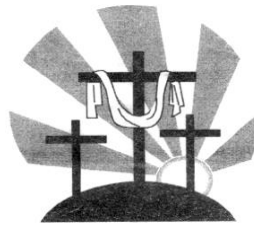


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested for Anne Kenny and Eleanor ‘Nell’ O’Connor who have died and for Brendan Mackey, Frankie Rigley, Thomas Allen, Alice Rowlands, Liam O’ Dwyer, Berna O’Gorman, Mary ‘Quigley’ Byrne, Brendan Radford, Dermot Ward, John Drumm and Ashleen Mulligan whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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	WHITE BASKET
18 th Feb 2024	€1,185	€1575*

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese, known as the Common Fund. The white basket is normally the collection for Share, which meets the needs both of poorer parishes and of central agencies of the Diocese. Last weekend’s SHARE collection was for ACCORD.

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
RCN2001616

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

25th February 2024

Just Lent 2024

An interesting programme is offered this Lent by the Diocesan Office of Mission and Ministry entitled ‘Just Lent’ with a strong emphasis on ‘Social Justice’. The programme runs for the six weeks of Lent following the theme of each Sunday’s readings. This week’s theme is ‘Homelessness’. In it we reflect on the first reading this Sunday about the sacrifice of Abraham. When we look at the life of Abraham it is clear that he made many sacrifices in his life. He wandered the desert for many years trying to find a home. The Gospel refers to Peter suggesting that three tents are set up. Tents are symbolic of God’s permanent presence among us, but today our towns and cities have people sheltering in tents because they are homeless. We as a Christian community are challenged to help them find a safe, permanent home, where they can truly feel God’s permanent protecting presence. Pope Francis on his visit to Washington DC said that ‘There is no social or moral justification for homelessness, but we can find solace and meaning in the Incarnation ... the Son of God came into this world as a homeless person ... the Son of God knew what it was like to start life without a roof over his head.’

“We can find no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing. There are many unjust situations, but we know that God is suffering with us, experiencing them at our side. He does not abandon us.”

What impact is homelessness having on our own families? How can we as a parish respond to this? What homelessness projects could we get involved with? These are some of the questions posed this week.

The Importance of voting

Pope St John Paul II said in Ireland back in 1979: “*The family is the true measure of the greatness of a nation*”. In a democracy that guarantees the freedom to vote, it is important that citizens cast their ballot on March 8th with matters of such importance at stake. The Irish Episcopal Conference Message regarding the Referendums on March 8th, concerned for the common good as well as the moral and spiritual well-being of God’s People, offers its reflections in order to help inform the consciences of Christians and others who are concerned to preserve and foster the dignity and value of family life and motherhood. A full copy of the message is available at the back of the church this weekend; we encourage you to take a copy for your own reading and reflection.

Cuppa after Mass

Please join us next Sunday, 3rd March, for a coffee or tea after 12 noon Mass, if you are not rushing away. Tea and coffee will be served at the back of the church beside the bookshop. Please stop and say hello. Everyone is most welcome!

Do this in Memory

The next gathering of our ‘Do this in Memory’ Mass for First Communion children and parents is also on next Sunday 3rd March at 10.30am.

Ceremony of Light

On Monday, March 4th, the Ceremony of Light for 70 young people to be confirmed on March 14th, and their parents, will be held in our church. We invite all to pray for these young candidates.

Partnership Parish Retreat

Lent is a time for reflection, reconciliation and renewal and where better than in the tranquil surroundings of the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Donnybrook? On Sat, 9th March, Fr. Donal Neary S.J. will remind us of God’s love for each of us and help us to see ourselves as He sees us, through scripture, reflection, prayer, exploring forgiveness and finally, the celebration together of Mass. There is no charge for this day and a light lunch and refreshments will be provided. We begin at 10 and end by 4, in plenty of time to enjoy the Ireland v. England match at 4.45p.m.! Apply through the parish office asap so numbers can be advised to caterers. While the retreat is planned for Sat 9th March, we ask those who wish to participate to let us know by Monday March 1st at the latest.

Evening Prayer in Lent

We continue with Evening Prayer of the Church for Lent at 6pm this Tuesday. All are welcome. After Evening Prayer, Pat Talbot will lead a weekly Lectio Divina on the Gospel of the following Sunday in the Church Meeting Room at 6.30pm.

Women’s Day of Prayer

Next Friday, March 1st at 11.30am, there will be a lovely occasion of ecumenical prayer when our church will be hosting the Women’s Day of Prayer, From across Christian traditions women gather to pray. The motto for this year is “*I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love*” and was nominated by women in Palestine. Please come and show support!

Knock Pilgrimage

Archbishop Dermot Farrell will lead the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Knock on **Saturday, April 27**. This year we are celebrating 145 years since the apparition in 1879 and the Choir of Many Voices from throughout the Archdiocese will be back this year. A series of workshops with interesting and thought-provoking speakers is being planned. If you would like to take part in the choir or have any other queries, **email** knockpilgrimage@dublindioocese.ie

Synod 2024

As we move towards the October 2024 Synod in Rome, Archbishop Dermot Farrell has invited all of the Dublin parishes to gather locally to explore how we are growing in co-responsibility in our parish settings. The next gathering will be held in Foxrock parish centre on March 5th.

Exploring our Relationship with God

All are most welcome to St. Mary’s Haddington Rd. every Wednesday of Lent for ‘Exploring Our Relationship with God’ series. The series continues this Wednesday from 7pm – 8.45pm. Booking is on 0852544232, or 24.7beloved@gmail.com

The Last Priest in Ireland? It depends on you

On Tuesday March 5th the National Vocations office in collaboration with the Hook of Faith are running an online (zoom) webinar entitled: ‘The Last Priest In Ireland? It Depends On You !’ It is a follow-up to the RTÉ documentary broadcast in January. The keynote speaker is Breda O’Brien. The webinar is a Church response to the programme and an opportunity for dialogue about the future of vocations to the priesthood in Ireland. To register simply email thehookoffaith@gmail.com

Prayer for Lent

Loving God, in this season of Lent
you call us to act justly, love tenderly
and walk humbly with each other
so that we can build your Kingdom of justice and
peace
your Kingdom of love and truth,
your Kingdom of holiness and grace,
in our world today. AMEN.

Date for your diary - Divine Mercy Conference

The Annual Divine Mercy Conference will take
place in the RDS, from Feb 23-25 incl. Lots more
information via www.divinemercyconference.com