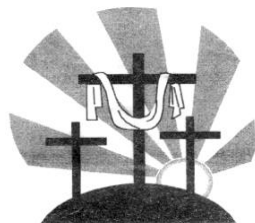


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Josephine (Jo) Curran and Ursula O’Farrell whose funerals took place this week and for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur :

Mary Connolly, Marguerite Mulcahy, Helen McDonagh, Christopher Murphy, Peter Clancy, Carol Wright, David Walsh, Eileen Ging, Thomas, Mary and Tom Harding.

and of those whose month’s mind occurs:

Marie Carroll, Finbarr Callanan, Eileen Dolan, Doreen Daly and Mary Doyle

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
9 th January	€775	€620

Tap and Go in December: €3,916 in 234 transactions. 60% Common Fund, 40% Share

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.

Parish Office Hours

For the time being Office Hours are restricted to 10.30 to 11.30 Mon to Fri. You may leave a request for a particular service on the phone at 6683316

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 January 16th 2022

Parish Council Nominees

On Wednesday week, January 26th, there will be opportunity to elect new members to the Parish Pastoral Council when an AGM, in modified circumstances because of Covid-19, will be held in the Church at 7pm. The meeting will end and disperse before 8pm and can be viewed on webcam.

The current Parish Pastoral Council has served us well through the very difficult years of the pandemic, particularly in establishing and maintaining a safety protocol for those attending church, and doing so successfully. We thank them. Unfortunately, all but two lay members of the Council have completed their three year terms of office and are now stepping down. We thank Joe Mc Namara, Fiona O’Brien, Veronica Lyons and Valerie Sweeney with grateful appreciation for their committed service to the parish.

We will be happy to welcome new membership. Anyone who is part of our Eucharistic gathering at Star of the Sea is welcome to be nominated. A nomination requires the signature of two parishioners and we encourage you all to give thought to the possibility of joining the Pastoral Council or of identifying and inviting someone you consider suitable to do so. It’s the kind of step that almost always needs an encouraging tap on the shoulder. The term of service invited from a candidate is 3 years, with monthly meetings and an ongoing sharing in the concerns and challenges of the parish. With only two members of the present council remaining in office for a further year, there is room for up to 9 new members at this time. A vote will be called for only if word of 10 or more nominees

reaches the parish office by Monday week, January 24th. Please see this as an exercise for us all to engage in this week. Among the first items to be addressed by the new Parish Council will be to work with our Synod animator, Deirdre Seaver, to engage in the Synod pathway discussions that are requested by the diocese between February and April.

The Church Unity Octave: January 18th to the 25th

The Church Unity Octave begins this Tuesday and continues until Tuesday week. Like so many aspects of life the chance for Christians of different traditions to meet and pray is affected by Covid.

There will be an Ecumenical Service on RTE ONE TV in preparation for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this Sunday at 11 am.

On Tuesday evening at 8pm, the Opening Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held in St Anthony's Church, Clontarf. The theme for this year was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches and it focuses on the Epiphany Story: 'We have seen his star in the East'. The preacher on Tuesday will be Rev Dr Trevor Morrow, the former Presbyterian Moderator. Dublin's Church leaders will attend. I'm sure webcam facility at St Anthony's will allow you to 'attend' online.

The wedding Feast at Cana

Today's Gospel story of the wedding Feast of Cana comes from St John's Gospel and is recorded there as the first miracle of Jesus. Traditionally in the Latin Church, Epiphany celebrated three events, The visit of the Magi, the Baptism of our Lord and the Marriage Feast of Cana. When we understand the word 'Epiphany' as meaning 'Manifestation' or 'Revelation' we can see why these events are linked. When it was decided to shorten its celebration in the mid 20th century to include just the first two of these, it was also decided to place the Marriage Feast of Cana as the Gospel for this Second Sunday of Year C. We are told that in 2020 there were more registry office marriages than marriages celebrated in churches. We might, in a new experience, recognise that couples who marry in church are like the couple in today's Gospel who invited Jesus and his mother, Mary, to their wedding.

Synodal Pathway

Copies of the Synod Prayer are at the back of the Church and you're invited to avail of a copy. We recite it daily at Mass time. It is part of our preparation to enter into the synod pathway between February and April, about which we'll have more to say next weekend at our Masses.

The word Synod comes from Greek and means 'walking together'.

Pope Francis is particularly anxious that people across a wide spectrum hear the invitation to be part of that journey together in anticipation of the Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome next year. Perhaps at family level you can extend that invitation?

The official logo, designed by a Parisian artist, Isabelle de Senhiles, conveys the meaning of the Pope's call to Synod.



Explanation of the Synod Logo

A large, majestic tree, full of wisdom and light, reaches for the sky. A sign of deep vitality and hope which expresses the cross of Christ. It carries the Eucharist, which shines like the sun. The horizontal branches, opened like hands or wings, suggest, at the same time, the Holy Spirit.

The people of God are not static: they are on the move, in direct reference to the etymology of the word synod, which means "walking together". The people are united by the same common dynamic that this Tree of Life breathes into them, from which they begin their walk.

These 15 silhouettes sum up our entire humanity in its diversity of life situations of generations and origins. This aspect is reinforced by the multiplicity of bright colours which are themselves signs of joy. There is no hierarchy between these people who are all on the same footing: young, old, men, women, teenagers, children, lay people, religious, parents, couples, singles; the bishop and the nun are not in front of them, but among them. Quite naturally, children and then adolescents open their walk, in reference to these words of Jesus in the Gospel: "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children". (Mt 11:25)

The horizontal baseline: "For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission" runs from left to right in the direction of this march, underlining and strengthening it, to end with the title "Synod 2021 - 2023", the high point that synthesizes the whole. We'll look at the Irish Logo another time.

Catholic Schools Week

Next Sunday will mark the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full. Through the five school days from January 24th to Jan 28th, in both Primary and Secondary Schools, daily themes are explored. Wednesday, in particular, is marked as Grandparents Day, a day when many primary schools invite grandparent visits and participation. Catholic Schools are highly prized the world over. Perhaps we take it all too much for granted in Ireland but we should be extremely proud of their vision and achievement. More on this next week.