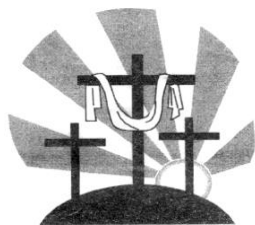


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for Celine Hogan and Imelda Breathnach who died this week and for Hilda (Radford) McCabe and Billy Dunne who died recently,

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

Andy & Pauline Hackett; Daniel Hickland; Don Sheridan; Carmel Lawlor; James McQuillan; Jeremiah Lincoln; Eugene Connolly; Maureen Keenan; Francie, Ivor and John Smith; Declan O'Loughlin.

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
31 st January 2021	€335	€228

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 7th February 2021

Accord's Appeal

Next Sunday, February 14th, was scheduled to be the date of the annual church collection for Accord. With no possibility of our being able to gather for Mass during lockdown Accord now relies on individual decisions to donate in support of a vital service in the life of our diocese. Last year our church collections in Star of the Sea raised €2,585 and we appreciate the difficulty of matching that figure. The Mission Sunday Appeal this year raised €891, far short of our customary level of support. All of that we understand in the times we are in. The anticipated reduction will definitely impact on Accord's ability to deliver their services. They will greatly appreciate any contribution you can make, large or small.

The services offered by Accord are of three separate strands

1. The schools programme delivered within the guidelines of the Department of Education. This programme is on hold during the pandemic.
2. The marriage preparation programme. Over 90% of couples who marry in the churches of our archdiocese attend an Accord marriage course. Courses are currently delivered via zoom.
3. Counselling. Accord is there when the going gets tough in relationships, at venues around Dublin. Accord's counselling service welcomes not only couples in crisis but couples who seek to reinvigorate their relationships. With a large increase reported in domestic abuse during the pandemic Accord anticipates a big increase in demand for this counselling service.

How can I help? You can donate in the following ways:

1. On-line at www.accorddublin.ie where you'll find a DONATE button.
2. By post to Accord Dublin, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, D3.
3. By Bank Transfer to Accord IBAN IE27 BOFI 9001 1357 074203; BIC BOFI IE2D or 4 (see over page).

4. By envelope through Parish Office door, marking the envelope for Accord.

Fratelli Tutti-the Illusion of Communication

When we last visited the Pope's recent encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' (Universal Brotherhood) in the Bulletin of December 15th last, we were in the course of naming what he considered to be 'trends in our world that hinder the development of universal fraternity'. You may recall how over a few weeks we touched on some of these trends that he identified: (1) the shattered dreams of the post- world -war desire for peace and unity, (2) the lack of a global plan for human development, (3) a moral deterioration affecting international action, (4) inadequacy in meeting a worldwide tragedy like Covid-19 and (5) the absence of dignity on borders in an age of migration. We continue with his reflection on weaknesses in our global experience that hinder our capacity for universal brotherhood.

The sixth trend Pope Francis focused on in his identifying 'trends that hinder the development of universal fraternity' is what he called 'the illusion of communication'. The process of building fraternity be it local or universal, can only be undertaken by spirits that are free and open to authentic encounters', he writes. Digital communication may indeed be a wonder in its achievements but it is not without serious negative consequences for both freedom and for authentic encounter. He identifies some of these consequences:

- (1) In a digital world the right to privacy scarcely exists. People's lives are intruded upon, combed over, laid bare and bandied about, often anonymously
- (2) Digital campaigns of hatred and destruction unite like-minded individuals against what they perceive as a common enemy. The digital media can forge loss of contact with concrete reality and block the development of authentic interpersonal relationships. Digital connectivity doesn't build bridges. 'It's not capable of uniting humanity'.
- (3) Social aggression in remarkable hostility, insults, abuse, defamation and destructive verbal news and false information, fomenting prejudice and hate, and all driven by economic and political interests, frustrate the potential for real debate. Even in Catholic media, he adds, ethical standards can be seen to be abandoned in fanaticism.

- (4) Today in communication, everything can be 'created, disguised and altered.' It isolates one from the real world in which we live because 'a direct encounter even with

the fringes of reality can be intolerable'. In the same way we select the people with whom we share our world, deleting from our virtual world the persons and situations we find unpleasant or disagreeable. In consequence, the ability to sit down and listen to others is giving way to a world that 'today is largely a deaf world.' 'A new lifestyle is emerging, where we create only what we want and exclude all that we cannot control or know instantly or superficially.' It's a process that hinders the serene reflection that could lead to a shared wisdom. So, the outcome is 'a flood of information at our fingertips that doesn't make for greater wisdom.' 'Wisdom is not born of quick searches on the internet nor is it a mass of unverified data'. We fail to keep our attention focused, to penetrate to the heart of matters and to recognise what is essential to give meaning to our lives.'

It is only in free and authentic encounters that universal fraternity can be built.

The Parish Office is closed to the public for the time being. Because of the current seriousness of concern for public health, we have decided to close the parish office to the public for the time being. However, parishioners are invited to leave a message on the phone (01 6683316 or 01 6683894) or to contact Fr John (01 6684265/0876294325) or Fr Cormac (01 6686845) for any services required. Phone messages to the parish office will be checked daily and responded to.

We are happy to facilitate the booking of Masses, the provision of Baptism application forms and Statement of Freedom Forms for those planning a marriage in the coming months, the procurement of Certificates, or of items from the shop such as Mass cards, or the weekly editions of the Tablet or the monthly magazines such as Reality and Messenger. We can arrange the safe collection of items as needed and should a payment be involved it can be made appropriately by dropping an envelope through the parish office letter box. Newspapers like the Irish Catholic are at the back of the Church but should not be handled unless purchased and taken home. We encourage your support of the Catholic Press at a very difficult time for it.

For those in preparation for marriage it is best that they contact Fr John or Fr Cormac directly to arrange appropriate meetings.

On his first weekend as our Archbishop, we welcome Archbishop Dermot Farrell and look forward to the day when he comes to visit our parish. May God bless his years of ministry among us.