



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of

Sr. Monica Marren, RSC who died recently

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

Peggy Ralph, Joan Senouci, Kathy Brogan, Owen Patten, David & Frances Bisette, Patrick Bateman, Dermot Bateman, May Kane, Tommy Allen, Maureen Alford,

and for Rosario Drennan whose Month's Mind occurs.

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
17 th March 2017	€1,080	€720
19 th March 2017	€1,445	€2,595 (Crosscare)

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.

The white basket collection on 18th / 19th March was the annual collection for Crosscare Youth Services.

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. Pádraig Coleman, Tel: 6676438

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Sunday 26th March 2017

Half Way to Easter

The journey from Ashes to Easter is a journey from darkness to light, reflected in today's Gospel story of the gift of sight, at Jesus' touch, to the man born blind.

On the fourth Sunday of Lent we are already half way to Easter. It prompts two thoughts. The first is a note of encouragement and the second a note of celebration and blessing.

For the first, we might recall how significant the half time talk can be in team sport. The manager's words of analysis and fresh direction can often breathe new life into a team that hadn't performed to its ability in the first half. The second half tells a different story. Maybe, for all kinds of reasons, our Lenten effort didn't start well. It's not too late. Be encouraged to make the most of the three weeks that remain. It's a time to exercise self control, to pray and to be attentive of the poor. The Trocaire boxes are there in plenty still to address that third option.

For the second thought. It's Mother's Day. May God bless the mothers of our parish. The choice of the fourth Sunday of Lent for our celebration of mothers relates to two historical features of life going back 400 years. The first is that Mary was honoured on the 4th Sunday of Lent at that time; the second that women working in the Big Houses

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were allowed home to visit their mothers on this day, aware that they wouldn't have opportunity to do so again until after Easter.

On Easter Sunday in the Big House it was a case of 'all hands on deck'. In visiting their mothers, tradition has it that daughters baked a simnel cake to bring to them, half way through the journey to Easter.

Happy Mothers Day to all our Sandymount mums!

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On Mothers Day this short poem by the late Fr. Brian Power, our former parish priest, might touch for us the precious relationship of mother and child and our shared relationship with our creator God.

Stumbling

As a child will offer a daisy chain
to the mother who helped him make it
so I offer gifts to the hidden
creator who bestows them
and waves as through a window
at me trying to stumble upward.

Lighthouse Blinking, 2006

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Baptisms in April

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.

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 April Baptisms is **this Monday, March 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.

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Lenten Evening Prayer on Tuesdays 6:30pm

Our thanks to all who came again last Tuesday at 6.30pm for Evening Prayer of the Church. All are invited along this Tuesday too at the same time.

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Save the Date

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Friday 12th May 2017!

Star of the Sea 13th Golf Classic

Elm Park Golf Club

Do This in Memory

The planning meeting for our next Mass, on Palm Sunday, April 9th, will be on Saturday next at 9.00am. Thanks again to the parents from the local schools who form this planning group.

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Bernard Sexton's Mass

Thanks are due to Deirdre, Seamus and both choir members, who are introducing us during this Lent to the Mass of Bernard Sexton. This is also the Mass which is on the children's Primary School programme where with the help of teachers its melodies should be familiar to the children. Please do your best to join with the choirs as they introduce this sung Mass to us. We look forward to the whole church singing.

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Lent

Now let us all with one accord,
In fellowship with ages past,
Keep vigil with our heav'nly Lord,
In his temptation and his fast.

The covenant so long revealed
To faithful men in former time,
Christ by his own example sealed;
The Lord of love, in love sublime.

Remember, Lord, though frail we be,
By your own kind hand were we made;
And help us, lest our frailty
Cause your great name to be betrayed.

Hear us, O Trinity sublime,
And undivided unity;
So let this consecrated time
Bring forth its fruit abundantly.

St. Gregory the Great 540-604
translation by H.E.J. Cowdrey, Oxford U.P, 1972.

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World Meeting of Families 2018

Second National Collection

Pope Francis has personally chosen Dublin to be the host diocese for the World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018. Planning for this great national and international celebration of faith is well underway. Hosting this important event requires an enormous amount of planning and funding. In this regard a second national collection will be held next weekend (1st and 2nd April). Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated.

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Church Bookshop

First Communion parents might have an interest in a lovely First Communion Mass book, published by Veritas, and priced at €4. A small number of copies are available in the Bookshop and more may be ordered at your request.