



## ***REST IN PEACE***

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

*Lily James, Rene Mizell O'Sullivan, Maura Farragher Collins, Barrie Heffernan, Deceased members of Nelson family, Mary Kiernan, Desmond O'Leary, Mary & Martin Boughan, Annie & James Byrne, Frank Lavelle, Gerard Brazil, Deceased members of King family, Brendan & Nancy Allen,*

*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
27 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	€1,680	€1,030

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.

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### **Coffee Morning for Tchwaranang**

A Huge Thank You to all the parishioners who supported our Coffee Morning last Sunday to raise funds for Tchwaranang and Maaluma Day Care Centres. With everybody's help we raised a whopping €2,130! Thanks again - Deirdre.

## **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](http://www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com)

### ***Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016***

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#### **A Voice Crying in the Wilderness**

This week in our Scripture Readings, John the Baptist makes entry into our Advent reflections. Last week Isaiah the great prophet was the first focus of Advent attention, a poet with a wonderfully hopeful vision. Now, John the Baptist becomes the focus of our attention just as later in Advent Mary and Joseph become exemplars of Advent Hope for us.

What a dramatic figure is John. His is the voice of one crying in the wilderness 'prepare the way of the Lord', an image of his personhood taken from Isaiah. Today there are many voices crying in the wilderness in our world. Perhaps you can hear them

- 65 million people who are refugees in our world, uprooted and displaced. Can you hear their cries in the wilderness?
- Half of them are children. Prepare the Way of the Lord.
- 3,000 people drowned in the Mediterranean in 2015 in a frantic effort to reach Europe. Little has changed since then. Can you hear cries in the Sea?
- Ireland has pledged to take in 4,000 Syrian refugees by the end of 2017. So far 500 have been accepted. Prepare the Way of the Lord

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- Over a 1,000 families are homeless in Ireland  
Can you hear their children cry? In all, some 6,709 are homeless.
- 1, 966 homes have been repossessed.

How many more voices crying in wilderness can you think of? There is of course the people of Aleppo and every other city where war prevails. Think also of the cry in wilderness that hasn't the focus of media attention and perhaps not heard by us as yet. Give thought to those cries not far away-in your family, on your street, in your parish, in our city. If you can hear them, hear also John's message to you in their regard: 'Prepare the Way of the Lord.'

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**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Thursday next, December 8<sup>th</sup> is the feast of the Immaculate Conception and a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at 7.30am, 10.00am and 6.00pm.

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**Parish Pastoral Council**

The Parish Pastoral Council would like to thank all parishioners who attended the AGM last Monday night. The following parishioners were elected to the Parish Pastoral Council:

- Janet Daly, St John's Road.
- Karen Hickey, Pembroke Street, Irishtown.
- Gerry Lincoln, Beach Road.
- Allie Pigot, Gilford Park.
- Joe McElvaney kindly agreed to become a member of the Council, nominated by Fr. John.

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**Do This in Memory**

Children preparing for First Communion, and their parents, are invited along next Sunday to the 'Do This in Memory' Mass at 10.30am. We encourage families to prepare with the material in this month's Grapevine and with pages 14 and 15 of the Thumb book. Children should work on pages 44, 45 and beginning since December 1<sup>st</sup>, a little a day, colour in the Advent Calendar on pages 46 and 47. Don't forget your candle and the Thumb book next Sunday.

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**Baptisms in January**

Baptisms will be celebrated on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. 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 January Baptisms is Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January. 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.

**ST.VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

This is a special appeal to you to ask for your support. The need is great as we approach the Christmas season. Your generosity makes a huge difference to the lives of a number of local people who are suffering. Your contribution provides them with food vouchers, toys, fuel, clothes, school books, etc.

The Society's special Christmas Church collection will take the place of the "share collection" at all masses in the parish next weekend, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

We are very aware that you may be somebody/or know somebody who is in need of assistance. If so please make contact in confidence:

- Through the main St. Vincent de Paul Office at (01) 8550022 and they will notify us.
- By leaving a note (in an envelope addressed to us) in the parish office.
- By phoning our local helpline 086 8461273, for assistance.

ST. MARY'S CONFERENCE  
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
SANDYMOUNT  
DUBLIN 4.

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**Star of the Sea Boys' School Christmas Fair**

The members of the Star of the Sea Boys' Parents Association wish to welcome all to their CHRISTMAS FAIR this Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December after 10.30am Mass. Gifts Tombola, Toys and Raffle Prizes

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**Evening Prayer of the Church**

Evening Prayer of the Church will be celebrated again this Tuesday at 6.30pm. All welcome.

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**Poor Clare Sisters**

The Poor Clare Sisters are holding a Monastic Vocation Discernment Day for young women between the ages of 18 and 38, at their Monastery, St. Damian's, Simonscourt Road, on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 1.30 to 6.00pm.

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**MOON, STARS, PLANETS at Sandymount.**

The next public observing night by IAS Dublin Sidewalk Astronomers is planned for Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Sandymount Tower Car Park. If skies are clear telescopes will be set up from 8 p.m. All are welcome. For more information and updates visit [www.irishastrosoc.org](http://www.irishastrosoc.org). Events are weather dependent so a message will be posted on the website at 6 p.m. should an event not be going ahead.

The Sandymount Gospel Choir usually sings at the 6pm Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. However in December they will be singing on one Sunday which will be 18th December.