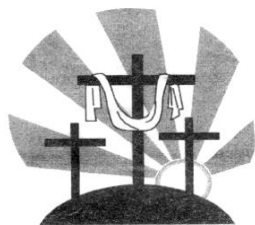


## REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Evelyn Nagle, Lar Dunne and Joe McDonnell who died this week.

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

*Joyce Green; Dan Murphy; Joan Drumm; Eileen & Michael Hickey; Rose Clancy; Nancy & Jack Doran and their sons, David & John; Peggy MacNamara;*

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
1 <sup>st</sup> November 2020	€65	€45

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

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### **Fratelli Tutti – The Shattered Dream**

In the first chapter of the Pope's recent Encyclical Letter, he identifies what he sees as 'certain trends in our world that hinder the development of universal fraternity'. He is stating the problem he wishes to address and so there is a somewhat negative picture in this opening chapter, entitled 'Dark Clouds over a Closed World'. He identifies eight points of perception in this particular exercise. The first is what he refers to as 'Shattered Dreams'.

After the horrors of the Second World War there was a genuine effort to build a United Europe, aware of its shared roots and rejoicing in its rich diversity. Similarly, recent decades had witnessed a desire for greater integration in South America. But Pope Francis sees such dreams unravelling. 'Ancient conflicts are breaking out anew while 'instances of a myopic, extremist, resentful and aggressive nationalism are on the rise'. 'New forms of selfishness and loss of the social sense are emerging under the guise of defending national interests' he writes.

*(We might be conscious here of Brexit, the readiness of countries to breach or withdraw from international agreements or the populist and aggressive political dialogue that we're becoming aware of more and more in the West-without mentioning names)*

Another area the Pope perceives as showing signs of a Shattered Dream is in the nature of the emergent global economy. When people today speak of 'Opening up the World' today, what they have in mind is an exclusively economic term to convey 'openness to foreign interests or to the freedom of economic powers to invest without obstacles or complications in all countries'. He observes that 'the advance of this kind of globalism strengthens the identity of the more powerful, who can protect

themselves, but diminishes the identity of weaker and poorer regions making them more vulnerable'. He quotes Pope Benedict that 'as society becomes ever more globalised, it makes us neighbours but doesn't make us brothers'. It's the form of globalisation that concerns him, not globalisation in itself.

*(The Irish economy owes much to foreign investment of international companies but it also knows the vulnerability that some towns in particular have experienced when companies already making a profit close shop here to make more profit elsewhere).*

Pope Francis goes on to argue that a fruit of all this is a growing loss of the sense of history. The downplaying of history, 'whereby freedom claims to create everything from zero, is a reality making headway in today's culture.' In this, Francis is returning to an issue he raised in addressing young people in his reflection on the Synod on Youth held in 2018 and published last year as 'Christus vivit-Christ lives'. For ideologies to operate successfully, he said, they destroy all differences so that they can reign unopposed. 'To do so, they need young people who have no use for history, who spurn the spiritual and human resources inherited from past generations, and are ignorant of everything that came before them'.

*(We see such forces at work not only in large totalitarian regimes and in the persecution of minority groups in many parts of the world. Not so long ago the Department of Education proposed the downplaying of history in Irish Schools. This week saw the announcement that what we used to call Vocational Schools will no longer entertain the presence of school chaplains, Graduation Masses and opt instead for a common denominator education in religion, whatever that means. Maybe the new Ireland has changed to that extent!)*

The Pope sees these factors in modern life as new forms of 'cultural colonisation'. One effective way to weaken historical consciousness, critical thinking, the struggle for justice and the process of integration is to empty great words of their meaning or to manipulate them. 'What do words like 'democracy', 'freedom', 'justice', or 'unity' mean nowadays? In answer he says, 'they have been bent and shaped to serve as tools for domination, as meaningless tags that can be used to justify any action.' Strong words from a man who hears the stories first hand from all around the world.

*( In coming weeks we hope to continue this journey first through the remaining indicators of our difficulties with a global fraternity and then to the positive dreams he holds for our future.)*

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### **Boys School Enrolments 2021/2022**

Admissions for enrolment to Star of the Sea Boys National School for the 2021/2022 school year are now open. For the first time, the school is receiving applications online via the school website: [www.starofthesea.ie](http://www.starofthesea.ie).

If you have any enquiries about the school, please ask to speak to the principal, Mr Niall Walsh, by phoning (01) 668 6394 or emailing [office@starofthesea.ie](mailto:office@starofthesea.ie).

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**A Docat Question and Answer for this week**  
*(Docat is part of a Youth Catechism Series known as Youcat, which concentrates on the Social Teaching of the Church. From time to time we'll turn to it for a question and answer that might stir our interest.)*

Q. Who is God in the first place?

A. God, we can say, is the origin of all that exists. He is the final reason for and the ultimate cause of all things, who also keeps them in existence. With reference to contemporary science, we can say: He is before the Big Bang and is the origin of all the laws of nature. Without God, everything that exists would collapse. God is also the goal of everything that exists.

Pope Benedict wrote in 2006 : *'Certainly we come from our parents and we are their children, but we also come from God who has created us in his image and called us to be his children. Consequently, at the origin of every human being there is not something haphazard or chance, but a loving plan of God.'*

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### **Celebration of Baptism**

We regret that for the time being under Government direction we are unable to hold Baptism celebrations in the Church. As you know in recent months we have celebrated Baptism with families one at a time and within HSE guidelines. We thank all who were so cooperative in doing so and hope that it won't be long before the celebration of Baptism may resume.

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### **Webcam Transmission**

We are indebted to the kind parishioner who brought our attention to the fact that our webcam transmission failed for a number of minutes during the 12 o'clock Sunday Mass in the last two weeks. If that was your experience, too, we apologise, while being totally at sea as to why it is happening. When others confirmed that there was problem, we discovered that our broadband was going down at that time every day. It is a problem we had for a long time until we discovered in late March last that the problem was at our Eircom server's end. Eircom customers will know what happens next. You spend 45 minutes on the phone awaiting a reply but eventually you get through to a very helpful technician who does all he can for a further 15 minutes and shares the hope that it will work this time. It did so in March. We can only hope that it does so now again.

We really appreciate feedback on these matters as we do when the little radio receivers, used by some parishioners, may also experience poor or no transmission.

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