

REST IN PEACE



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

Derek Green; William, Bríd & Kirsty McNamara; Brenda O’Hanrahan; William Nelson, his wife Patty, daughter Mary & son Des; Patrick Quinn; Ross & Jenny McMahan; Kathleen & James Forry.

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
25 th April	€155	€70

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 2nd May 2021

A Poem for May

The Jesuit poet, Fr Gerard Manley Hopkins, died in 1889 having arrived in Dublin in 1884 to the Jesuit House in Stephen’s Green to fulfil his appointment as professor of Classics in the Royal University of Ireland. His final resting place was the Jesuit plot in Glasnevin. But before coming to Dublin, he spent a short time at the Jesuit College in Lancashire, Stonyhurst, where he taught Classics and English Literature to pre-university students. At Stonyhurst there was a custom of inviting staff and students to compose and publicly post a poem in honour of Mary during the month of May.

Fr Manley Hopkins did so in a poem that likened our relationship with Mary to the ‘wild air’ that surround us and without which there would be no life. It’s a poem of about ten stanzas, the last of which is a prayer to Mary. The poem is entitled ‘The Blessed Virgin compared to the Air we Breathe’.

The final verse :
 ‘Be thou then, O thou dear
 Mother, my atmosphere;
 My happier world, wherein
 To wend and meet no sin;
 Above me, round me lie
 Fronting my froward* eye
 With sweet and scarless sky;
 Stir in my ears, speak there
 Of God’s love, O live air,
 Of patience, penance, prayer:
 World-mothering air, air wild,
 Wound with thee, in thee isled,
 Fold home, fast fold thy child.

*froward’ means ‘perverse’

GOOD NEWS

We rejoice that we may begin again after four months of empty churches at times of Mass and of religious ceremonies to welcome a congregation of 50 persons. Please God we can all do so safely and that the road to social recovery will be more secure than it was before Christmas.

From May 10th, Monday week, we will resume normal Mass times. That means that daily Masses will be at 7.30am (Mon to Fri) and 10am (Mon to Sat), with weekend Masses on Sat at 6pm (vigil) and on Sunday morning at 9am, 10.30am and 12 noon.

In planning the coming weeks, our first thoughts will be with the young people in 6th class anticipating the celebration of Confirmation. We would see it as important to facilitate their celebrations before they leave Primary School. We were delighted to have opportunity to celebrate their enrolment as candidates on Thursday last and hope that they themselves and their families found it helpful.

When Confirmation days have been scheduled, we will work on possible days for the celebration of Baptism, aware that there are many parents awaiting the opportunity to have a baby baptised.

There are a number of weddings planned also in the coming months. We will await direction from the diocese in respect of the celebration of sacraments and we cannot be sure at this stage that first Communion celebrations will be possible before the summer break. It may be necessary to focus on September instead.

Beginning next week, May 10th, a long-awaited project to introduce LED lighting in the church will begin and we anticipate it as a three-week undertaking. It should improve the light in the body of the church but also reduce the cost of lighting significantly for us into the future. There is a time factor involved if we are to avail of a partial grant for which successful application was made. It is a first step in a number of undertakings to refurbish the church.

As we return to the position where up to 50 people may attend Mass we do so with caution and ask everybody to exercise vigilance. The appalling state of affairs in India, which is home to 18% of the world's population is a sobering reminder that this virus and its increasingly dangerous variants is a global threat and will remain so for a long time. We ask everyone to wear a mask, keep 2 metres distance from others unless they are from under the same home roof, to avail of the sanitizer and respect the rules of movement when attending the church as a congregation.

Saints of the Week

Monday 3rd May – Sts. Philip and James, Apostles.

Philip was born in Bethsaida, the same town as Peter and Andrew. He is remembered for his conversation with Nathaniel which brought his friend to Jesus. You'll remember that when Nathaniel said "Nazareth, can anything good come out of that place", Philip replied "Come and see". He came and his life was changed.

Although Jewish and previously a disciple of John the Baptist his name is of Greek origin, a factor not to be lost on us in Jesus' choice of him.

James on the other hand was a cousin of Jesus. He became the leader of the church in Jerusalem, wrote the Letter of James that we find in the New Testament, lived a life of penance and was the first apostle to be martyred in the year 62AD.

Tuesday 4th May – St. Conleth.

Conleth was born in Wicklow in the 5th century. He became a hermit and was well known for his spiritual life. St. Brigid requested that he become the priest to her convent in Kildare. He did so and is remembered as the bishop and abbot of the monks of Kildare. He was buried beside St. Brigid in the church of Kildare.

Wednesday 5th May – Blessed Edmund Rice (1762-1844)

Edmund came from Callan in Co. Kilkenny. When his young wife died he sold his possessions and dedicated his life to the education of the poor. He gathered like-minded men to share in his work and they took religious vows to devote themselves to the Catholic education of boys. He is a model of patient and cheerful acceptance of the sufferings life brings us, a true lay apostle and a deeply committed religious.

Saturday 8th May – Blessed John Sullivan, SJ

John was born in Eccles Street in 1861 and baptised in the nearby St. George's Church of Ireland, Temple Street. He went to Portora Royal School in Enniskillen and then studied Classics and Law at Trinity College and Lincoln's Inn in London. At the age of 35 he became a Catholic, returned to Dublin and lived a very simple life. He entered the Jesuits in 1900 and was ordained in 1907. Most of the rest of his life was spent in Clongowes Wood College. His reputation as a person of great holiness and prayer spread widely and he was always available to the sick, the poor and anyone in need. He died in 1933 and in 2017 at Gardiner Street Church his beatification, the first in Ireland, was celebrated.

The Parish Office Because of the current seriousness of concern for public health, we have decided to close the parish office to the public for the time being. However, parishioners are invited to leave a message on the phone (01 6683316 or 01 6683894) or to contact Fr John (01 6684265/0876294325) or Fr Cormac (01 6686845) for any services required. Phone messages to the parish office will be checked daily and responded to.