

REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of

Margaret Loftus, Sister Marie Bernadette O’Leary and Deirdre Coughlan who died recently.

For the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Brian Clinton, Leo Healy, Maeve, Dan & Gretta Slattery, Declan O’Loughlin, Dolores Winstanley, Josephine Connolly, Evelyn & Joseph Duffy, Mary Ryan, Edward Lennon, Jeremiah Lincoln, Dinny Foley, Michael O’Leary,

And for Katherine Dearlove 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.

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CHURCH COLLECTIONS

The amounts collected last weekend are

DATE	GREEN BASKET	SHARE
11 th February 2018	€1,735	€940

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.

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The Valentine’s Day cards mentioned in last week’s Bulletin are available at the back of the 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 18th February 2018

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Experiences and Challenges of Family Life ‘The Joy of Love’ Chapter 2 (part 1)

The situations of families worldwide and the related pastoral insights and concerns expressed at the two Synods on Family Life are addressed in chapter 2.

While families today enjoy a greater freedom and greater communication between spouses than in forms of family of the past, it is also the case that individuals in personal and family life today receive less support from social structures than in the past. In paragraph (par) 33, Pope Francis sees extreme individualism in our culture as the source of frequent intolerance and hostility in families. Genuine freedom is often confused with the idea that each individual can act arbitrarily as if there were no truths, no values and no principles to guide us. While much in today’s culture impedes the making of permanent decisions and marriage can be swept aside whenever it proves inconvenient, Francis urges us to continue to advocate marriage, offering reasons and motivations for marriage and family life and ‘so enable men and women to respond to the grace God offers them’(par35)

In paragraphs 36 to 38, Francis advocates self-criticism for our failures as a Church to encourage openness to this gift of grace rather than our stressing doctrinal, bioethical and moral issues. Often defensive, we waste energy denouncing a decadent world without being proactive in proposing ways of finding true happiness.

Contd.

And yet, he argues, we need to warn against a cultural decline to promote love and self-giving. In par 39, he outlines symptoms of a 'culture of the ephemeral' and then, in succeeding paragraphs up to par 49, he looks at various cultural trends that impact on family life: pressures on young people not to start a family (par 40), an uncontrolled affectivity, in and out of relationships, leading to an immaturity and impatience with marital problems (41), a lowering birth rate promoted by world politics and influenced by factors such as bio-technology, industrialisation, the sexual revolution, consumerism and, in some cases, State intervention in favour of contraception, sterilisation and even abortion (par42). The weakening of faith and of religious practice in some societies is leaving families more isolated in their difficulties (par 43). In par 44, Francis underlines the fact that 'families and homes go together'. 'The family has a right to decent housing'. The great number of children born outside wedlock and the exploitation of children, a perverse reality in today's world, are acknowledged in par 45. Among other issues addressed are families in migration (par 46), families of persons with special needs (par 47), the elderly in family life today (48) and families living in dire poverty and great limitation (par 49).

We'll continue our summary of this chapter next week, where Francis identifies particular pastoral challenges to family life today.

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ACCORD Dublin

The Annual Collection of ACCORD, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made at all Masses this weekend. The Collection for ACCORD will replace the usual Share Collection.

ACCORD Dublin throughout the diocese offers:

- ❖ Marriage Preparation Courses.
- ❖ Counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships.
- ❖ A Relationship and Sexuality Programme for Schools.

ACCORD Dublin needs your support
Please give generously.

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Clothing Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

Members of the Society will collect the bags outside the church at the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses only.

The Society is very conscious of the tremendous support given by the parishioners of this Parish for their charitable works over the years. They would like to thank you all most sincerely on behalf of those you have

helped.

'Do This in Memory' Mass

Our next Mass will be on 4th March at 10.30am. The meeting with the parent's group to prepare for that Mass will be on Saturday next, 24th February at 9.00am. Meantime parents might work with their children on pages 20, 21, 56 and 57 of Thumbs and Grapevine 5 which the children received last week.

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Celebrating Baptism

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in March will be held on Monday, 26th February, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in March will be on Sundays March 4th and 18th, after the 12 noon Mass. Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 26th February 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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WMOF2018 Special Collection

Please support the third National Collection for WMOF2018 which will be taken up in our parish next weekend – 24th & 25th February 2018.

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Explorers

The Explorers are a Sandymount Inter-Church Scripture Reading Group. Our next session will be held on Monday, 19th February from 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm in the Community Room of the Mount Tabor Care Centre next to Christ Church on Sandymount Green. Father Kieran O'Mahony, OSA, will talk to us about 'The washing of the feet' focused on John's gospel, chapter 13. All are welcome. Previous attendance not necessary. Bring your bible. For queries ring 2694374 (A.Simms).

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Lenten Evening Prayer on Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Evening Prayer of the Church is a beautiful way of bringing your hymns, praise, concerns and prayers to God this Lenten Season.

We will support and pray for other each other as a parish community for six Tuesdays of Lent, beginning this Tuesday, 20th February and continuing on 27th February and 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th of March.

Please, come along with your family and friends. It will be little more than half an hour but something uplifting to do for Lent!