

# WEEKLY BULLETIN 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020



## 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](http://www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com)

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEKEND

Your prayers are requested this weekend

For the souls Maureen MacAllister and Monica O'Rourke who died this week.

And also for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Christina Humphries, her husband, George and their son, Georgie; Margaret Brett; Roy Lenehan; Mary Lynch; Gerald & Belinda Maher and their son, Fr. Frank Maher, C.M.; John & Ethel Siggins; Jimmy Maguire; Laurence Mulligan; Eileen Dunne; David Kiersey; Marie Shelbourne; Kevin Jacobs; Willie O'Connor;

May they share in the joy of heaven.

### Church collections last week

**15<sup>th</sup> August** - 1<sup>st</sup> Collection €190 and Share €160

**16<sup>th</sup> August** – 1<sup>st</sup> Collection €1,000 and Share €475

We thank you for your contributions to the Church collections and for your continuing support of all the collections.

The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul would sincerely like to thank all those who donated to the "Late Late Show St. Vincent de Paul Appeal", and for all other Donations since the commencement of the current pandemic. Your Donations have been gratefully received.

### *Difficult Times*

Ten years ago about 1500 people attended our Sunday weekend Masses. In October last we recorded a weekly average attendance of about half that number. With Covid restrictions in place now we have a permitted maximum weekend attendance of 200, after the earlier shut-down of months' duration, with nobody in attendance as Mass was celebrated by streaming. Initially we were thinking in terms of possible months of change but now it looks like years. The social fabric of church life has been greatly disturbed and nothing seems to keep the same.

Amid it all we want to thank all those who keep in touch with our faith community by webcam. It's particularly appreciated that many are doing so to ease the pressure on numbers attending the church when the threshold figure of 50 is difficult to manage. The priests of the parish will happily arrange to bring the Eucharist to households opting to stay with streaming. The sacrament of reconciliation can also be brought to you, if desired.

Throughout these months the church collections have understandably suffered, reflected now in redundancy packages among staff of the diocesan offices. The Share collection has been a mainstay of their services to the diocese in recent years, and the work of the diocesan offices has multiplied in the wake of legislation around charities, data protection, child and vulnerable adult protection, employment law and the host of challenges in communication and cloud technology. While the collections at Mass have understandably suffered we have also witnessed some extraordinary acts of generosity, often carried out anonymously. The envelope dropped through the presbytery door or individual donations by cheque or online have significantly lifted matters, not only financially but also in the awareness of the level of care for the ongoing life of the parish.

As we prepare to welcome children back to our two parish schools, we thank the membership of our two Boards of Management who are working hard to support the schools, in staff and pupils, for the return.

Our thanks also to the wonderful parishioners and to members of the Pastoral Council in the daily implementation of plans to safeguard everyone in coming to the church. That aspect of parishioner generosity is very much appreciated.

With the Sunday obligation to attend Mass suspended for the time being, parishioners might consider the choice of any other day in the week as their time to link personally with Star of the Sea and its community of faith, especially if we begin to experience any rise in numbers attending the weekend Masses.

Finally you may have witnessed the appeal of the Church leaders that people wear masks when attending church. We strongly encourage all to do so. Stay safe and watch out for one another.