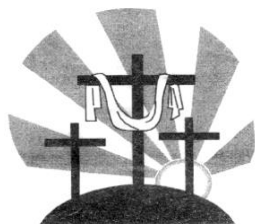


## REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Vera Ward and Pauline Hackett who died this week.

And for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Jim McDonagh; Maureen Kearns; Anne Hancock; Pascal McLoughlin; Barry Heffernan; Eithne & Desmond O'Leary; Maura Farragher Collins; Don Byrne; Gerard Brazil; Tony Lincoln; James & Annie Byrne; Patrick & Anne Murray.

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 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 | €            | €     |

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

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach Christmas we do so in this pandemic year very much aware of our limited capacity to share its joy in our customary way. Attendance at church is severely curtailed and everyone of us must appreciate the implications of that.

With only 50 persons permitted entry most of us wishing to join fellow parishioners at a Christmas Mass will have to do so via webcam. We appreciate very much the company of households praying with us in that way ever since the pandemic became a reality for us last March.

While we plan to hold an extra Mass on Christmas Eve, the need arises immediately for extra stewards and an extra team of volunteers to clean the church against infection after each Mass. We welcome back the kind volunteers who during stage 5 lockdown had a rest from volunteer duties. Without you we couldn't provide the service we desire. We're grateful.

Please see the accompanying letter from Mary Murphy, a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, and consider responding to her invitation to assist as a volunteer.

Please also follow all the advice in sanitizing hands, in maintaining 2 metres distance and in keeping with directions governing movement at entrance and exit times as well as at Communion time.

Further specific instructions / advice will follow as we come closer to the Christmas weekend in three weeks time.

After a lot of deliberation about the difficulty of only 50 persons allowed access to a Christmas Mass we have decided to issue tickets for the Masses on Christmas weekend (Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>) and to hold a raffle on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> to decide the destination of each ticket. Raffle tickets inviting your possible attendance and the related information to distribute subsequent Mass tickets are placed at the back of the church. Only one ticket per household to give everyone a chance.

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**Advent Services**

Our second of four Advent Prayer Services relayed by webcam takes place this and following Sundays at 4.00pm and we'd love if you can join us in prayer.

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**Crosscare Appeal for Support this Christmas as food collections cancelled**

Crosscare is appealing to people to support them on line this Advent as they will be unable to hold their annual Parish Food Collection for those most in need.

Every December, Crosscare collected thousands of pounds worth of non-perishable foods to restock their foodbanks and support their community cafés.

This year, due to Covid 19 restrictions Crosscare will not be able to launch a food collection in the Diocese of Dublin as usual. However, in order to ensure they have adequate supplies, they are asking people to support them by making a donation on line to make sure families struggling to cope can have food on the table this [Christmas](#).

Crosscare services have been stretched to capacity in 2020 as they adapted to help people on the margins during the pandemic. When the Corona virus outbreak began in March, Crosscare worked closely with the HSE and the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive to provide an extra 100 beds for homeless people. People were able to shelter in good quality accommodation, with their own rooms to ensure social distancing and personal safety among the homeless community.

Foodbanks have remained open, operating to strict hygiene and Covid safety standards to ensure families and vulnerable individuals got what they needed. So far this year, over 7,000 food parcels have been distributed. Demand remains high as many more people in our parishes and communities, who did not need support before, struggle with the economic downturn.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said he was proud of the way Crosscare had adapted to ensure that young people, the homeless, families in need and those who have been further isolated by the pandemic continued to be supported by Crosscare staff at this difficult time.

He appealed to priests and parishes to encourage those parishioners who would ordinarily have supported food drives and the unwanted gifts appeal to go on line and make a donation [www.crosscare.ie](http://www.crosscare.ie)

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**December 8<sup>th</sup> – Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

This Tuesday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Mass will be celebrated at 7.30am, 10.00am and 6.00pm. Attendance is limited to 50 persons at each Mass while you're also invited to join us by webcam.

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**St Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas Appeal**

The St Vincent Annual Christmas Appeal takes the place of the Share collection at all Masses on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

This is a special appeal to you for your support. The need is great this Christmas season.

Your generosity makes a huge difference to the lives of people in our local community who are struggling with the additional costs that come at Christmas time.

Your contribution provides practical help to families at Christmas and throughout the year - including food vouchers, clothes, assistance with heating, and back-to-education supports.

Due to Covid restrictions the collection takes place after mass at the exit doors of the church. Volunteers from SVP will be in attendance and will be following strict Covid guidelines.

If you wish to donate, blue envelopes are available at the back of the church. Just place your donation in the envelope and drop it into the baskets the SVP volunteers will have available at the church exit doors.

If you happen to be visiting the church at another time and wish to donate to SVP just take the postage paid blue envelope, put your donation in it, and drop the envelope in a post box.

Perhaps you need help yourself this Christmas. If you do please get in touch with us. The SVP main office number is 01-8550022 or call us on our local helpline at 086-8461273. All information is held in strict confidence.

SVP Star of the Sea Conference members would like to thank everyone for their continued support. Every donation is gratefully received. Every donation makes a difference.

THANK YOU.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAR OF THE SEA SANDYMOUNT CONFERENCE SVP

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