



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend

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

Fr. Pádraig Coleman; John Pomeroy; Deceased members of Curry Family; Patrick & Maureen Watchorn, their daughter, Elizabeth and son, Conleth; Jack & Bess Hodson and their son, John; Kevin Graham; Joan Gannon; James & Antoinette Manning; Eve Sheehan; Mary & Joseph Smyth; Peter & Rita Price;

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
15 th April 2018	€1,440	€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
Fr. John McDonagh, Tel: 6684265 – Fr. Cormac McIlraith, Tel: 6686845*

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Sunday 22nd April 2018

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If the first half of chapter four of Pope Francis' 'The Joy of Love' was a deep reflection on St Paul's 'Hymn to Love' in his 1st Letter to the Corinthians, the second half might well be described as Pope Francis' 'Hymn to Conjugal Love'. So rich is its content that an attempt to summarize it in a single page is futile. It is better by far that readers should read the text itself, 'patiently and carefully', as the Pope advises.

'Conjugal love is the love between husband and wife, a love sanctified, enriched and illuminated by the grace of the sacrament of marriage'. 'It combines the warmth of friendship and erotic passion, and endures long after emotion and passion subside'. For Francis, marriage is the 'icon of God's love', wherein spouses make visible the love with which Christ loves his Church. At the same time, it is a union which progresses gradually through God's gifts, rooted in the natural inclinations of the human family and, at the same time, a covenant before God that calls for fidelity. If this love is to remain faithful in the face of trials, Francis asserts, 'it needs the gifts of grace to strengthen and elevate it'. After friendship with God, it is 'the highest form of friendship', 'exclusive, faithful and open to new life and shares everything in constant mutual respect'.

Readers will particularly appreciate his reflections on Joy and Beauty in marriage; on Tenderness, on Dialogue-as patient and attentive listening with 'an open mind'. They will recognise too his down to earth conversational style as in his invitation to young people in love to bring their relationship to enjoy the support of marriage or when he speaks of the importance of words like 'Please', 'Thank You' and 'Sorry' in the daily texture of marriage and family life. **Contd./**

Francis gives clarity to what is sometimes a poorly understood aspect of church teaching when he confirms the place of the erotic dimension of love while rejecting warped understandings of sexuality that lead to domination, arrogance, abuse, sexual perversion, violence and the subjection of the dignity of others and of our human vocation to an obscure need 'to find oneself'. 'A love lacking either pleasure or passion is insufficient to symbolise the union of the human heart with God'.

Insisting that a vocation to marriage and a vocation to virginity complement each other and that they shouldn't be played off, one against the other, he reaches the important principle that 'perfection, as a life based on evangelical counsels, is possible and accessible to every man and every woman.' In an age when relationships may last up to six decades, the marriage bond today finds new forms of expression and seeks new ways to grow in strength. But none of this is possible without praying to the Holy Spirit for his grace. With this emphasis, Pope Francis ends this chapter on the same note with which it began.

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BAPTISMS

We warmly welcome into the Parish Community:

Emmy Martha Fitzsimons

Lucy Geraldine Fitzsimons

Zach Keelan Byrne

Joshua Tiernan Byrne

Charlie Peter Gorman

who were baptised last Sunday

'May you live always as members of the Body of Christ, sharing everlasting life'

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Celebrating Baptism

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in May will be held on Monday, 30th April, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in May will be on Sunday May 6th and 20th, after the 12 noon Mass, parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 30th April and to attend the preparatory meeting.

Unfortunately places for May and June 3rd celebrations are now full but we will accept bookings for June 17th and beyond.

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The Joy of Love Parish Programme

A big 'Thank You' to Tom Moran, Karen Hickey and Janet Daly who led the meeting on Tuesday evening last. And another 'Thank You' to all who came along to create a very interesting discussion at the first session of the World Meeting of Families Parish Programme. We'll have news of the second session in next week's Bulletin. All will be welcome – even if you didn't attend the first.

Vocations Sunday

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Good Shepherd Sunday. The second collection today is for the education of seminarians and takes the place of the Share collection.

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Easter Dues

Fr. John and Fr. Cormac would like to thank all parishioners who have already sent in their Easter Dues. Easter Dues like the Christmas Dues are donations to the Common Fund which supports all the priests of the diocese.

Easter Dues envelopes may be handed in at the sacristy, the parish office or put in the letter box in the parish office door. They can also be put into the collection baskets on Sundays.

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Trocaire Boxes

We would ask you to return your Trocaire boxes as soon as possible. This arrangement applies only to homes that do not have school-going children. On behalf of Trocaire, we thank you for your generous support.

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GOLF CLASSIC DETAILS

Date: Friday 1st June 2018

**Venue: Elm Park Golf Club
Nutley Lane, Dublin 4.**

PRICES:

Team of Four €400
(includes Golf, Dinner or Lunch)

Single Golfer €100
(includes Golf, Dinner or Lunch)

Sponsor a Tee Box €100

Full Page Ad in Brochure €100

Half Page Ad in Brochure € 50

Dinner Only € 40

To book a place or sponsor an Ad or Tee Box please fill in a Booking Form, available on the table at the back of the Church, and return it as soon as possible to the Parish office, Star of the Sea Church Tel: 01 6683316

OR by email to stargolfclassic@gmail.com

OR CONTACT: Martin Coonan: 087 2304042,

Charlotte O'Neill: 086 2162348

The Golf Classic represents not only a helpful fundraising event but a great social occasion in the life of the parish.