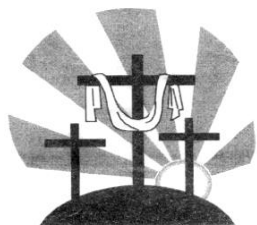


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Cyril Irwin, Anne Cummins and Peter Conlon who died last week and also for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Bess & Jack Hodson and their son, John; Lana & Danny McCurtain; Kay O'Flaherty; Paddy Rigley; Patrick Quinn; Doreen Dunne; Annie Kane; Anne Kinsella.

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
2 nd May 2021	€270	€200

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

Sunday 9th May 2021

Welcoming the Next Step

This Monday we will resume with the celebration of the weekday Masses attended by up to 50 persons at 7.30am (Mon to Fri) and 10am (Mon to Sat).

Then next weekend we will also welcome up to 50 persons at each of four weekend Masses; Sat 6pm, Sun 9am, 10.30am and 12 noon.

After this lengthy period since Christmas Day when nobody could attend Mass, apart from 10 persons at a funeral or wedding, it will be a great joy to see a small congregation regularly attending Mass in our church. Not only is it a welcome step for the faithful who have missed all that the gathering for the celebration of the Eucharist means to them but an important indicator that we may be making significant headway in the battle against the corona virus. We thank all who have given their best efforts to following the HSE and Government guidelines in these months but also those who have enabled emergence of vaccines and their distribution thus far that have given us hope in the face of this deadly virus. Our hearts go out to all the families affected by what is now more than 7,000 deaths on this island because of Covid and as the threat is ongoing, though mitigated somewhat, by vaccines, we still ask all to keep with the discipline asked of us. Keep 2 metres distance unless you're with people who live under the same roof with you, wash hands regularly, use the sanitizer when entering or leaving a building like the church, wear a mask and in the church use only those seats that are permitted and follow the established directions of movement especially at communion time. Appreciate too the importance of separate entrance and exit doors when we gather. Although you may have been fully vaccinated there is still a chance that you could be a victim of Covid or that you could be a carrier, unknown to yourself. So please keep with the advice given by those who know best.

Sacramental Preparation

When the announcement of 50 persons to be allowed in church was made our immediate thoughts were with the young people preparing for Confirmation and those, too, who missed out last year on their first celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Would it be possible to see those celebrations through before the young people in 6th class, particularly, leave primary school at the end of June? The answer is 'not yet'. If matters improve the Government and its advisors may see a possibility in June but there's no guarantee. First Communion celebrations will not take place now until Autumn but whenever the restriction on sacramental celebrations is lifted the priority attention will be given to Confirmation candidates and to those awaiting First Reconciliation celebrations since last year. We hope also that by September we will somehow be able to continue a programme of preparation towards the sacraments for children not attending a Catholic school. Their two year programme towards each sacrament was curtailed necessarily under Covid restrictions this year.

We celebrated a webcam commitment ceremony with Confirmation candidates last week and we hope to continue in a link between candidates, parents and the parish in coming weeks, preparing now so that whenever the opportunity comes we will be ready.

A Diocesan Video Link Programme with Confirmation families.

The diocese is currently inviting parish participation in a zoom and video link (30 mins duration per session) with parents and candidates over three sessions. In relation to that programme, entitled 'Walking with Families', 3 volunteers from a parish are asked to engage in a preparation. Two volunteers will be trained as facilitators for these zoom sessions and a third will be trained to technically support the zoom sessions. Training sessions for volunteers begin this coming Thurs, May 13th (5pm or 7.30pm), or on Monday May 17th (5pm or 7.30pm). The next session for the second step of the programme will be on the use of zoom and will be on Thurs, May 20th (5pm or 7.30pm) and then following a practice run at local level, the final training session will be on Mon 31st May or on Thurs June 3rd (both evenings again offering 5pm or 7.30pm). It is necessary for us to register the three volunteers so that they can indicate time preferences and be invited into the zoom training sessions.

Word of this programme came today, Thursday May 6th, so time is very short. But should a parishioner like to get involved in this programme please let Fr John or Fr Cormac know. Meanwhile we'll be on the look out ourselves to see if we can locate interested volunteers and if the programme is possible for our parish.

First Communion Registration (ongoing)

We are currently inviting parents in both Scoil Mhuire and Star of the Sea Schools to register a boy or girl in 2nd class who may wish to celebrate First Communion this year. It's important to note that the child should be baptised in the Catholic Church and a copy presented of the child's baptism certificate. It is out of respect for another Christian tradition in which a child may have been baptised that this principle is upheld just as it would cause offence to us as a Church if a baptised Catholic child were to receive sacraments in another Church tradition without prior consultation and understanding. If you're sure that the child was baptised in Star of the Sea Parish, it will be sufficient to share the date

of birth with us and possibly an indication in that case of when baptism took place. We'll then trace the detail ourselves in the parish office. Some parents registered before Easter and others are still doing so. When the list is complete we will be in further touch with parents. It is diocesan policy now that children who wish to celebrate the sacraments must register with the parish. It is not enough to presume registration on the basis of school attendance. We are very grateful indeed to the teachers in our schools who teach the 'Grow in Love Programme' to the children and thereby, as well as by their personal witness of faith, play such an important part in the children's faith development and preparation for the sacraments.

The 'Flourish' RSE Programme.

Parents should also be aware that the Bishops have approved and published a resource programme for all Catholic Primary Schools, outlining the RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) component of the Primary School SPHE programme. You can view the programme entitled 'Flourish' and its outline of classes from junior infants to 6th class on the CPSMA (Catholic Primary School Managers Association) website. The ethos of a Catholic School is protected in law and the Flourish programme upholds that ethos while delivering the RSE programme. It is the prescribed RSE programme for all Catholic Schools both in the Republic and in Northern Ireland and has emerged through consultation over a long time with principals, teachers and parents of Catholic schools.

Funerals

Funerals are still to be considered as private family events during this pandemic. The maximum number allowed in the church is 50 persons and any gathering outside the church is to be discouraged. The gathering at funerals remains a significant risk and we're asked to take every precaution.

Young peoples' corner

1. Calling all teenagers! Join us for an evening of games, music, workshop, chats and prayer. Faithfest will take place **21 May from 6:30 – 8:30 online**. You can register online using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZRLPXhUvSP> **Registration closes on next Thursday the 13th May at 5pm**. For more information email: st.pauls@dublindiocese.ie
2. **Three Week Series on Prayer on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7pm** for teenagers. Expect some fun, exploring of faith and life, small group discussions, some top class games, and prayer. To register for this youth group you will need to **complete the online parental consent form with your parents by clicking here:** <https://forms.gle/2uGwM3jnLM1Mwyu5>
3. Join the Young Church Dublin for Pray in May. We will meet every **Wednesday in May from 8-9pm** for fellowship and to pray the rosary together as a community. It provides an opportunity to connect in with other young adults in a community of faith. For more information, please email: kirsten.mahon@dublindiocese.ie