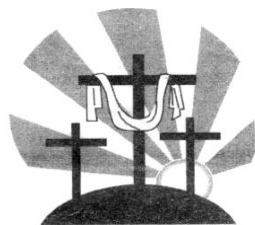


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls Alfred Moore, Gerard Cullen, Conal McConnell, James Mullen and Christopher Byrne recently deceased and for the following whose anniversaries occur: Laurence Mulligan, Pauline Smith, Jeremiah Lincoln, Patrick Connolly and Allie Pigot.

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	WHITE BASKET
September 15th	€710	€1525

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese, known as the Common Fund.

The white basket is the collection for Share, which last Sunday went instead to Crosscare. Thanks to all who supported so generously.

Exploring Priesthood

On Saturday, October 12th in UCD, Belfield, there will be a Vocations Day 'Exploring Priesthood' held. It's intended for men who wish to find out more about diocesan priesthood and how they may take steps to discern a vocation. Further information available at vocations.ie.

WEEKLY BULLETIN



St. Mary's, Star of the Sea Sandymount *22nd September 2024*

Parish Office 6683894 / 6683316 – Monday to Friday 9.30 – 12.30
Fr. Enda Cunningham P.P. Tel: 0871380695 Fr. John McDonagh, Tel: 6684265 –
www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com RCN20016166

Diocesan Safeguarding Day, 2024 **Letter from Archbishop Farrell**

Sunday, 22 September, is Diocesan Safeguarding Sunday. The theme for this year is: **A Safe and Welcoming Church for Children and Vulnerable Adults**. *A Safe and Welcoming Church* is the name given to the new child safeguarding policy for the Catholic Church in Ireland, which was launched in June of this year. It replaces *Safeguarding Children* which dates back to 2008.

The decision to give the child safeguarding policy of the Catholic Church in Ireland a new title reflects a change in our understanding and approach to safeguarding. We understand that safeguarding is not simply a response to the crisis brought about by disclosures of abuse in the Church but is something deeply rooted in gospel values, scripture and Church teaching. It goes beyond the prevention of harm and consists, as Pope Francis has written, in the creation of the material and spiritual conditions for children's full development. It is fitting, therefore, that we take this opportunity to consider our engagement with children and also with vulnerable adults.

When we hear people reflect on their faith journeys, they frequently recall childhood experiences in their local parishes through involvement with children's choirs, altar servers or other parish activities. Of course, faith formation starts in the home but parents need their parish communities to help them raise their children to know, love and serve God. **(Cont'd)**

cont.)

It is understandable, given our recent history, that some of us are concerned that our attempts to engage with children will be misunderstood or misconstrued. However, we will not make the world a safer place for children by disengaging from them. Children, young people and vulnerable adults need responsible adults, who have their best interests at heart, to guide and protect them.

A tendency, apparent before COVID, to disengage from activities involving children and young people in many of our parishes accelerated during the pandemic. Parish activities involving children ceased, along with other parish activities. As we got over the period of social isolation, many activities started up again but activities involving children and young people have been slower to resume. This is not the case for every parish but it is true of many. At the same time, there has been a growing awareness that sacramental preparation is a parish responsibility, not simply a school one. Sacramental preparation provides opportunities for evangelisation of parents as well as of children.

So, in this Safeguarding Day of 2024, I ask you to reflect on how you and your fellow parishioners relate to children, young people and vulnerable adults. Is yours a safe and welcoming parish? If the answer is yes, are there further avenues to be explored? Conscious of Pope Francis's call to go to the margins, is there more we can all do to reach out to the most vulnerable in society, adults as well as children, so that they may know the love of God through involvement in his Church?

+ **Dermot Farrell**

Organ Recital-

We give thanks to Prof Gerard Gillen along with boy soprano, Cillian DeFrein for their beautiful performance on Sunday last. We also thank Father John for his wonderful contribution on the violin.

Crosscare

Thank you to all who so generously gave donations for Crosscare last Sunday. Our Parish contribution was €1525 for this very important annual drive.

Sacramental Preparation-Information Sessions

There will be information sessions for Parents whose children attend local non-Catholic schools on the following dates:

First Holy Communicants:

Monday, 7th October at 7:00pm in the Church.

Confirmation:

Tuesday, 8th October at 7:00pm in the Church

Registration for the Sacraments in 2025/2026

All children who wish to celebrate First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation must register with our Parish, regardless of the school they attend. Registration forms will be shared with the two Catholic Schools, while for parents and children in the non-Catholic schools, Father Enda will send a letter relating to the October Information Sessions and also registration.

The Pilgrimage of Saint Bernadette's relics 2024

The Pilgrimage of the relics of Saint Bernadette will arrive in Dublin at the following locations and dates:

25/09/2024 and 26/09/2024

Our Lady of Victories Church, Ballymun Road, Dublin

23/10/2024 and 24/10/2024:

Oblate Church of Mary Immaculate, Inchicore, Dublin

25/10/2024 and 26/10/2024:

Adam and Eve's, Merchants Quay, Dublin

Pope Francis

Pope Francis was asked recently in an interview what he expects to see in the future. The Pope was asked "What are your dreams for the Church in 50 years?" Francis recalled that some say it will be a smaller, more reduced Church. He then added, "I think the Church must be careful not to fall into the plague of clericalism and the plague of spiritual worldliness. As Le Henri de Lubac says: Spiritual worldliness is the worst evil that can befall the Church. Worldliness is even worse than the time of the concubinary Popes." When asked what he would say to his successor Pope Francis said, "Pray." And then he added without a moment's hesitation-"because the Lord speaks in prayer."