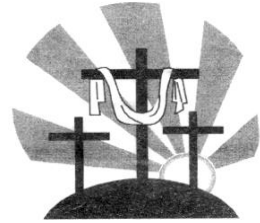


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Joseph Ennis and Seán Mc Gahan who died this week and for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur

Michael Timoney, Michael Herity, Teddy & Denis Brazil, Maureen Keenan, Nora & Imelda Raleigh, Eileen Ging, Kathleen McLoughlin and Don Curtin

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
16 th January	€ 665	€455

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese, known as the Common Fund
The white basket is the collection for Share, which meets the needs both of poorer parishes and of central agencies of the Diocese.

Parishioners can also avail of the Tap and Go device at the back of the Church to support these two collections. All collections, for Parish, Share, Common Fund and Dues may also be supported by online donations on the website button.
We thank you for your contributions to all the Church collections

Parish Office Hours

For the time being Office Hours are restricted to 10.30 to 11.30 Mon to Fri. You may leave a request for a particular service on the phone at 6683316.

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 January 23rd 2022

The Synod Pathway

At Masses this weekend we welcome Deirdre Seaver, who kindly agreed to be the Synod Animator for our parish, to speak to us after the Gospel about the upcoming pathway towards the Synod.

The coming two years promise to be very significant for the Church if the worldwide engagement with members of the Church, leading to the Synod of Bishops in Rome in 2023, is as fruitful as Pope Francis desires.

Between February and April we are asked in the parishes of our diocese to undertake reflective exercises in prayerful dialogue about the Church. Pope Francis is particularly anxious to hear from everyone, both those at the periphery of the church and those who feel very much at home in it.



Each day now at Mass, we pray the Prayer of the Synod Pathway. It is a prayer attributed to St. Isidore of Seville who died in 635 A.D. It has been used as a prayer over the centuries at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings. Every session of the Second Vatican Council, for example, began with this prayer.

We invite you to avail of a copy of the Synod Prayer, left at the back of the Church. Please make it your own in anticipation of what is asked of us for the sake of the Church in our time. You might avail of a copy also to join in our praying with the rest of the world when we give expression to it at Mass

Baptism Celebrations

There were several months last year through which we were unable to celebrate the sacraments but thankfully we have been able to baptise children into the life of the church in recent months. We welcome all of them, happy to be able to facilitate celebrations, one child at a time until recent weeks when, now, up to four babies may be baptised at each celebration, taking appropriate precautions.

The impact of Covid-19 may be seen in the numbers of children baptised in recent years. In both 2018 and again in 2019, we baptised 70 children. In 2020 a total of 22 children were baptised and in 2021 there were 43 children baptised.

We continue to celebrate Baptism in the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, after the 12 o'clock Mass on Sunday. Parents are asked to submit an application form along with a copy of their child's birth certificate. A meeting is held before each baptism, in circumstances that depend on the prevailing pandemic restrictions.

Church refurbishment

We hope to begin the painting of the Church on this Monday, January 24th. You may have noticed how badly needed it is but concerns about dampness in the walls, especially behind the altar, precluded our moving on it sooner. We remain vigilant on that problem while hopeful that the time is appropriate to redress the decline in the church's appearance for want of painting. Hopefully, too, we can all be patient with whatever inconvenience arises in the course of the painting work. It will be good to see our beautiful church refreshed in its appearance. The seating area on the left aisle of the church will be unavailable in this coming week as work begins on the left wall and it may be necessary in coming to and going from communion to access as before by coming up the centre aisle but returning by way of the right side aisle if the left side aisle is out of use.

The Church Unity Octave: Jan 18th –Jan 25th

It is an enormous privilege to be part of a long chain of Christians, throughout the world, who reflect on a particular text of Scripture and pray together for the unity of the Church and for the world. That's what we're about in the Church Unity Octave. We encourage one another in that experience to pray for Christian Unity and for world peace throughout the year.

In recent years in Sandymount a lovely expression of this was evidenced in the Explorers, where people of different Christian denominations came together in a monthly meeting and a Scripture Scholar was invited to open the Scriptures for the prayerful, attentive listening of all. It grew out of a conversation between Rev Katherine Priode Meyer and Anngret Simms when they walked together in an ecumenical pilgrimage to Glendalough some years ago. It has been a great initiative even if Covid affected its fluency and called for zoom presentations rather than our meeting in one room. With regret we learn that Rev Katherine will be moving on from Sandymount in the coming months and has stepped back from her role with the Explorers. With gratitude in the heart of this Church Unity Octave we wish Katherine well into the future. God bless you, Katherine.

Parish AGM this Wednesday at 7pm:

We invite you to the AGM and also invite nominations for membership of the Parish Council. Nomination forms are at the back of the Church.

The Year of St. Luke

We begin today our continuous reading from St Luke's Gospel beginning with the public ministry of Jesus. The beautiful stories in St Luke's Gospel relating to the birth of Jesus and the birth of John the Baptist up to the story of the Baptism of Jesus by John have been read over the Nativity Season. Luke's account of the temptation of Jesus will be read in Lent so with that in mind we take up the Gospel from ch 4: 14-21 onwards. When we reach Luke ch 6:39-45 on Feb 27th we'll take a break from its continuous reading during Lent and Easter but return to its continuous reading every Sunday on June 26th when we take up with chapter 9 and continue each Sunday until we reach Luke ch 23 on November 20th. The remaining chapters of Luke, covering his Passion, Death and Resurrection are read on Palm Sunday and at the Easter Vigil.

The principal source of material for St Luke's Gospel was that of Mark, the first to be written and interestingly, for those attending daily Mass, we have just begun the continuous reading of Mark on the weekdays. By Lent we'll have read 10 of the 14 chapters of Mark's Gospel. After Easter, it will be from St Matthew's Gospel that the weekday Gospel readings come, again in continuous reading from one day to the next.

The Gospels are not biographies of Jesus life but were written as testimony to enhance the faith of Christian communities as they do to this day. Written by the four evangelists, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John, they were written with different Christian communities in mind, conscious of whether they were Jewish or Gentile and what were the issues of the time in those communities. One might picture them as each offering a distinctive portrait of Jesus even as the central figure for each of them is the self-same Jesus. Mark's Gospel is a Theology of the Cross. He's convinced that until we come to terms with the Cross, one cannot really understand Jesus. The Jesus he portrays suffers greatly and cannot be proclaimed effectively unless one comes to terms with that. Luke also acknowledges the significance of Jesus' death but his focus is different. For him, Jesus was a witness to the Father's infinite love as God, even to the point of death, a God of mercy, compassion and forgiveness. So his portrait of Jesus is of graciousness to the small people, the marginalised, the poor, the women, a friend to help sinners. Important, too, to remember that Luke's Gospel should be read alongside his second work, the Acts of the Apostles, revealing a mission of good news for the whole world, Gentile and Jew. Jesus' instruction at the end of Luke's Gospel to 'Go teach all nations' is fulfilled by the preaching of Paul in Rome, the heart of the Empire, at the end of the Acts of the Apostles. It's a pity that by grouping the four Gospels together, we often forget that Luke's Gospel is only the first half of his two volume work of proclamation. Beautifully written it nourishes souls in faith over the centuries.

