



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Micheál OBriain and Eithne O’Leary who died this week
For the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Claire Kennedy; Sr. Mary Edith O’Doherty; Joseph Jones; Hilda Russell; Brendan O’Reilly; James & Anne Molloy; Mary Murphy; Gerard Brazil; Ellen & Joseph Donnelly; Jack & Betty Ryder; Jeremiah & Nora Lincoln; Pat & Phyllis Cronin; Lorcan Hogan; Deceased members of Sands family;

And for Chris O’Doherty whose month’s mind occurs.

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

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

The amounts collected last weekend are:

DATE	GREEN BASKET	SHARE
8 th December 2019	€1,380	€817

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.

Thank You

Dear Parents and Guardians we would like to remind you that all children and vulnerable people should be accompanied by a parent or guardian when using the bathroom facilities in our church.

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 McIlraith, Tel: 6686845

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Sunday 15th December 2019

Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete! Rejoice!

This third Sunday of Advent is known as ‘Gaudete Sunday.’ ‘Gaudete’ is the Latin word for ‘rejoice’ and you’ll notice that the readings and prayers are like a great chord of Joy ... ‘be happy’ ... ‘rejoice’ ... ‘good news.’

We light the pink candle on the Advent wreath as a sign of joy. While purple is the colour for repentance and changing of heart, pink reminds us that it is all exercised in joy.

Our journey in faith should always be lived within the ‘Joy of Life.’ St. Augustine reminds us that an essential quality in the life of a Christian teacher is ‘hilaritas’ which translates as ‘hilarity’ or ‘cheerfulness.’ The serious, long faced Christian is less likely to teach or convert anyone towards Christ. Even in sad and difficult stages of our life’s journey, the joy of the Gospel and knowledge of God’s compassionate and saving love should find a resounding place in our hearts.

‘Joy was in my heart, Alleluia,
When I heard them say,
Let us go to God’s house’.

Baptisms in January

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in January will be held on Monday 30th December, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in January will be on Sunday January 5th and 19th after the 12 noon Mass.

Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 30th and to attend the preparatory meeting.

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Evening Prayer (Vespers) in Advent

Advent Evening Prayer continues this Tuesday, 17th December, at 6.30pm.

We need your support. Please, come along with your family and friends. All will be able to join in and it will be no more than half an hour of praise and prayers to God. All welcome.

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Coffee Morning

A Coffee Morning is being organised by one of our young adult parishioners, Analiese Culliton, in aid of the Peter McVerry Trust. It will take place in the Star of the Sea school hall this Sunday, the 15th of December after the 10.30 Mass. There will be plenty of home baked fare including gingerbread men and chocolate chip cookies! Tea and coffee etc.

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'Do this in Memory'

We welcome the children preparing for First Communion and their parents to the 'Do This in Memory' Mass this Sunday. Between now and our next special Mass on January 26th, we ask parents to work with their children on the following pages of their Thumb book; pages 16 and 17 and then Kidstuff 4 on pages 48 to 53 of Thumbs. You'll notice that pages 50 to 53 offers an exercise for each of the 12 days of Christmas up to January 6th, the Feast of Epiphany. The pages of the newsletter, Grapevine 4, delivered this week offer further material to work on at home with the children. Between now and Christmas Eve the Advent Calendar on pages 46 and 47 of Thumbs invites ongoing colour-in work. Plenty of work for the Christmas time!

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Star of the Sea Church Christmas cards

Christmas cards featuring panels from the stained glass windows in Star of the Sea Church are available in the Bookshop. The Parish card and Christmas schedule will be available for delivery early this week. People who kindly deliver the cards for us might call to the Parish office.

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Supporting the Parish

Parishioners are often surprised to hear that collections at Mass, and Christmas and Easter Dues do not go to the upkeep of a parish but to the Diocesan Common Fund enabling the support of priests and to the Share Fund, supporting both the poorer parishes and the

central diocesan offices.

We're very grateful to all who directly support the parish through a weekly envelope collection or through standing orders at specified intervals. Should you wish to avail of the weekly envelope or the form to initiate a regular donation, please don't hesitate to let us know. You may wish to review the amount you give in donation at this time, as we approach the financial year end on December 31st.

As you know, a traceable donation of €250 or more enables the parish to avail of a tax rebate. This is a good time to review our donations so far this year. It's a pity to find a donation total that's only a couple of Euros short of €250 when for the sake of a small amount, €250 becomes €362 with the benefit of a rebate. It's the sum total of Christmas and Easter dues along with the total in envelope collections, standing orders or recorded once off donations that counts.

Our sincere thanks to all who generously support the parish.

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ST.VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Society would like to take this opportunity to thank all parishioners for last Sunday's indoor collections which amounted to €22,505. They are extremely grateful to receive this amount in these difficult times. As always, they will continue to distribute the money to all deserving cases. Thank you all very much and a very Happy Christmas to all.

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Explorers

(Sandymount Ecumenical Scripture Reading Group)
The next meeting of the group will be held this coming Monday, 16th December, at 7.30 p.m. in Mount Tabor on Sandymount Green.

Professor Seamus O'Connell from Maynooth will read with us Luke 16.19-31 focusing on the concept of 'The Abandoned'. All are welcome. Previous attendance is not required.

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Legion of Mary Prayer Meetings

The Frank Duff Prayer meeting will take place on Tuesday, 17th December 2019 at 3 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room, Star of the Sea Church. All welcome.

Patrician meeting (Religious Discussion)

A discussion on 'Putting Christ back into Christmas' will take place on Thursday, 19th December '19 at 8pm in the Parish meeting room, Star of the Sea church. Fr. Philip will also speak.

Refreshments served. All welcome.



