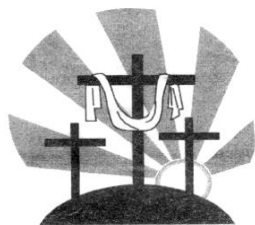


REST IN PEACE



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

Sister Ann O'Connor; Patricia O'Doherty; Paddy Callinan; Oliver Allen; Lil Murnane; Nellie Murphy; Peter Pigot; Simon Herriott; Peggy Kelly;

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
28 th June 2020	€160	€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 McLraith, Tel: 6686845

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Sunday 5th July 2020

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Our first Sunday Gathering

It has been a joy to see people at Mass in Star of the Sea for the first time since March 23rd over three months ago. We welcome you with enthusiasm, even if as yet our numbers are necessarily limited and the conditions under which we meet are to be upheld to safeguard and protect each person's good health.

By now everyone should be well trained and accustomed to the HSE guidelines:

- Keep the social distance of 2 metres.
- Wash hands frequently as required.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Wear a mask in indoor settings where people are gathered.
- Appreciate that in an asymptomatic fortnight any of us could be carrying the virus unknown to ourselves.
- When any symptoms show, phone your doctor and follow his/her advice.
- Know that this is a highly contagious and deadly disease and it hasn't gone away.

The three months practice of these steps should see everyone in our community well aware of what's asked of us. So when you come to church, know that we rely on your sense of responsibility. The fact that the church is open and one may attend Mass does not mean that the problem has gone away. It means we're in a critical stage of trying to live our lives while the

virus is still a reality, a time to be even more vigilant in responsible behaviour.

At this time of writing only 50 people are permitted to attend a Mass, by Government direction, regardless of the size of the church. We estimated that we had capacity in Star of the Sea to hold at least 80 persons while upholding the 2 metre distancing. That included the seats in the balcony and below the balcony to the right of the altar. However this balcony area, above and below, is cordoned off as long as the permitted number remains at 50 and seats, two per every third seat in the remaining pews bring our total permitted seating to 50. While we have easily accommodated the numbers coming to weekday Masses this week, we're not sure if the capacity of 50 won't be tested at weekend Masses, which will be at the former times of Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 9.00am, 10.30am and 12 Noon.

Should it happen that people cannot attend on Sunday because only 50 are allowed to do so, please remember that the Mass will be streamed for those with internet connection and that attendance alternatively at a weekday Mass, either at 7.30am (Mon. to Fri.) or 10.00am (Mon. to Sat.) is recommended. The Sunday obligation is suspended during this Covid-19 Crisis. We regret any inconvenience to those who may come to a weekend Mass only to find that the church is already full.

During this time we rely on the help of stewards and cleaners as well as Eucharistic Ministers and Ministers of the Word at every Mass. We thank Joe McNamara, who as Pastoral Council chairman, has with members of the Council worked hard to prepare the church, organise training of stewards and cleaners and source all the materials needed to implement the Parish Covid-19 Plan. Our intention throughout is to help people feel welcome and safe when they gather in the church.

In the event of a funeral we know that everyone will appreciate the necessity of reserving seating in the church at 10.00am to family and friends in bereavement, now that restricted numbers, presently 50, may attend.

In our parish plan, the movement of people coming to communion was a particular concern given the history of congestion in the normal healthy times. We've identified 8 sections of the church by lettering as A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H. Note the area you are seated in. With two ministers distributing communion at the top of the aisle and half way down the aisle (where we've opened a gap in seating), we invite you to approach in 4 circular movements – down a side aisle and up the centre aisle. For those in the top (nearest altar) half, the people in section C and D will approach the minister first while for those in the bottom half (nearest main door), the people in H and G will approach the minister in mid-aisle at the same time. It's only when these communicants have received that those in the other two sections, A and B to the front and E and F towards the back now approach – again in a circular movement – down the side aisle, up the centre aisle. In this way we avoid people moving against each other in a narrow space. At all times only one person comes forward in any aisle and always at 2

metres from the persons in front and behind. The stewards will assist this change in movement.

There will be a collection opportunity at the end of Mass at the two exit doors. Baskets will be placed on 2 tables and it will help if you have your donations ready. There too, the newsletter will be available.

We're advised not to have congregational singing during this time and missalettes will not be available. Other changes affecting Readers and Eucharistic Ministers will be conveyed directly to them.

You will note that there is just one entrance door – the Main Front Door – and two exit side doors – to the right and left of the altar area. The doors of the church will be closed after each Mass to facilitate appropriate cleaning. Again we thank the extra volunteers needed to further the work undertaken by the parish cleaning group, whose ongoing service over years is particularly appreciated at this time.

We're delighted to gather again after the strange isolation of these past months. Let's do so with care and confidence.

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Confessions

Confessions will be heard in the "Confession Room" to the right of the main door on Saturday at 11.00am and at 5.00pm.

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Trocaire Boxes

We thank those who have returned their Lenten Trocaire Boxes and will be glad to receive any more which may be awaiting collection. Call to the parish office during opening hours (Mon. to Fri, 9.30am to 12.30pm).