



REST IN PEACE

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

George McElroy; Mary Connolly; Michael Herity; Daniel Hickland; David Walsh; Georgina O'Sullivan; Frank Smith; Helen, Catherine & Constance Cowley; Susan Cassidy; Joe King;

And for Brother Mel Kenny & Declan Meagher whose Month's Minds occur.

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 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 12 th January 2020 | €1,575 | €1,060 |

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 January 2020
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Church Unity Octave

The week of prayer for Church Unity began this Saturday, January 18th, and will conclude next Saturday, January 25th.

One might ask why this week is celebrated yearly between January 18th and January 25th? To answer that question we go back to 1908 when two ecumenists, Fr. Paul Wattson in America and Rev. Spencer Jones in England proposed that an octave of prayer be held between January 18th and January 25th. At that time January 18th marked the date when the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter in Rome was celebrated and January 25th, then as now, marked the Feast Day of the Conversion of St. Paul.

Initially it is probably fair to say that Fr. Wattson saw reunion with Rome as the particular object of the octave of prayer. In the early 1930s another ecumenist, Abbé Coururier of Lyons, felt the week's prayer needed to be broadened. 'We must pray not that others are converted to our point of view but that we all be drawn closer to Christ.' He stressed that its purpose in prayer is the 'unity Christ wills and by the means he wills.'

The Decree on Ecumenism, published in 1964 emphasised prayer as the soul of the ecumenical movement and encouraged observance of the Week of Prayer. Since 1966 the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome and the World Council of Churches in Geneva have taken over the joint preparation of the Week of Prayer text. Each year they ask the Churches in a

chosen country to initiate proceedings by choosing a particular theme and creating an initial draft text. This year it was the turn of churches in Malta to do so and the theme they chose was 'They showed us unusual kindness,' a theme drawn from St. Paul's reported shipwreck (Acts of the Apostles 27:18-28).

It is an important part of Church life. Please pray this week for the Unity Christ invites among all his disciples and for the place of unusual acts of kindness in enabling it.

A particular local interest is reflected in the work of the 'Explorers', an inter-Church scripture study group. Nor should it be lost on us as we mark the life of Mary Aikenhead that she was the daughter of a mixed marriage, an Anglican father and a Catholic mother.

'ut unum sint'. 'That they may be one' – the prayer of Jesus.

The inauguration ceremony in Dublin will take place at an interdenominational Service in the Church of the Assumption, Booterstown Avenue, this Sunday, 19th January at 4.00pm. The Rev. Abigail Sines, Dean's Vicar, Christchurch Cathedral, will preach the sermon.

Baptisms in February

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in February will be held on Monday 27th January 2020, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in February will be on Sunday February 2nd and 16th, after the 12 noon Mass.

Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 27th January and to attend the preparatory meeting.

Sunday of the Word of God

In September last Pope Francis declared that the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time should be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. So next Sunday we celebrate this new day in the Church's calendar to highlight the importance of the Bible in our lives.

Coming at the end of the Week of Prayer for Unity, the Pope adds that "at a time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity ... the Sunday of the Word of God has ecumenical value since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity".

Iris Charles Centre

Chair exercises have been extended to two days a week – Tuesdays and Fridays at the Centre on Newbridge Avenue, from 11.45am to 12.45pm at a cost of €2 per class.

'Do This in Memory'

At the 10.30am Mass next Sunday, the children preparing for First Communion and their parents will celebrate the 4th 'Do This in Memory Mass'.

The children are asked in advance to complete pages 48 to 53 of Thumbs (assuming pages 40 to 47 have been completed after the previous gatherings in October, November and December). Parents are asked to share the contents of pages 16 and 17 of Thumbs as well as the contents of Grapevine 4, delivered after our December Mass.

The Explorers

The next meeting of the Explorers, an informal ecumenical group, will be held this coming Monday, 20 January, 2020 in Mount Tabor Care Centre, Sandymount Green at 7.30-9 p.m. Glen Jordan from the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland will discuss with us what happens if we reread as adults stories from the bible that we knew as children? On Monday next we will look at the story of The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11.1-9).

Work to be undertaken

Our beautiful church building is in constant need of attention and upkeep. At our recent AGM in November some of the problems were highlighted, whose address has left us with the uncomfortable feeling of 'throwing good money after bad' all too often.

Presently we are looking at changing the lighting system to enable us to use LED lights with which the current system is not compatible. It will give us more light and reduce our electricity bills.

The downpipes and gutters are also being looked at to help us arrest a growing problem of dampness, especially visible behind the altar.

The organ will be refurbished after Easter and we look forward to hearing it played again.

A kind donation from a couple in our parish allowed us to repair tiling in the church. However, damage to the foundation floor is using heavy equipment twenty years ago has meant there's a need for further remedial work too avoid our problem with loose tiles. The tiler couldn't give assurance that repairs would last, unless further work was undertaken.

The holy water font destroyed by a group of teenage boys in 2011 is also envisaged for repair.

Clothing Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

The Society is seeking your help in its Annual Clothing Appeal in this Parish. The Appeal is for clean, good-quality clothes, bedclothes, curtains, shoes etc. Bags will be available outside the church on the weekend of 16th and 17th February and the Society will collect the bags outside the church on the following weekend, 23rd / 24th February at the Vigil Mass and Sunday morning Masses.