



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Kathleen Gaynor; Mary Doyle; Eileen Dolan and Doreen Daly; whose funerals took place this week.

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

Christopher & Jean (Bunny) O’Connell; Sean Hegarty; Jim Bohan; Brendan O’Reilly; Emma & Sammy Rigley; Deirdre McNamara; Larry Whelan; Samuel & Peter Clarke; Irene & Declan Collum; Lyla Carroll; Nancy & Brendan Allen; Sandy Smith; Catherine & John (Jack) Masterson.

And for Bernie Seagrave 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	St. Vincent de Paul Annual collection
12 th December 2021	€1,065	

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
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Sunday 19th December 2021

Our Lady’s Week

‘Living in the spirit of Advent,
by thinking of the inexpressible love
with which the Virgin Mother awaited her Son,
we are invited to take her as a model
and to meet the Saviour who is to come.’

These lines from Pope Paul VI in his 1974 document ‘Marialis Cultus,’ devoted to Our Lady, is in itself a lovely description of the Church in this last week of Advent. Our focus is on Mary in expectation.

The beautiful prayer of Mary, while carrying her child, which we call ‘The Magnificat’ is the prayer of the Church itself, carrying Christ in its womb and presenting him to the world. ‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.’

From December 17th to December 24th, Mary is the focal point of the Gospel readings each day and in the Evening Prayer of the Church during these days the ‘Magnificat’ antiphon is a series of calls upon the Lord to come to us.

‘O Wisdom ... O come to teach us the way of truth’
‘O Adonai ... O come and save us with your mighty power.’
‘O stock of Jesse ... O come to deliver us and do not delay’
‘O key of David ... O come to lead the captive from prison.’
‘O rising Sun ... O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.’

‘O king ... O come and save man whom you made from clay.’

‘O Immanuel ... O come and save us, Lord, our God.’

Sung to very beautiful Gregorian chants, these antiphons, known as the ‘O Antiphons were cherished over centuries by the faithful and as they were sung in these evenings before Christmas, the monastery bells were rung. You’ll recognise these antiphons as the root source of the Advent hymn, ‘Come O come, Emmanuel’, which we sing in our hearts rather than our voices during these pandemic restriction times.

Another beautiful Gregorian chant of this Advent season was ‘Rorate Coeli desuper et nubes pluant justum.’

‘Drop down ye dews from heaven
and let the clouds rain down the Just One.’

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

The Rite of Reconciliation; Individual Rites

In the week leading up to Christmas, Monday December 20th to Friday December 24th, there will be opportunity each day after the 10am Mass to celebrate the sacrament in the individual rite.

Christmas Arrangements 2021

Subject to Covid restrictions at the time.

Changes that may occur will be posted on website.

Masses to celebrate Christmas

Christmas Eve

6.00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas

9.00pm Mass for Christmas Night,
preceded by Carols and Blessing of the Crib.

Christmas Day

Masses at 9.00am, 10.30am and 12.00 noon.

Sunday, 26th December

Masses at 9.00am, 10.30am and 12.00 noon.

Morning Mass during Christmas Season

December 27th to January 1st at 10.00am

Usual weekend Mass times on January 1st/2nd.

The 7.30am daily Mass resumes on Thursday January 6th.

Mass on January 6th, Feast of the Epiphany,

7.30am, 10.00am and 6.00pm.

The Pandemic and Christmas

At this stage of great uncertainty because of the current transmission rate of the most recent strain of the Covid-19 virus, we can’t be sure that further restrictions affecting church gatherings may not be introduced this week.

Whatever the story, we ask parishioners to be careful and to do their best to safeguard public health. Christmas is a time when people like to come to church even when they haven’t come through the year and we welcome all who come. So it seems strange that we’re encouraging people to stay at home and link with us by webcam to limit the danger of virus transmission. We greatly appreciate those who have done so consistently in this past year and thank them sincerely.

If you choose to ‘attend’ Mass from your home, try to do so at the time assigned with full attention and not distracted by other tasks to be met, especially in the kitchen. It can be a lovely family experience to link with the Mass together in respectful reverence, as you might do together in the church. Then over the twelve days of Christmas nominate another day on which to attend the 10.00 o’clock weekday Mass to receive Holy Communion. With social distancing called for we can’t accommodate the usual numbers.

A prayer for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Remember, O most gracious virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to your protection
implored your help
or sought your intercession, was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence, we fly to you,
O virgin of virgins, our Mother.
To you we come;
before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word incarnate
despise not our petitions,
but in your mercy hear and answer us.
Amen.
(The Memorare).

Carol Service

It is lovely to see and hear the choir back in action again. Unfortunately we can’t join in the singing with them.

This Sunday evening at 5.00pm there will be a carol service, led by the choir, in the church. One may attend both physically in the church or on the webcam.

Christmas card and Christmas Dues delivery.

Our thanks to those who have helped get them delivered. Further assistance welcome.

