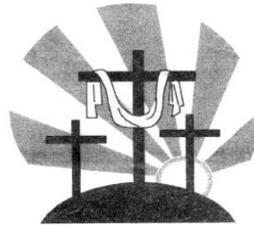


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Martin Penrose, Brendan Mackey, John, Margaret & Thomas Owens, Breda O'Briain, Mary Murphy, Lany Bacon, Mary Sampson, Peter Cunningham, Nora Hopkins, Timothy O'Donnell, John Doyle, Leo Healy, Brendan Radford, Agnes & Frank Rice, Mary Ward, Nell & Thomas Kavanagh, Peg & John McCabe,

And for Carmel Mangan and Anne Tunney 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
18 th February 2018	€1,355	€2,195

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese. The white basket collection last weekend was the Annual Church Collection for Accord Dublin. We thank you for your contributions to the Church collections and for your continuing support of all the collections.

Legion of Mary

The Frank Duff prayer meeting will take place on Tuesday, 27th February 3-4 pm in the parish meeting room, Star of the Sea Church. All welcome.

Next Friday, 2nd March, is the First Friday of the month. We remember the Faithful Departed at the 7.30am and 10.00am Masses. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 10.00am Mass until 11.30am unless there is a funeral.

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 25th February 2018

Challenges to Family Life

'The Joy of Love' Chapter 2 continued

Continuing our reading of Pope Francis' second chapter, he draws on problems mentioned in submissions from around the world in advance of the two synods on family life. Such problems present particular challenges today. He addresses the following:

- (1) Parents face many problems in raising children. 'In many cases parents come home exhausted, not wanting to talk, and many families no longer even share a common meal. Distractions abound, including an addiction to television'. Handing on the faith to children becomes all the more difficult (par. 50).
- (2) Drug use, alcoholism, gambling and other addictions, along with violence in families are scourges of our time with very serious consequences (par 51).
- (3) There is a failure to realise that only the union between a man and a woman in marriage has a plenary role to play in society, as a stable commitment that bears fruit in new life (par 52). While we need to recognise the great variety of family situations offering a certain stability, de facto or same-sex unions for example, may not simply be equated with marriage. No union that is temporary or closed to the transmission of life can ensure the future of society. **Contd.**

- (4) Many countries are witnessing a legal deconstruction of the family, tending to adopt models based almost exclusively on the autonomy of the individual will. (par 53).
- (5) Much needs to be done in some countries to promote women's rights (par 54).
- (6) The absence of a father gravely affects family life (par 55).
- (7) The emergence of an ideology of gender that denies the difference and reciprocity in nature of a man and a woman, thereby eliminates the anthropological basis of the family (par 56).
The technological revolution in human procreation sees us fall into the sin of trying to replace the Creator. (par 56).
The chapter ends on a positive note. With gratitude for the witness of so many families, situations that concern us are challenges. The challenge is to seek new forms of missionary creativity – 'to revive our hope and make it a source of prophetic visions, transformative action and creative forms of charity' – a phrase credited to the Mexican submission in pre-synod consultation.

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BAPTISMS

We warmly welcome into the Parish Community:

- Emma Berg**
- Sienna Kelly**
- Alice Kennedy**
- Darragh John Byrne**
- Noah Hugh Murphy**
- Felix Jeffrey Strelzow**

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 March will be held **this Monday, 26th February, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.**

The celebrations of Baptism in March will be on Sundays March 4th and 18th, after the 12 noon Mass. Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 26th 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.

WMOF2018 Special Collection

The World Meeting of Families was established in 1994 by Pope St. John Paul II. To date it has been hosted in Rome, Rio de Janeiro, Milan, Valencia, Mexico City and Philadelphia. Now it's our turn here in Ireland because Pope Francis has personally chosen Dublin to be the host city for the next World Meeting of Families and he has invited us to reflect on the theme 'The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World'.

The main events of WMOF2018 will take place in Dublin.

The following key moments make up the 9th World Meeting of Families:

- **A National Opening** on Tuesday 21 August which will take place simultaneously in each of the dioceses of Ireland;
- **A three day congress** from 22-24 August in the RDS, Dublin;
- **A Festival of Families** on Saturday 25 August,
- **A Closing Mass** will be celebrated on Sunday 26 August

Pope Francis has asked us to prepare for the 9th World Meeting of Families by reflecting on 'Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)', he believes that the family is good news for today's world. The *Amoris: Let's Talk Family! Let's Be Family!* Programme is a response to this request from Pope Francis. We'll have news shortly of its presentation in our parish.

We are inviting families in our parish to join us on our journey of preparation for the World Meeting of Families and to be part of the events in Dublin from 21-26 August 2018. Please support us by volunteering, registering to attend and donating at our parish collection. +++++

Lenten Evening Prayer on Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Evening Prayer of the Church is continuing this Tuesday, 27th February and on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th of March.

Please, come along with your family and friends. It will be little more than half an hour but something uplifting to do for Lent!

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'Do This in Memory' Mass

The next 'Do This in Memory' Mass will be on Sunday next at 10.30am. In the meantime parents are encouraged to prepare with their children pages 20, 21, 56 and 57 of Thumbs and Grapevine 6.

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**Annual Golf Classic, Elm Park Golf Club
Save the Date – Friday 1st June 2018!**

To book a place or sponsor an Ad or Tee Box please fill in a Booking Form, and return it as soon as possible to the Parish office, Star of the Sea Church - OR by email to stargolfclassic@gmail.com - OR CONTACT:

Martin Coonan: 087 2304042, Charlotte O'Neill:
086 2162348 - OR The Parish Office: 01 668 3316