

REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend

For the souls of Angela O'Reilly and William Stokes who died this week .

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

*Brendan Mackey; Eileen O'Callaghan; Mary Ryan; Leo Healy;
John & Kathleen Gleeson, their daughter Olive, and granddaughter
Baby Katy McDermott; Mary Murphy and deceased members of
the Bacon family; Josie Walsh; Michael O'Leary;*

And for Angela Forsyth & Brendan Byrne 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	ACCORD Dublin
16 th February 2020	€1,345	€2,585

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese.

The white basket last weekend was the annual collection for ACCORD.

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

Thank You

Dear Parents and Guardians we would like to remind you that all children and vulnerable people should be accompanied by a parent or guardian when using the bathroom facilities in our church.

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 McLraith, Tel: 6686845

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Sunday 23rd February 2020

Lent Begins

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, a day when the vulnerability of life is brought home to us, in an age old reminder, as the ash is placed on our foreheads: "Remember man, you are but dust and unto dust you shall return." It's everyman's version of what greets an elected pope when a humble attendant stands before him amid the pomp of a papal coronation and burns a handful of straw. One quick flash of flame and it's gone as the attendant tells the pope: 'Sic transit gloria mundi, thus passes the glory of the world.'

In recent decades the alternative reminder given at the placing of ashes on the forehead strikes a more positive note in the encouragement to follow the Gospel: 'Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.' Ash Wednesday is a feast of humility but it is not a feast of despair. It is good to have Ash Wednesday to focus our awareness on our limitations. But if we are indeed dust, we are dust that has been raised by God to a higher status, dust that aspires to union with God.

Lent with its message of suffering and confrontation with the facts of sin and death – leads naturally into Easter with its message of joy and resurrection. The two are linked inseparably. Without Easter, Lent would be morbid but without Ash Wednesday and the forty days that follow, there would be no need for Easter, no significance to it. Lent and Easter are a single reality, existing always together although we live them one at a time. Without both our view of the human condition is incomplete. So when we receive ashes on our foreheads this Wednesday as a reminder of our mortality, we should look ahead at the same time to Easter and the promise of immortality.

This Lent

The three great dimensions of the Lenten Journey are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

- To assist this time of prayer, ‘Walk with Me’ booklets (€1.30) are available at the back of the church offering a short daily reflection in Lent. Evening Prayer of the Church will be celebrated on March 3rd, 10th, 24th and 31st, Tuesday evenings, at 6.30pm in ecumenical prayer with our fellow Christians (see poster in church). We encourage parishioners to think of attending daily Mass this Lent.
- To assist ‘almsgiving’ our focus again will be on the Trocaire Lenten Appeal. We encourage you to enter Lent with a spirit of support for the most vulnerable in our world for whom agencies like Trocaire are a lifeline.
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the two days of both fast and abstinence in our year. But we’re asked to make every Friday special in acts of penance – Lent invites our personal efforts to curb whatever within us stifles spiritual health and to desire that growth that readies us for Easter.

Parish Pilgrimages to Lourdes and to Knock

At our recent meeting of our parish pastoral council it was agreed that we should advance the invitation to parishioners to participate as a parish group in the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes from Sept. 9th to Sept. 14th this year.

The invitation is extended at two levels; the first is to those who may wish to travel as invalids. Invalids reside at the hospital adjoining the grotto area during their stay and the necessary paperwork and medical assessment should be completed before the end of March.

The second is to those travelling as ordinary pilgrims. We’d like to establish the list of those interested in the coming month (say by St. Patrick’s Day) so that block booking of a parish group for a suitable hotel can be made in good time.

Please let us know if you wish to be a parish pilgrim, either as an invalid or as a regular pilgrim, by contacting the parish office

The diocesan pilgrimage to Knock will be on Saturday, April 25th. We’d welcome the interest of parishioners, both young and old, in a day’s pilgrimage. Again, let us know in the parish office if you’re interested. When the level of interest is established we can look to working out the details. Let us know again before St. Patrick’s Day, to enable a decision on the feasibility of this pilgrimage to Knock with the diocese.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The usual monthly church gate collection for the Society will take place after all Masses next weekend.

A Church Wedding – Preparation

For a couple intending to celebrate marriage as a sacrament there are a number of steps in the preparation. All are asked to undertake a pre-marriage course that has connection with the community of the Eucharist. Some pre-marriage courses are not recognised on this basis and couples should be aware of that.

Regardless of where a person may have grown up the relevant parish of preparation is the one in which one has resided for the past six months. A six month period establishes legal domicile. So while my family may live in Galway, say, if I am now living over six months in Sandymount parish then it is in Sandymount my pre-marriage papers are to be prepared. This applies no matter where in the world the ceremony is to take place. A minimum of three months notice must be given to the parish and a minimum of six months notice in the event of a mixed marriage, where extra documentation will be required and that earlier notification is also appropriate when couples intend to marry abroad. Likewise, a couple intending to marry in Ireland but living abroad, it is in their present parish abroad that preparation is made once the date and the church of celebration have been established. The sacrament of marriage may be celebrated only in a church where the faithful gather for Sunday Mass.

Every couple getting married in Ireland must register their intentions with the Registrar of marriages at least three months before their wedding and make themselves available for interview at a registration office by appointment. For those intending to marry in another jurisdiction they should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs ‘Marriage Abroad’ section to ensure that relevant steps are taken to see the validity of their marriage recognised by the State. These are not matters dealt with by the church but of which couples should be aware.

Baptisms in March

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in March will be held **this Monday 24th February 2020, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.**

The celebrations of Baptism in March will be on Sunday March 1st and 15th, after the 12 noon Mass.

Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 24th February 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.

Clothing Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

The Society will collect the bags outside the church this weekend at the Vigil Mass and Sunday morning Masses.