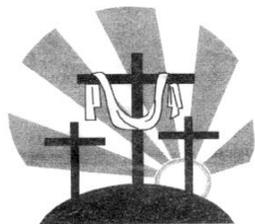


## REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Margaret O'Doherty; Patrick Cronin; Tim Byrne; Eamonn Collins; Liam & Rachael Byrne; Patrick McDonagh; Mauricio Sarguckis; Phyllis Reade; Christopher Betson; Breda Hogan.

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
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	€220	€100

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 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021*

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### *Ascension Day*

Many of us grew up with 'Ascension Thursday', forty days after the Resurrection, etched in our minds and then ten days later the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Day. Like the Church in many other countries, some years ago we decided to celebrate Ascension on the seventh Sunday of Easter instead, as a day more convenient to people in its celebration.

Today's important feast is the first of four significant Sunday feasts in succession. Today's feast of Ascension is followed next Sunday by the feast of Pentecost and on the following Sunday again, the feast of the Blessed Trinity and finally on June 6<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). On each of these Sundays, the Preface Prayer, just before the Eucharistic Prayer, gives insight to what the liturgy of the day is saying to our lives. Today, for example, we proclaim in the preface that "Christ has passed beyond our sight, not to abandon us but to be our hope. Where he has gone, we hope to follow" (the old translation). It's a pointer to the challenge of Ascension Day, namely, that we look forward rather than backward when we celebrate. We are called to something more than the memory of a past historical event.

The days between Ascension and Pentecost have traditionally been days of prayer. We enter the mindset of the apostles, prayerfully gathered in the upper room awaiting the promised day of Pentecost. The one condition that Jesus invites from us in anticipation of this great gift is that we should earnestly ask for the gift. Now that it's just seven days rather than ten that separates our celebrations of Ascension and Pentecost, one might dwell with the seven gifts, a gift for each day in the coming week: wisdom,

understanding, wise judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence and ‘wonder and awe’ in God’s presence. It’s a week also to keep in mind more than 80 young people in our parish schools who are preparing for Confirmation but don’t know when it will be feasible for them to celebrate the sacrament.

### **A commentary on today’s Gospel from St. Mark’s Gospel, Mark 16:15-20.**

The Lord initiates what is in effect a universal project of evangelisation. Central to such a project is a clear understanding of what we call “the good news.”

*“Go out into the world, proclaim the Good News to all creation.”*

The “good news” doesn’t lend itself easily to a short summary but it entails a commitment to the dying and rising that is essential to our baptism and a necessity in our life-style if we’re to enter the dynamics of salvation. Only then do we become ‘a new creation’

*“He who believes and is baptised will be saved.”*

Outward signs accompany this new creation in us. We’re intended to read Mark’s list symbolically and I’d be reluctant to test them on myself or ask anyone to do so – like

*they will pick up snakes in their hands and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison.”*

Symbolically they are a list of startling abilities and protective assurances because the Lord is with us. The disciples are assured that their mission will be successful. Their missionary activity will not harm them. Jesus having commissioned his disciples returns to the Father, from where he continues to work with his disciples. Undaunted, they proclaim the Good News everywhere.

*“And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, there at the right hand of God he took his place, while, they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them.”*

### **Explorers**

The next session of the Explorers’ series on St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians will take place tomorrow night at 7.30pm on Zoom. Led by Fr. Kieran O’Mahoney, participants will be sent the Zoom link details in advance of the meeting. ‘Explorers’ is a local inter-church study group on the Scriptures. Should you wish to join this meeting as a newcomer, please contact [anngret.simms@ucd.ie](mailto:anngret.simms@ucd.ie)

### **Funerals**

Funerals are still to be considered as private family events during this pandemic. The maximum number allowed in the church is 50 persons and any gathering outside the church is to be discouraged. The gathering at funerals remains a significant risk and we’re asked to take every precaution.

### **Parish Council Meeting**

The Parish Council Meeting intended for last Monday was postponed to tomorrow evening, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm because of a Deanery Meeting last week. We look forward to meeting Council members. From what the Archbishop related at that meeting, it now seems unlikely that both Confirmation and First Communion will be celebrated before the end of June and the summer holidays.

### **Church Re-opening**

We are happy to welcome up to 50 people in attendance at Mass within the guidelines set by the Government and HSE at this time.

- We ask parishioners to respect the key safety protocols in the Church at all Masses.
  - social distancing at all times
  - no more than 50 persons in attendance.
  - face coverings
  - sanitizing on entering and exiting the Church.
  - respect arrangements for receiving Holy Communion.
  - Only the cantor sings (and at a distance from all other people).
  - No congregating outside the Church doors or in the grounds.
- Remember that the Sunday obligation remains suspended.
- People should consider joining a weekday celebration of the Eucharist.
- People should not initially plan to come to daily Mass each day.
- Wait until matters settle down and there is clear evidence that there is no pressure on the maximum capacity (50) of the church.

We gratefully appreciate that parishioners have done their best to comply with all that has been asked of them since March ’20 and we encourage you to maintain the high standard of safeguarding and care. We want everyone to be as safe as possible until the vaccination programme is completed.

### **The ‘Flourish’ RSE Programme.**

Parents should also be aware that the Bishops have approved and published a resource programme for all Catholic Primary Schools, outlining the RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) component of the Primary School SPHE programme. You can view the programme entitled ‘Flourish’ and its outline of classes from junior infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class on the CPSMA (Catholic Primary School Managers Association) website. The ethos of a Catholic School is protected in law and the Flourish programme upholds that ethos while delivering the RSE programme. It is the prescribed RSE programme for all Catholic Schools both in the Republic and in Northern Ireland and has emerged through consultation over a long time with principals, teachers and parents of Catholic schools.