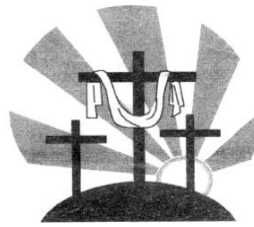


# REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested for Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Cudmore who has died and for Maureen (Cowley) Cassidy, Derek Greene, Joan Gannon, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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	WHITE BASKET
14 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	€1,060	€715

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese, known as the Common Fund. The white basket is normally 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  
Fr. John McDonagh, Tel: 6684265 – RCN2001616  
[www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com](http://www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com)  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

### Eyes of Faith

In the Gospel stories of the apparitions of the risen Jesus there is a strange phenomenon to be noted. The disciples don’t recognise him at first. Yet, they discover that it is he. It confirms that the sight of the risen Lord wasn’t created by their imaginations but comes to them from the reality. It takes some time before they recognise him. But it also demonstrates something deeper, something that’s part of Jesus himself – his newness. He’s no longer simply what he was before. He’s initiating his disciples and his Church into a new form of his presence among them. The fact that he suddenly appears among his disciples isn’t to prove that “he can pass through closed doors” but that he is always present, even when they do not see him. His presence among us as the risen Lord is a permanent presence.

This presence is to be recognised through faith. The disciples on the road to Emmaus only recognised him when they began to open their hearts in faith. It wasn’t the eyes of the body but only the eyes of faith which brought the real recognition. But then you might say, ‘what about Thomas’? Did he not recognise Jesus while he was still unbelieving?’ Well, when we look at it closely Thomas wasn’t a man who refused to give himself to Christ. In the same Gospel of John we hear him say – “Let us also go that we may die with him” (John 11:16) and the story of the apparition to Thomas ends with “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

Contd./

This is the real point. Everyone who gives oneself to Christ the Lord can know that the Lord is with him/her, even when he/she does not see him. Indeed, what Thomas confesses is not what he sees with his human eyes, but what is brought home to him by the light of faith. He says a lot more than his eyes can see! “My Lord and My God.” To come in contact with the risen Lord we need the eyes of faith. Those who were not prepared to believe would not have recognised Jesus through his apparitions. It also explains why Jesus didn’t appear to the Pharisees and the whole people. He simply wouldn’t have been recognised. Treasure the gift of faith, no matter how small – even the size of the mustard seed – and never tire of looking at life through the eyes of faith. ‘Tis there you will meet the Lord.’ (Adapted from ‘The Dutch Catechism’).

### **Fr John**

Fr John is very grateful for all of the prayers and good wishes that parishioners have extended to him in recent weeks. He is grateful too to the priests who have kindly offered their services once again in meeting the parish schedule of Masses while he recovers.

### **Mass Times reminder**

We continue with our new daily Mass schedule until we have a replacement for Fr Cormac. Weekday Masses are at 7.30am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 10am on Tuesday and Thursday. Thank you.

### **Lay Ministry Sunday**

Next Sunday we celebrate Lay Ministry Sunday and a collection will take place which replaces the Share collection at all Masses. We are increasingly more dependent on the work of lay ministers in the life of the Church. In his letter to parishes this week Archbishop Dermot Farrell spoke about the ‘green shoots’ emerging through efforts associated with our Building Hope initiative. The Diocesan Certificate in Catechesis, provided by the Office of Mission and Ministry is a good example, it has been a real success. This in-demand programme examines the vocation and mission of the participants inspired to share their faith with others. Other creative programmes supporting lay people to nurture their adult faith and engage with young people include, ‘*Servant Leadership*’, ‘*Confirmation Connect*’ and the *Laudato Si* awards as well as the ‘*Just Lent*’ campaign which focused on Christian social justice during Lent. These programmes help us to stop and ‘abide’

with Jesus to realise God’s loving presence with us.

### **Trocaire Boxes**

Many thanks to everyone who have dropped back Trocaire boxes. If you have one at home please drop it into the sacristy this week. Please don’t leave it at the back of the church. Thanks also to everyone for your generosity to the Easter Dues collections. Envelopes can also be left in the sacristy this week.

### **Do This In Memory**

We thank all who came along to our final ‘Do this in Memory’ Mass before our First Communion days in May. We celebrate First Communion on May 18<sup>th</sup> with Scoil Mhuire, on May 25<sup>th</sup> with Star of the sea and with children attending non-Catholic schools on May 26<sup>th</sup>. A reminder also that we will have a further special Mass with all the First Communicants and their parents on the following Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, when we celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). On that day the children will be invited to lead the procession onto the lawn for Benediction at the end of Mass. Before Communion Day children are asked to complete pages 62 and 63 of Thumb and parents are asked to share pages 26 and 27 of Thumb along with Grapevine 9.

### **Golf Classic 2024 – timesheet is open!**

Our annual golf classic is planned for Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> in Elm Park Golf Club. If you would like to play in this year’s event or come along to the meal after golf, please contact Martin Coonan on 087 230 4042 or fill out an entry form – available at the back of the church this weekend. Continued thanks to Martin Coonan and his team for their commitment to what is a significant fundraiser for the parish. Last year’s Classic raised €14,522.21; a great achievement.

### **Sikh Parade**

A Sikh parade is set to take place next Sunday, April 28 from 11am to mark Vaisakhi 2024, a spring harvest festival for Sikhs and Hindus that originates in Northern India. The parade is being put together by Gurudwara Guru Nanak Darbar Dublin, the only place of worship for people of Sikh faith, in Ireland which is located on Serpentine Avenue in Dublin 4. Please note that this may affect traffic for those attending 12 noon Mass.

**‘We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song’**

Fr Martin Clarke

