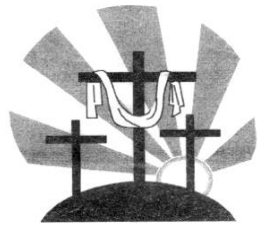


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the soul of Con (Cornelius) O'Rourke, whose funeral took place this week;

And also for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time: June Ashmore; Terry & Joe Gavin and their son, Jody; Emma Rigley; Rose & Andy Dodd; Justin McEntegart; Austin Pickering; John Browne; Gerard McLoughlin; Frank Waters; Michael Ryan; May Sheridan; Kathleen Moran; Joseph Jones; Bill O'Sullivan; Bride O'Shea; Brendan O'Sullivan.

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
10 th November 2019	€1,535	€965

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.

OLIVER! in Marian College:

Marian College will present the ever-popular 'Oliver!' in the college, Lansdowne Rd., on Thursday 28th & Friday 29th Nov. at 7.30 each night (please note early start). This marks the 44th anniversary of the Marian College musical society. All welcome. For bookings please phone Ray at 0879195012, or simply turn up on the night.

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

Sunday 17th November 2019

Last Weeks of the Year

As we enter the last two weeks of the Church Year before entering a new year on December 1st, the first Sunday of Advent, you'll notice how much the readings are given over to the end times.

The advice of today's Gospel is quite direct: When things are difficult, when we seem to have reached a dead-end and have nowhere to turn, take care not to be deceived and do not be frightened. Above all, do not compromise and settle for easy answers, which you know in your heart are not authentic. Hold fast to what is true. Your endurance will win you your lives.

That message of not compromising and not settling for easy answers is dramatically illustrated in the weekday readings at Mass over the coming week. The readings from 1st and 2nd Books of Maccabees tell an extraordinary story. It dates to the period of the Syrian Seleucids' domination of Palestine between 198B.C. and 129B.C. It particularly relates to the year 169B.C. when Antiochus IV, known as Antiochus Epiphanes, and a cruel despot, entered Jerusalem. He was determined to impose Greek (Hellenist) culture on everyone. Two years later the temple was appallingly profaned and the Jewish religion was proscribed in an attempt to wipe it out. It prompted stiff resistance from the Jews led by Mattathias and his five sons, one of whom Judas Maccabaeus became his successor. In 164B.C. Judas had the temple purified and the sacrifice offered. It's a victory celebrated to this day by the Jewish feast of Hanukkah (Rededication), the Feast of Lights, around Christmas time. Our readings from the Books of Maccabees this week are urging people of faith to be true and constant in faith in the face of severe opposition. Ironically the Jewish people were divided in respect of their culture and initially the invading king received all the help he needed from Hellenized Jews, a pattern often repeated in

history. 'Stick to your guns' when it comes to faith. Endurance will win life.

'Do your utmost to arouse in yourself a love of heaven and the life of the blessed so you will weaken your dread of parting from this mortal and fleeting life' (St. Francis de Sales d 1622).

Next Sunday, the last of the year, is the Feast of Christ the King.

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'Do this in Memory'

Our next 'Do this in Memory' Mass, attended by the children preparing for First Communion and their parents, will be next Sunday, November 24th. Meantime parents are reminded to share with their boy or girl the items on Grapevine 2 and the following pages of Thumbs 12 and 13, 42 and 43 – To mark November in their Sacred Space in church we'll be asking the children to bring a fallen leaf to represent people in their families who have died. They'll be placed, when collected, at the altar garden in front of St Joseph's altar.

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Walk of Light 2019 Inter-Church Journey

The Annual Ecumenical Walk of Light takes place on Sunday 24 November from 4.00-6.30pm. In cooperation with the Catholic, Church of Ireland, Korean, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Ethiopian Orthodox congregations in the area. Starting with a welcome and opening Prayer at 4.00pm at St Finian's Church, Adelaide Road, followed by an address by Jane Mellett, Trocaire, at 4.45pm at the Church of Mary Immaculate Refuge of Sinners, Rathmines. Concluding Prayer will be at 5.45pm in Holy Trinity Church, Rathmines.

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Registration for Confirmation

To establish the definitive list of those who wish to celebrate Confirmation next March we ask again that if anyone has not already done so he/she and parents should submit their registration form as soon as possible. All candidates are asked to confirm their Baptism by presenting a Baptism Cert at earliest convenience. If a young person was baptised in Star of the Sea it will suffice to indicate so on the registration form, giving some direction as to the date.

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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. We thank all volunteers who have insured that Garda vetting is updated and complete.

Manresa – Sitting in Silence

Rather than offering teaching, instruction or guidance, these evenings will simply present an opportunity for companionable, contemplative quiet. On Wednesdays in November from 6.00pm to 6.30pm.

Manresa – Advent Weekend Retreat

A retreat in Advent - This retreat will take as its theme, **Lead kindly light** – inviting participants to consider where inspiration and hope lies for them in Advent. Fri 29th Nov. to Sun 1st Dec. & Fri 6th to Sun 8th Dec. See other Retreat opportunities on the front porch notice board.

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Baptisms in December

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in December will be held on Monday 25th November 2019, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in December will be on Sunday December 1st and 15th after the 12 noon Mass.

Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 25th and to attend the preparatory meeting.

Because it occasionally arises as a question, we confirm that godmother and godfather should be of each gender and that godparents must be over 16 and practising Catholics, at home in their faith. While normally we have two godparents, it is sufficient to have just one. Another may act as a witness rather than a godparent in that situation.

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The Explorers

Sandymount Inter-Church Scripture Reading Group Our next meeting will be held this coming **Monday**, 18 November at 7.30 p.m. - 9 pm in Mount Tabor Care Centre opposite Christ Church on Sandymount Green. Professor Seamus O'Connell (Maynooth) will assist us to explore the parables of Jesus in St Luke's gospel. The focus will be on 'The Welcomed'. All are invited. Previous attendance is not required.

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Parish Pastoral Council AGM

The Parish Pastoral Council will hold its AGM on next Wednesday, 20th November at 7.30pm, in the Star of the Sea School Hall.

It is an occasion for reports from the Pastoral Council and its sub-committees as well as the Financial Report for the year ended December 2018.

With a number of Parish Pastoral Council members coming to the end of their term of office, the AGM also represents an evening when new members are appointed. There are nomination forms at the back of the church. All parishioners, members of our parish Eucharistic gatherings, over the age of 18 years are eligible for election. Candidates are to be nominated by two parishioners.