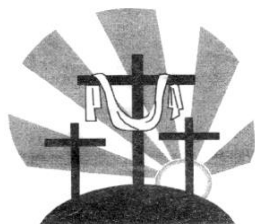


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Úna Lavelle and Angela McGlynn who died this week.

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

Ita (Margaret) Durnin; James & Jane Rigley; Alec Doyle; Teresa Sands; Patricia & Augustine Glynn; Larry Norton.

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	SHARE
18 th October 2020	€110	

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

The white basket is the collection for Share, which meets the needs both of poorer parishes and of central agencies of the Diocese.

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

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Sunday 25th October 2020

Challenging Times and Blessings

The Church's social teaching is one of the great treasures of the Catholic in today's world, a clear guide through issues of politics and economics, human rights, the family and the environment.

As we enter a difficult six weeks of restrictions in the face of the Covid-19 virus and its impact on our society, how we think and deal with the challenge can be informed by Catholic Social Teaching. The tensions between the rights of individuals and the common good or between the public health of our people and the economy of our country are played out at a personal level by all of us in a time of pandemic. That we see our taken for granted world turned upside down and our challenges to be very demanding may reflect a world where we have not felt the need for awareness of the social teaching of the church and our routine relatively comfortable existence hasn't called for it.

People in some parts of the world experience ongoing injustice and denial of basic human rights. In these months the pandemic denies us opportunity to meet as a religious faith community. We understand that and why it must be so. But imagine if that right to meet was denied us in religious persecution. Such is the fate of many Christian communities around the world.

When Pope Francis last year published his response to the Synod on the Amazon (2018), he wrote of the indigenous people of the Amazon "While working for them and with them, we are called to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God

wishes to share with us through them. Those who live in cities need to appreciate this wisdom and to allow themselves to be 're-educated' in the face of frenzied consumerism and urban isolation."

The particular case of Catholic Social Teaching instanced in the case of the Amazon is replicated in many parts of the world. Aid to the Church in Need Ireland, this week on its website reports the imprisonment of Fr. Stan Swamy, S.J. in Mumbai following his arrest last week. The 83 year old, now suffering from Parkinson's disease, has been accused by Indian authorities of being a Maoist communist. Fr. Swamy and Catholic agencies deny the charge. He has been at the forefront of trying to protect India's indigenous Adivasi people, whose lands are under constant attack by authorities in Eastern India where mining interests continue to cause humanitarian and ecological disaster. The likely displacement of large populations from their ancestral homelands by corporate and political interests seeking to establish heavy industry in the region will cause irreparable harm.

Elsewhere, this website reports the burning of two churches in Santiago, Chile, last Sunday. One of the city's oldest churches was burned to the ground and another, though structurally damaged, was saved by firemen. Videos on social media were uploaded by the arsonists themselves.

Perhaps on this first Sunday of our level 5 lockdown we have reason to count our blessings and to prayerfully remember fellow Christians whose persecution during this global pandemic is all too real. A week too when we might remember Irish martyrs denied their religious freedom and in particular Blessed Dominic Collins S.J. who in 1602 was hanged in Youghal when he refused to abjure his Catholic faith. We remember him at Mass on Saturday next, his feast day.

It may be pandemic time but count your blessings!

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Bethany Mass for those who died this year

The annual Mass for those who died in our parish since October 2019 will be held on Monday, November 2nd, the Feast of All Souls, at 7.00pm.

Because of the Covid crisis, it will be a streamed Mass. Parishioners can join us by the webcam button on the parish website.

We would like to include parishioners who died but whose funerals did not come to our church. It seems that between March and May some people were unaware that our church was open to receive funerals. Should families wish to include a relative's name on the list of those parishioners who died this year, please contact the parish office (01-6683316).

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An Ecumenical Christian Prayer

O God, Trinity of love,
from the profound communion of your divine life, pour

out upon us a torrent of fraternal love.
Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,
in his family of Nazareth,
and in the early Christian community.

Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel,
discovering Christ in each human being,
recognising him crucified
in the sufferings of the abandoned
and forgotten of our world,
and risen in each brother or sister
who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves. Amen.

*The closing prayer of Pope Francis Encyclical Letter
given in Assisi, 3rd October 2020.*

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Thanks – Mission Sunday

We thank parishioners who have responded to the invitation to support missionaries and we'll extend the invitation a further week should anyone wish to avail of the mission collection envelope on the table near the church entrance and forward their donation to the parish office. At the end of this coming week we'll forward the total received to the Irish Mission Office in Rathmines.

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Boys School Enrolments 2021/2022

Admissions for enrolment to Star of the Sea Boys National School for the 2021/2022 school year are now open. For the first time, the school is receiving applications online via the school website: www.starofthesea.ie.

If you have any enquiries about the school, please ask to speak to the principal, Mr Niall Walsh, by phoning (01) 668 6394 or emailing office@starofthesea.ie.

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Celebration of Baptism

We regret that for the time being under Government direction we are unable to hold Baptism celebrations in the Church. As you know in recent months we have celebrated Baptism with families one at a time and within HSE guidelines. We thank all who were so cooperative in doing so and hope that it won't be long before the celebration of Baptism may resume.

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Don't forget Monday is a Bank Holiday!

Enrolment for Sacraments 2022

At this time we invite parents who wish their child to be enrolled in preparation for Confirmation in 2022 and are

presently attending fifth class in a non-Catholic school to register their intention with us by phoning the parish office, Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

We similarly invite parents of children attending 1st class in a non-Catholic school who wish their child to prepare for first Communion in 2022 to register their intention by phoning the parish office.

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