the Sea, Sandymount*

Parish Office 6683894 / 6683316 – Monday to Friday 9.30 – 12.30  
Fr. John McDonagh, Tel: 6684265 – Fr. Cormac McLraith, Tel: 6686845  
[www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com](http://www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com)

### *Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021*

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#### *A different Lenten Journey*

*The ashes from the Easter palm*

*bring the Lenten season on*

*And softly signed upon our heads*

*Recall those words from Scripture read,*

*Which if we care (and care we must)*

*Will fill our hearts with deep concern.*

*Remember man thou art but dust*

*And unto dust thou shalt return. Joseph McClellan*

Sic transit gloria mundi

Even so does the glory of this world pass away.

Yet again this year the pandemic has dealt a severe blow to the celebration of Lent and of Easter, the primary feast of the Christian Community. All the signs tell us that we will be in lockdown for weeks to come. Even ash on our foreheads this coming Wednesday as we begin the Lenten season is not feasible when it is too dangerous an exercise in the present circumstance.

The devastating corona virus that has brought the global community to a halt has in its own unique way brought us to a dramatic encounter with Lent's message. How quickly the glory of this world can be taken away ... countries in lockdown, travel severely restricted, painful isolation from family and friends, no social life, economies badly affected and in spite of all the restrictions 2.2 million people have died of this virus and 102.2 million have fallen

ill. Whatever Lenten discipline we undertook in the past pales into insignificance against the background of what's asked of us all now. Life is Lenten for the past year and for a time to come. We are aware of our vulnerability and limitations.

Amid all of this, there is a timely invitation to bring Easter hope to bear on our Lenten experience. Ash Wednesday and Lent is no time of despair but of hopeful preparation and readiness for Easter. We are dust but the stirrings of eternal life are within us also. Give thought to nurturing these stirrings by three steps long associated with Lent.

1. Give time to Prayer. Make concrete plans to pray.
  2. Commit to charity. This year make a special effort to support Trocaire. Most of our world are poor in countries where medical care and vaccines don't come easy and
  3. In Penance enter positively and fully into the discipline asked of all of us to defeat this virus and save lives. Do it as an act of loving regard for humanity.
- We look to Easter and to the promise of immortality at a time when we're very much aware of mortality.

### Ash Wednesday

There will be an extra Mass to mark the beginning of Lent on this Wednesday evening at 6.00pm, to facilitate those who will be working at the earlier 10.00am Mass time.

### Fratelli Tutti – Subjection and Self-Contempt

The last of seven observations of life on our planet which Pope Francis perceives as resistant to the development of human global fraternity is the manner in which economically prosperous countries are proposed as cultural models for less developed countries. Instead, he argues, each of those countries should be helped to grow in its own distinct way. Each country should be enabled to develop its capacity for innovation while respecting the values of its proper culture. The shallow desire to imitate others leads to copying and consuming in place of creating and fosters low national self-esteem. One sees in affluent sectors of poor countries and in countries that recently emerged from poverty, a resistance to native ways of thinking and acting and a tendency to look down on one's own cultural identity, as if it were the sole cause of every ill.

This destruction of self-esteem is an open door to domination by others, the powerful interests that take advantage of low-esteem and through media and networks seek to create a new culture in the service of the elite. The poor always end up losers in situations that play into the hands of financial speculators, raiders and hedge funders. These trends inhibit the capacity of politicians to devise effective, acceptable and sustainable development plans. When people lose their sense of belonging among members or their capacity to create bonds of integration between generations and different communities, it is hard to give birth to the future.

He ends this review by an invitation to us all "to advance along the paths of hope," the subject of his reflection in the rest of his letter. This pathway, in spite of all the clouds, is exemplified in the current pandemic by those who responded by putting their lives on the line.

"Our lives are interwoven with and sustained by ordinary people valiantly shaping the decisive events of our shared history: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, storekeepers, supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caretakers, transport workers, men and women providing essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests,

religious ... They understood that no one is saved alone."

**The Parish Office** is closed to the public for the time being. Because of the current seriousness of concern for public health, we have decided to close the parish office to the public for the time being. However, parishioners are invited to leave a message on the phone (01 6683316 or 01 6683894) or to contact Fr John (01 6684265/0876294325) or Fr Cormac (01 6686845) for any services required. Phone messages to the parish office will be checked daily and responded to.

We are happy to facilitate the booking of Masses, the provision of Baptism application forms and Statement of Freedom Forms for those planning a marriage in the coming months, the procurement of Certificates, or of items from the shop such as Mass cards, or the weekly editions of the Tablet or the monthly magazines such as Reality and Messenger. We can arrange the safe collection of items as needed and should a payment be involved it can be made appropriately by dropping an envelope through the parish office letter box. Newspapers like the Irish Catholic are at the back of the Church but should not be handled unless purchased and taken home. We encourage your support of the Catholic Press at a very difficult time for it.

For those in preparation for marriage it is best that they contact Fr John or Fr Cormac directly to arrange appropriate meetings.

### The Explorers

The Explorers are an informal ecumenical group with the aim of reading scriptures together. All are welcome. This year all presentations will take place on Zoom. Our topic will be: The Letter to the Phillipians : a letter for our day. Dr. Kieran O'Mahony, a bible scholar, will be our guide in reading the scriptures and hosting our zoom meetings. The first meeting will be held on this Monday , 15th February, at 7.30 p.m. In order to join, two steps are necessary:

1. Downloading the Zoom App if you haven't already done so.

Go to: <https://zoom.us/pricing> .Choose the basic option, which is free. Sign up etc, all of which is free at the basic level.

- 2 Meeting on 15th February @ 7.30 pm.  
Kieran O'Mahony is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  
Topic: Explorers: Phillipians Session 1 Time: Feb 15, 2021 07:30pm  
Zoom Meeting Details for entry.  
Meeting ID: 829 3990 1068 Passcode: 740492

If you wish to be informed of further meetings of this group, please, contact Anngret Siimms (Anngret.Siimms@ucd.ie) and leave your e-mail or postal address or telephone.