

REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the soul of

Margaret (Peggy) Sheridan,

For the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Desmond O'Reilly, Emily Salazar, John Costello, Nell Siggins, May Galvin, Phil Dunn, William & Margaret Bray, Rita Mulligan, Nora Lincoln, Christine O'Driscoll, Timothy O'Donnell, John Doyle, Andrew & Susan Dent,

And for Mollie Foley 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.*

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CHURCH COLLECTIONS

The amounts collected last weekend are

DATE	GREEN BASKET	WMOF2018
25 th February 2018	€1,325	€3,255

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese. The white basket last weekend was the third National collection for the World Meeting of Families 2018. We thank you for your contributions to the Church collections and for your continuing support of all the collections.

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Lenten Evening Prayer on Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Evening Prayer of the Church is continuing on Tuesdays, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th of March.

Please, come along with your family and friends. It will be little more than half an hour but something uplifting to do for Lent!

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 4th March 2018

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Looking to Jesus: The Vocation of the Family

In chapter three of 'The Joy of Love', Pope Francis recalls some essential aspects of the Church's teaching on marriage.

For Francis, the Gospel message should always resound in and among families. At the heart of that message is the news that 'the Father's infinite love has been revealed in Christ who gave himself up for our sake. and who continues to dwell among us'. The Christian family can only be understood in the light of this central message of love and tenderness. Otherwise our teaching will be 'nothing more than the defence of a dry and lifeless doctrine' (par 59). With warm enthusiasm Francis wishes to focus on 'this living Christ at the heart of so many love stories and to invoke the fire of the Holy Spirit on all the world's families.' He does so under six headings of reflection: (1) Jesus restores and fulfils God's plan ; (2) The family in the documents of the Church; (3) The Sacrament of Matrimony; (4) Seeds of the Word and Imperfect Situations; (5) The transmission of life and the rearing of children and (6) the Family and the Church. This week we look at (1), (2) and (3) and next week (4), (5) and (6).

1. Jesus restores and fulfils God's plan: Scripture and tradition upholds a very positive view of marriage-as a 'gift' from the Lord, a gift to be safeguarded carefully and a gift inclusive of sexuality. In his speaking of God's original plan for man and woman, Jesus upholds the indissolubility of marriage. It is because God's generous love always attends our human journey that this indissolubility should always be viewed as a 'gift' to a married couple and not as a 'yoke' imposed on humanity. Through his Church, Christ bestows on marriage and the family the grace necessary to bear witness to the love of God and to live a life of communion. Contd./

‘Marriage is the fullness of revelation that restores God’s plan.’ He then highlights how in Jesus’ encounters with people the true meaning of mercy is the restoration of the covenant and in Jesus’ experience in the family of Nazareth, ‘a covenant of love and fidelity’, is the inspiration of every family to live through the ups and downs of life.

2. The Family in the documents of the Church: In this section, Francis draws on and affirms the teachings on marriage and family life we find in the Vatican Council’s Decree on the Church (Lumen Gentium) and in successive encyclical letters and exhortations of Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict.

3. The Sacrament of Marriage: Jesus raised marriage to be the sacramental sign of his love for the Church. ‘In the human family, gathered by Christ, the “image and likeness” of the Most Holy Trinity has been restored. Through the Church, marriage and the family receive the grace of the Holy Spirit from Christ, in order to witness to the Gospel of God’s love’ (par 71). So, the sacrament of marriage is not a social convention, an empty ritual or merely an outward sign of a commitment. The sacrament is a gift for the sanctification and salvation of the spouses. Their mutual belonging is a real representation of the same relationship of mutual belonging of Christ and his Church. Reminding us that in our Latin Rite it is the couple themselves who are the ministers of the sacrament of Matrimony, by virtue of their Baptism, and that by their manifesting their consent and expressing it physically they receive the grace of the sacrament, Pope Francis raises some interesting questions for our reflection. Comparing our nuptial liturgy with that of the Eastern Church he asks also if we don’t need a more explicit expression of God’s action in the marriage rite. Next week we’ll look at (4), (5) and (6) in this chapter three of ‘The Joy of Love’.

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Celebrating Baptism

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in April will be held on Monday, 26th March, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in April will be on Saturday 31st March at the Easter Vigil Mass at 9.00pm and on Sunday April 15th, after the 12 noon Mass. Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 26th March 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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WMOF2018 Special Collection

We thank parishioners for their very generous response to the special collection towards The World Meeting of Families to be held in August. The WMOF was established in 1994 by Pope St. John Paul II. To date it has been hosted in Rome, Rio de Janeiro, Milan, Valencia, Mexico City and Philadelphia. Now it’s our turn here in Ireland because Pope Francis has personally chosen Dublin to be the host city for the next World Meeting of Families and he has invited us to reflect on the theme ‘The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World’.

The main events of WMOF2018 will take place in Dublin and, conveniently for us, most events will be just down the road at the RDS.

The following key moments make up the 9th World Meeting of Families:

- A **National Opening** on Tuesday 21 August which will take place simultaneously in each of the dioceses of Ireland;
- A **three day congress** from 22-24 August in the RDS, Dublin;
- A **Festival of Families** on Saturday 25 August,
- A **Closing Mass** will be celebrated on Sunday 26 August

Pope Francis has asked us to prepare for the 9th World Meeting of Families by reflecting on ‘Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)’, he believes that the family is good news for today’s world. The *Amoris: Let’s Talk Family! Let’s Be Family!* Programme is a response to this request from Pope Francis. We’ll have news shortly of its presentation in our parish.

We are inviting families in our parish to join us on our journey of preparation for the World Meeting of Families and to be part of the events in Dublin from 21-26 August 2018. Please support us by volunteering, registering to attend and possibly giving consideration to hosting people who are travelling far to attend.

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‘Do This in Memory’ Mass

We welcome the children and parents who have come for the special Mass in preparation for First Penance and First Communion.

Before our next Mass on March 25th (Palm Sunday) we will have celebrations of First Penance with the children: On March 20th at 7.00pm with St. Matthew’s children; on March 21st at 7.00pm with Star of the Sea boys; and on March 22nd at 7.00pm with Scoil Mhuire.

The next meeting for parents planning the Palm Sunday Mass will be on Saturday 10th March at 9.00am.

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Annual Golf Classic, Elm Park Golf Club
Save the Date – Friday 1st June 2018!

To book a place or sponsor an Ad or Tee Box please fill in a Booking Form, available on the table at the back of the Church, and return it as soon as possible to the Parish office, Star of the Sea Church Tel: 01 6683316

OR by email to stargolfclassic@gmail.com

OR CONTACT: Martin Coonan: 087 2304042,

Charlotte O'Neill: 086 2162348

OR The Parish Office: 01 668 3316