



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of

Desmond Cardinal Connell, Edward Martin Penrose,

who died recently and also for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Mary Ryan, Mary Sampson, Nora Hopkins, Paddy Ryan, Harry Anderson, Eileen McDonnell, Emeleta Salazar, Timothy O'Donnell, John Doyle, Brendan Radford, John & Margaret McCabe, Thomas & Nell Kavanagh,

and for Margaret Dalton and Trevor Murphy 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
19 th February 2017	€1,495	€1,725

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 Dublin.

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

Trócaire Lenten Campaign

The Lenten Trócaire boxes will be available in the church this weekend. The theme for Trócaire's Lenten Campaign this year is "What kind of world do we want to leave ... to children now, who are growing up?" Pope Francis.

WEEKLY **BULLETIN**



St. Mary's, Star of the Sea, Sandymount

Parish Office 6683894 / 6683316 – Monday to Friday 9.30 – 12.30
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Sunday 26th February 2017

Lent

This coming Wednesday, with ashes from the burned palms of last Easter, we begin the journey of Lent. This sacred season evokes memories. Its 40 days (not counting Sundays) remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert to prepare for his mission. He confronted his demons resolutely. We try to do so in this sacred time.

Lent, too, resounds with the memory of the early centuries of the Church when adults preparing for baptism (catechumens) came every day to the Church for instruction before their baptism on Holy Saturday night. One can read to this day the daily Lenten instructions given by Thomas Aquinas in 1273 to the students and townspeople of Naples. They are a series of reflections on The Creed, The Commandments, The Sacraments and Prayer – appropriate to people renewing their faith and the hope of their Baptism. For the older generation among us Lent holds memories of the strict Lenten observance of previous generations. Today we find it hard to relate to the severity of those days of black tea, fasting and abstinence.

Today, there remains only two days of Fast and Abstinence in our calendar, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but Lent challenges all of us to confront our temptations and to see it as a time of renewal in living a Christian lifestyle and in coming closer to Christ. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving were hallmarks of Lent and still remain so not necessarily by giving up this or that, though that too may be called for, Contd.../

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but by taking up also the challenge of the Gospel. What can we do to be closer and more faithful to Christ? What can we do to be decisive in the face of temptation and evil? What can we do to actively pursue the generous love that Christ invites from us all? It's a time of entry into the death and resurrection we celebrate at Lent's destination – Easter. May the Lord be with us and strengthen us in this our Lenten journey.

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Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday next, 1st March, blessed ashes will be distributed at each of the Masses. There will be an evening Mass at 7.00pm along with the two morning Masses at 7.30am and 10.00am.

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BAPTISMS

We warmly welcome into the Parish Community:

Sadhbh Eileen Dwyer

Ciarán Eoghan O'Neill

who were baptised last Sunday

'May you live always as members of the Body of Christ, sharing everlasting life'

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Baptisms in March

Baptisms will be celebrated on March 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. Baptism Application forms are available in the parish office Monday – Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Applications, giving 1 month's notice, must be made in advance of the preparatory meeting for each month's celebrations. The date for the preparation meeting for March Baptisms is **this Monday, February 27th at 8.00pm in the Parish Meeting room.**

Parents are advised that godparents must be practicing Catholics who are at least 16 years of age and that godparents should be one of each gender, godfather and godmother.

Baptisms will be on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month as a general rule. In April there will not be a celebration on the 3rd Sunday, which is Easter Day. We will have a celebration of Baptism on the following Sunday instead and we warmly invite parents who may wish to have their child baptized at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. In April the sacrament will be celebrated on April 2nd, the Easter Vigil on the night of April 15th and on April 23rd.

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The Frank Duff Prayer meeting will take place on Tuesday next, 28th February at 3 pm in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome.

Desmond Cardinal Connell

Desmond Connell was our Archbishop in Dublin from 1988 to 2004. He was born 90 years ago. His father was a civil servant and was appointed managing director of the Irish Sugar Company by Sean Lemass. His mother, Mary, was on duty as a telephonist in the GPO when the Rising happened on Easter Monday 1916. He went to St. Peter's Primary School, Phibsboro, and then Belvedere College before entering Clonliffe College and going to UCD where he studied philosophy. He was a brilliant student both of philosophy and later of theology at Maynooth College. After ordination in 1951 he studied for two further years at Louvain where in 1953 he was awarded a PH.D, with highest distinction, for his dissertation on the Vision of God in Malebranche (a 17th century French priest and philosopher).

That same year he joined the UCD Department of Metaphysics. In 1972 he became Professor of General Metaphysics and later Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy.

It must have been a huge transition for him to be asked to become our Archbishop in 1988 and he couldn't have realised what a turbulent time was ahead of him and the Church in Dublin when he assumed that responsibility. The revelations of clerical sexual abuse of children broke his and many a person's heart and amid its appalling darkness he remained a man of prayer, principle, courtesy, integrity and commitment to his faith and Church.

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First celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

First Reconciliation will be celebrated with the boys in Star of the Sea on Thursday, March 2nd; with the girls in Scoil Mhuire, Lakelands on Tuesday, March 7th and with the children in St. Matthew's School on Tuesday, March 14th. Each of these celebrations will be in the evening at 7.30pm in Star of the Sea Church.

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Lenten Evening Prayer on Tuesdays 6:30pm

Evening Prayer of the Church is a beautiful way of bringing your hymns, praise, concerns and prayers to God this Lenten Season.

We will support and pray for other each other as a parish community for six Tuesdays of Lent.

The dates are as follows:

7th, 14th, 21st and 28th March, and 4th and 11th of April. 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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Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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