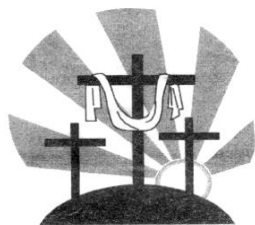


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the soul of Carmel Sharkey who died this week.

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

Emma, Sammy, James and Jane Rigley; Tony & Maisie Harnett; Damian Reade;

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	SHARE
22 nd November 2020	€5,000	€

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.

We thank a very generous parishioner who recently donated €5,000 to our Common Fund.

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 McLraith, Tel: 6686845

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Sunday 29th November 2020

A New Year Begins

Advent is the first season of a new year in the life of the church. It begins today. The seasonal colour is purple and the first candle of the Advent wreath is lit.

Just as the flowers each have their season the liturgical seasons each bring their uniqueness to the spiritual garden of life. In the natural world the crocus and the pansy have a field day long before the familiar and abundant flowers of spring and summer. Similarly aspects of our spiritual journey are nurtured more in one season than in another. What is uniquely nurtured in Advent are time related qualities like patience, perseverance, hope, joyful waiting and courage. Christmas nurtures other qualities and it's a pity, that overshadowed by Christmas and particularly by the commercial realities of a modern Christmas, Advent as a season is often lost on us in its spiritual nurture.

This year in the world wide struggle with a dangerous virus we find ourselves very much in waiting. Advent is important for us. Waiting for a return to normality, whatever that will be; waiting for the next step in the guidance of politicians and public health doctors; waiting for the vaccines that may end the nightmare; waiting to visit loved ones; waiting to share in the Eucharist; waiting to celebrate the sacraments; waiting to meet people; waiting to revive businesses and livelihoods before it's too late; waiting to feel safe. It's a world in waiting.

Most of us find it difficult to wait in a fast moving world. Yet the challenge is to wait with 'joyful hope.' For all of us there is surely a best way of waiting. We tend to become frustrated, annoyed, even angry in our waiting.

Unless we're resolved and ordered in our waiting we can slip easily into negativity and loss of heart. What is asked of us in restrictions is the respectful care of ourselves and others. It is part of a hopeful effort to resist a danger and we're all in this together. Take pride in understanding our problem and its challenge; take pride in trying to save lives. While sadly over 2,000 of our people have died, and worldwide 1.42 million, because of the virus, many more have been saved because of our joint efforts. And in our waiting, take joy in the 'advent' of vaccines that promise to bring resolution.

We are waiting for the Lord, for his Second Coming and the fulfilment of the Gospel promises. Advent is a time of prayer. Amid all our difficulties we cry out 'Come, Lord Jesus.' In all our waiting, the Lord is our hope, when all is said and done.

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**Standing Order Donation
Towards the Mass Collections**

As you know the funds that are supported by the two collections at the Sunday Mass, the Common Fund and the Share Fund, have suffered greatly in the last 8 months and will continue to do so while we are obliged to follow the government restrictions.

The diocesan finance office in meeting this situation has suggested the use of a monthly standing order towards both of these collections. The standing order amount will be divided into 60% towards the Common Fund and 40% towards the Share Fund.

We appreciate that many parishioners already have an existing standing order for the Family Offering for our Parish. Indeed it's because of that that our Parish funds have not been too adversely affected during this Covid crisis. We thank parishioners who have been so generous in maintaining the well-being of the Parish.

We are placing standing order forms for the Mass collections funds at the back of the church. You may wish to avail of one or share with your friends and fellow parishioners. Health considerations alone will likely mean that when public Masses resume cash collections will have to be curtailed as a matter of public health policy. The introduction of paperless donation either by this second standing order possibility or by donation on line, as some are already doing, may be the only way we can systematically support these two funds, vital to the life of the diocese.

Some parishioners also have very kindly chosen to avail of the two small envelopes, one for the Common Fund donation and one for the Share Fund donation, also left at the back of the church. Their return can be made safely through the letter box of the parish office or presbyteries. Thank you for whatever way you choose to maintain support of these funds.

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**Fratelli Tutti – Dark Clouds, Pandemics and
Historical Calamities**

Pope Francis now turns his attention to our current experience of pandemic and similar calamities in history. What have we learned from them? What do they reveal? Covid-19, on the one hand, is a tragedy that momentarily brings us into awareness that all humanity is in this crisis together. We see 'that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together'. On the other hand, it has exposed our vulnerability and the false and superfluous certainties around which we constructed our lives. The freedom of the market was not sufficient, as many had thought, to keep everything secure. It is all the more urgent now that we re-think our styles of life, our relationships, the organisation of our societies and, above all, the meaning of our existence. But the truth is that all too often we forget the lessons of history.

Why was a problem in Wuhan province a year ago allowed become a global problem just a few weeks later and reach a point now, a year later, where 1.42 million people across the world have died because of Covid-19? Why were we so ill prepared to look after elderly people who died for lack of respirators? Was it not partly because we had dismantled our health systems, year after year, he asks?

'If only this immense global sorrow may not prove useless but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life'. Once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egotistic self-preservation. God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of 'them' and 'those' but only 'us'. The notion of 'every man for himself' will rapidly degenerate into a free-for-all that would prove worse than any pandemic. Our difficulties in meeting such tragedies as the current pandemic represents for Pope Francis the fourth of eight trends he perceives as hindering the development of universal sister and brotherhood. We are slow to learn.

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Advent Services

Our first of four Advent Prayer Services relayed by webcam takes place this and following Sundays at 4.00pm and we'd love if you can join us in prayer.

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Changed times for Webcam Mass

Please note that until further notice our Sunday Masses relayed on the webcam will be at 10.am and 11.30am. We continue to have unreliable internet delivery around 12.20pm each day and we don't know why it is so. The time change is necessary to avoid further difficulties.

Sunday Masses on Webcam

**10.00am
and
11.30am
until further notice.**