



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of Katherine Dearlove, Celia Lester and Maureen Diskin, who died this week for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Mary & Martin Boughan, George, Imelda & David Reade, Mary Lennon, Thomas Smith, Catherine & James Henry, Raymund Murdiff, Thomas, Mary & Tom Harding, Evelyn & Joseph Duffy, Michael Herity, George McElroy, Daniel Hickland, Catherine & James Henry, Anna Radford, Helen & Catherine Cowley

and for James (Jimmy) Bohan and Sean Hegarty 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
14 th January 2018	€1,595	€1,200

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.

Christmas Dues

Fr. John and Fr. Cormac would like to thank parishioners who have already sent in their Christmas Dues. Envelopes may be handed into the Sacristy/Parish office or put in the letter-box in the Parish office door

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 21st January 2018

The Year of St. Mark

Today, the Gospel begins a Sunday journey with us through the Gospel of St. Mark. Last year we read from St. Mathew's Gospel from one Sunday to the next and next year will bring us to read from St. Luke's Gospel. St. Mark's is the shortest of the four Gospels and in the view of the majority of Scripture scholars, the one that was most likely the first written.

For four weeks we'll read from chapter one of Mark's Gospel and then, with Lent beginning on February 14th, we break from our continuous reading from Mark until the end of Lent, Easter and Pentecost, when from Sunday June 10th we resume a continuous reading from Mark each Sunday, starting this time in chapter 3. In August we take a little break to read from chapter six of St. John's Gospel for four weeks. Then the reading of St. Mark continues each Sunday, taking up where we left off in July. The journey with St. Mark's gospel continues then each Sunday until the end of November. Understandably the Passion and Death of Jesus are recounted on Palm Sunday (Mark chapters 14 and 15), so the last readings from Mark will be from chapter 13, come November.

We read from St. Mark's Gospel but it might also be said that, with reflection, the Gospel both reads and empowers us.

Celebrating Baptism

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in February will be held on Monday, 29th January, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in February will be on Sundays February 4th and 18th, after the 12 noon Mass. Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 29th January 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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'Do This in Memory' Mass

Grapevine 5 has been distributed to parents through the First Communion classes. Please share its contents with your boy or girl and share with them also pages 18 and 19 of Thumbs and help them complete Kidstuff on pages 54 and 55 of Thumbs between now and our next Mass on February 11th. The children's ability to respond at various parts of the Mass rests on your work at home with them.

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A Timely Reminder?

At the beginning of a new Financial Year in the Parish it may be a timely exercise to check if your traceable donations to the Parish exceed €250 a year (it's the equivalent of €21 per month).

It could be composed of the summation of Christmas and Easter Dues along with such monthly / annual donations as would render the cumulative amount to be €250 or greater. The Charities Act meets a €250 donation with a 31% rebate in benefit of the Charity. It means in effect that your €250 increases to a total donation of €362. What a pity if someone donates €247. Worth checking!

Renewed thanks to all who donate generously to the Parish in a weekly envelope or in standing orders or direct donations to the Parish.

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Legion of Mary

The Frank Duff prayer meeting will take place on Tuesday, 23rd January '18 from 3 to 4 pm. in the parish meeting room, Star of the Sea church. All welcome.

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 10th / 11th February. The Society will collect the bags outside the church the following weekend, 17th / 18th February at the Vigil Mass 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.

Getting Married

Every year in our parish we meet more than 30 couples preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage. Some celebrate here in Star of the Sea, more elsewhere in Ireland and others in countries abroad. It's a privilege to journey with them.

The parish of residency over the previous six months is the parish responsible for the completion of documents and the parish of residency of the bride takes responsibility for the preparation of the couple towards the Sacrament.

As part of that celebration the couple are asked to attend a pre-marriage course. The Diocese recommends its own Accord Course. While today a range of courses are available the criterion of the Diocese is that a connection with the Eucharistic Community is necessary for the acceptability of courses on offer. On that criterion some courses are not acceptable and couples planning to celebrate marriage as a sacrament should be aware of that.

The first step of a couple planning to marry is to contact the priest in the local parish, then establish a date and place for the church celebration and allow the priest to guide them through the necessary requirements. Couples will also be aware that they must also meet with the Registrar of Marriages and an appointment for that meeting requires notice at least three months before the date of the marriage.

The Sacrament of Marriage may be celebrated only where a community gathers to celebrate Mass on Sundays. It highlights that the place of celebration should never be thought of as a 'venue' but as a community of faith within which the sacrament is celebrated.

A saint for this week

In the middle of the Church Unity Octave each year (January 18th to 25th) we celebrate the memory of St. Francis De Sales. How appropriate it is that we should remember him as we pray for the unity of Christians.

He was born in 1567 and after ordination he worked tirelessly for the renewal of faith in his country. We remember him for the spiritual classic he wrote, called "The Introduction to the Devout Life". He became bishop of Geneva and proved a great and gentle pastor to all at a time of significant stress for Christians and particularly in Geneva, the home of Calvin and his reformation movement.

He died in 1622 and thousands of both Catholics and Calvinists lined the streets at his funeral. He was buried in his home town, Annecy.