



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of

Kathleen Lynch, Margaret Callanan, Éilish bean Mhic Fhionnlaioich, and Marie Whelan who died during the Christmas period.

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

Aedan & Vera Waldron, Gretta Allen, Samuel Clarke, John Kenny, Carol Wright, Philip Fitzgerald, Mary & Martin Boughan, Tim Richardson, Pauline & Jack Crump, Nora & Jim O'Doherty, And for Tony Lincoln 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.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

The amounts collected last weekend are:

DATE	GREEN BASKET	SHARE
22 nd December 2019	€1,535	€1,035
25 th December 2019	€6,110	€3,150
29 th December 2019	€1,225	€770

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.

The Iris Charles Centre re-opens after the Christmas break on Tuesday next, 7th January with Chair Exercises, Lunch and Bridge. All Welcome!

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 5th January 2020

Epiphany

Tomorrow, January 6th, is the Feast of Epiphany and begins the final week of the Nativity Seasons, which will end next Sunday on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. Advent, Christmas and Epiphany each foster unique aspects of the Lord's coming.

In Advent our lives are nourished in hopeful anticipation when time related virtues are highlighted – hope, patience, perseverance, preparation and readiness. It's a time to change what needs changing to better welcome the Saviour.

In Christmas we rejoice in the birth of Christ Jesus and open to the great reality that his presence now is in the life of all who receive him and walk in his ways.

In Epiphany, we explore the global significance of God becoming one of us, 'a light to all nations' reflected in the coming of the wise men from the East. It's a call to international sharing of the love of God for all creation, 'the good news to be shared with all the people'. Epiphany reveals God's loving desire for all humanity.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed as usual from 18th to 25th January 2020. Its inauguration in Dublin will take place at an interdenominational Service in the Church of the Assumption, Booterstown Avenue, on Sunday 19th January 2020 at 4.00pm. The Rev. Abigail Sines, Dean's Vicar, Christchurch Cathedral, will preach the sermon.

This year the theme, 'Unusual Kindness' was chosen by the Christian Churches in Malta reflecting on the 'drama of St. Paul' who experienced unity and acts of kindness locally following his shipwreck on the island.

Baptisms in February

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in February will be held on Monday 27th January 2020, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in February will be on Sunday February 2nd and 16th, after the 12 noon Mass.

Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 27th January and to attend the preparatory meeting.



Coffee Morning in aid of Peter McVerry Trust

We received the following email from Analiese Culliton "As you may know, I had my coffee morning fundraiser for the Peter McVerry trust a couple of weeks ago. We raised a total of €1770.90. I just wanted to thank everyone who came along, made donations, and helped in any way they could. The generosity was amazing and I could not have done it without the support of the parish council and the Sandymount community.



A Special Word of Thanks

Many parishioners share in the extra workload of Christmas. We appreciate the great co-operation of so many; those who have cleaned and decorated the Church so beautifully; Deirdre and the choirs; the organist and musicians; readers and Eucharistic ministers; the church collectors and counters; the volunteers who delivered the Christmas cards to the homes of the parish; members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee; our sacristy team who give so generously of their time; those who open the church in the morning and lock up at night; the Family Mass and First Communion planning groups and all who play an active part in the life of the parish. Thank you, one and all.



Christmas Dues Donations

Fr. John and Fr. Cormac would like to thank parishioners who have already sent in their Christmas Dues. Envelopes may be handed into the Sacristy/Parish office or put in the letter-box in the Parish office door.

Supporting the Parish

As we begin a new financial year from January 1st this may be a good time to review donations to the Parish.

Many people are surprised to learn that the weekly collections at Mass as well as the Christmas and Easter donations do not go to Parish funds. To support the Parish one may avail of a box of weekly envelopes which can be placed in the collection basket at Mass or alternatively, one might organise a standing order donation or indeed a once off donation at any time. Because such donations are traceable they become part of a possible tax rebate. As you know a cumulative donation of €250 or more in a tax year will qualify for a significant tax rebate in favour of the Parish. Please let us know if you would like to avail of the donation envelopes or the form for the standing order donation.

Thank You

Our thanks to Valerie, on our Parish Council, who through the Sundays of Advent and Christmas presented pointed themes and questions for us all on the notice board at the entrance to the church. We thank you for a thoughtful and appreciated presentation.



Letter from Wau, South Sudan

In her Christmas greeting from Wau, Sister Felicia Matola reported on her time to date there.

'2019 was a year of change and transformation for Wau. The sisters endeavoured to reach out to many people despite sustained population displacement and stalled peace agreement deals in South Sudan. The September 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement failed and the government was given another 100 days to implement Government National Unity. Our sisters offer renewed hope to many people in Wau.

The year has had a lot of comings and goings. Sr Rosemary Oduol is a big loss. She was the mainstay of the community- fluent in Arabic and knowing so many people- it is definitely hard to replace her! Still we wish her well in her new role on our Congregational Leadership team in Ireland. It took two people to try to replace Sr Rosemary in Community! Even in the hospital, her job was separated and given to two people- one as Matron and the other as CEO'.

Sr. Rosemary is now residing in the Franciscan Sisters Leadership House in Sandymount. What a transition it must be for her. It's lovely to see how significant her contribution to life in Wau has been and we hope she will be very happy in her new and responsible role in the Franciscan Congregation.

Sr. Felicia has begun to take classes in Arabic and attended a five day 'Introduction to South Sudan' course. What was impressive was the long list of various congregations attending the course with participants from a wide range of nationalities, (Felicia listed 11 nationalities – to mention a few).