



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

David Howell; Molly O’Kane; Deirdre Spillane; Frankie Rigley; Emilia Brazil; Bee Bee Whearity; Liz McDonnell; Brigid Gormley; Pdraig Corcoran; Liam Hession; John, Ivor & Francie Smith;

And for *Leslie Griffin & Micheál Ó Briain 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	SHARE
26 th January 2020	€1,605	€1,050

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 McLraith, Tel: 6686845

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Sunday 2nd February 2020

The Feast of the Presentation

It was a Roman custom, at this time of year, to burn candles to the goddess, Februa, mother of Mars, to ward off evil spirits. As with many other pagan customs, the Church introduced a ritual of Christian meaning to coincide with this practice. Forty days after Christmas we have a procession with lighted candles to celebrate Christ as the light of the world. That’s why February 2nd is called Candlemas.

On this Feast of the Presentation in the Temple, Simeon proclaimed Jesus as ‘a light to enlighten the pagans’. At Baptism we each receive a lighted candle, lit from the Easter Candle of the Risen Christ, to express the hope that it will be kept burning brightly in lives of living faith.

Universities, in the past, often began a new term on this day, hence known as Candlemas Term. The autumn term was Michaelmas, beginning with the Feast of St. Michael on September 29th, a feast extended nowadays to also include the archangels Gabriel and Raphael. Such days were celebrated with significance in the past. They were two of the ‘quarter days’ for a long time – days which, three months apart, divided the year into quarters. On such quarter days, servants were hired, school terms started and rents were due.

Before Christianity came to Ireland there were four quarter days Lúnasa (1st August), Samhain (1st November), Imbolc (1st February) and Bealtaine (1st May). Imbolc in Christian times became St. Brigid’s Day – celebrated this weekend.

These ancient Celtic quarter days are now called cross-quarter days because they fall about half way into the traditional English quarters of Lady Day (25th March), Midsummer Day (24th June), Michaelmas (29th September) and Christmas (25th December). The cross-quarter days became in Christian times Candlemas (2nd February), May Day (1st May), Lammass (1st August) and All Hallows (1st November).

Whatever way we may look on 2nd February today, it had great significance for everyday life in the past
– The Feast of the Presentation –

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Baptisms in March

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in March will be held on Monday 24th February 2020, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in March will be on Sunday March 1st and 15th, after the 12 noon Mass.

Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 24th February and to attend the preparatory meeting.

Because it occasionally arises as a question, we confirm that godmother and godfather should be of each gender and that godparents must be over 16 and practising Catholics, at home in their faith. While normally we have two godparents, it is sufficient to have just one. Another may act as a witness rather than a godparent in that situation.

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Feast of the Presentation this Sunday

Sunday, February 2nd, is the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, Candlemas Day. Traditionally its the day we bless candles for use in the church or at home.

This lovely feastday is also the Day for Consecrated Life. Archbishop Martin will celebrate Mass for Consecrated Life in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Foxrock, at 3.30pm on Sunday next. The Dublin Diocesan Music Group will provide the music of the Mass.

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Blessing of Throats

On the Feast of St. Blaise, February 3rd, throats will be blessed after the 7.30am and 10.00am Masses.

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Clothing Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

The Society is seeking your help in its Annual Clothing Appeal in this Parish. The Appeal is for clean, good-quality clothes, bedclothes, curtains, shoes etc. Bags will be available outside the church on the weekend of 16th and 17th February and the Society will collect the bags outside the church on the following weekend, 23rd / 24th February at the Vigil Mass and Sunday morning Masses.

Feast of St. Brigid

This Saturday, Feb. 1st, we celebrate the lovely feast of St. Brigid, a patron saint of Ireland. Next Saturday is the feastday of St. Josephine Bakhita, the first saint of Sudan, who died in 1947. It is the international day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. A day also to remember St. Felicia and her Franciscan companions in South Sudan.

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‘Do This in Memory’

Next Sunday the First Communion 2020 classes and their parents meet for our next ‘Do this in Memory’ Mass. Besides Grapevine 5 sent out last week we ask parents to share the contents of pages 18 and 19 of Thumbs with their child and to oversee the work to be completed on pages 54 and 55 of Thumbs. At this stage of the programme the children should have the exercises between pages 40 and 55 completed. We’re grateful to those who have paid €20 towards the cost of materials and would very much appreciate if those who haven’t done so might contribute ASAP.

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Well Done Scoil Mhuire

Out of 7,000 entries in the Intel Mini Scientist Competition, two girls from 5th class in Scoil Mhuire were among the final 24 competitors and received the overall prize for best communication. Well done to Olivia and Emilia. We’re proud of you. All that happened last Wednesday at the Intel Science National Finals in Maynooth. Then, to cap it all, the girls from Scoil Mhuire sang their hearts out with schools from the southside at the Laudate festival on Wednesday night in Ballyroan.

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Thank You

Dear Parents and Guardians we would like to remind you that all children and vulnerable people should be accompanied by a parent or guardian when using the bathroom facilities in our church.

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World Day of the Sick 2020

The World Day of the Sick will be celebrated on Sunday February 9th, the nearest Sunday to the World Day which is on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11th. The diocesan celebrations will be held at Newtownpark Avenue, Guardian Angles Church. The Archbishop will lead the celebration of Mass there at 3.30pm. Anointing of the sick will take place during Mass.

On the previous day, Saturday February 8th, between 9.30am and 1.00pm a Seminar will take place in the Newtownpark Parish Pastoral Centre. This year’s theme will be on *Hope in the Face of Suicide*.

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First Friday

Friday 7th February is the First Friday of the month. We remember the Faithful Departed at the 7.30am and 10.00am Masses. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 10.00am Mass until 11.30am unless there is a funeral.