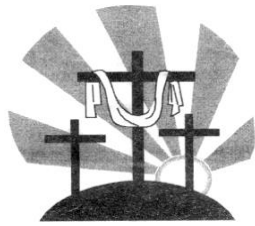


REST IN PEACE



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

Zack Foley; Phil Dunne; Jack MacNamara; Desmond O'Reilly; Leo Healy; Nora Lincoln; Mary Murphy; William, Bríd and Kirsty McNamara; Pat Flood; Thomas Cowley Snr.;

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 February 2021	€50	€35

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.

TROCAIRE

Lenten Boxes are available on the table at the back of the church. We would love to see Trocaire getting the support it deserves.

On Sundays in Lent there will be a short reflection service at 5.30pm available on webcam.

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 7th March 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

The Gospel story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well leads us into the third week of our Lenten journey. It beautifully illustrates that Jesus meets us wherever we are at. Our meeting him now is in the very strange circumstances of a global pandemic, where isolation and precaution dominate our lives and a dangerous virus lurks in our communities. May we all find ways to keep in touch with him.

Two tasks at parish level invite our attention this week. On Monday night the Pastoral Council meet to reflect on how we might celebrate Holy Week this year. We little realised in Easter 2019 that it would be at least three years before we could freely celebrate Holy Week and Easter again as a community. We have to rely on the webcam to help keep us in touch with each other and we're painfully aware that many don't have access to the internet and the webcam.

The second task we have is to create the possibility for parents to register with the parish the names of those children who are preparing for Confirmation and First Communion this year. On the understanding that the "Grow in Love" school programme has been delivered amid all the difficulties of online education, we need to be ready to deliver opportunities to celebrate the sacraments with the children. That may be during the summer months or into the autumn and e-mail addresses of all candidates will be needed to enable communication from the parish when schools may not be open. Unfortunately the programme for children in non-Catholic schools couldn't be delivered this year and as a result their sacramental celebrations are postponed until the two year programme is completed.

The Pope's Encyclical: Universal Brotherhood:

Chapter Four

In chapter four of his Encyclical Letter, Pope Francis gives concrete embodiment to the idea of Universal Fraternity to avoid reading it simply as an abstract idea. He seeks this embodiment by identifying emergent issues that today call for new responses in a new light.

Immigration is one of the great features of modern life that has set significant challenges. Ideally, he asserts, unnecessary immigration should be avoided. This means creating the conditions needed for a dignified life in the potential migrant's own country of origin. Until substantial progress is made on this goal, the rights of all to find a place that meets the basic needs of themselves and their families, a place where personal fulfilment is possible, must be upheld and respected. The response to the arrival of a migrant calls for four things: welcome, protection, promotion and integration. It is not a case of a host country providing top-down welfare programmes but of making a journey together through these four actions. It is a journey that, while holding to and respecting culture and religious identity, is also open to differences and promotes them in human fraternity. He lists then a number of indispensable steps that are called for, especially in the case of those fleeing a humanitarian crisis.

Here, one can count some eighteen concrete steps that certainly provide food for thought given the awkwardness with which the problem of migration has been handled in recent years. He cites as 'examples', the need to increase and simplify the granting of visas; adopting programmes of individual and community sponsorship, opening humanitarian corridors for the most vulnerable refugees, providing suitable and dignified housing, guaranteeing personal security and access to basic services, ensuring adequate consular assistance and the right to retain personal identity documents, equitable access to the justice system, the freedom to open bank accounts and the guarantee of the minimum needed to survive, freedom of movement and the possibility of employment, the protection of minors and the assurance of regular access to education, the provision of programmes of temporary guardianship and shelter, guarantee of religious freedom, promotion of integration into society, supporting the re-uniting of families, preparing local communities for the process of integration, upholding 'citizenship' for those who have already integrated, avoiding terms like 'minorities' because of their discriminatory power and opting singularly for 'full citizenship', and because all this requires a common response from the international community-it calls for the development of global governance of the challenge.

Pope Francis goes on to consider the potential for mutual enrichment that migration brings and he specifically urges young people to recognise the dignity of other young people who come to their country and not fall into the hands of those who would lead them to racism

instead. Cultures that have flourished for centuries need to be protected but they also need to be open to new experiences. So, we need to communicate, to discover the gifts of each person, to promote what unites us and to recognise differences in a way that enables us to grow in mutual respect. He draws on examples from his own life to illustrate this.

The true worth of the different countries of our world is measured by their ability to think not simply as a country but also as part of the larger human family. 'Nowadays', he asserts, 'we are either all saved together or no one is saved.'" 'Poverty, decadence and suffering in one part of the world are a silent breeding ground for problems that will end up affecting the entire planet.' Here, he insists on the need for a global response not only in a juridical, political and economic order that will be seen to benefit everyone but also in a spirit of doing so gratuitously, simply because it is the right thing to do. It calls also for giving poorer nations a greater voice in shared decision making and greater access for them also to the international market.

He alludes also to the creative tension between globalisation and localisation. We need to attend to global issues to avoid narrow provincialism. On the other hand, we need to attend to the local to keep our feet on the ground. If I am firmly rooted in my own people and culture, I can welcome others who are different and value their contribution. If not so rooted, narcissism replaces the healthy love of one's people and culture and starts to erect walls in insecurity and fear and in rejection of the outsider. It's impossible to be local in a healthy way without being sincerely open to what's happening elsewhere and to feel with solidarity and concern for the tragedies of other peoples. 'Today, no state can insure the common good of its population if it remains isolated.'

Part of the growth towards universal fraternity is instanced in neighbourliness. Like the quality of life that is found in neighbourliness in cities, the banding of regional countries can evolve gratitude, solidarity and reciprocity and also serve them well in negotiations with powerful countries and large international businesses. The value of love for one's neighbour can find powerful expression not just among individuals and small communities but between nations, growing towards a universal fraternity.

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.