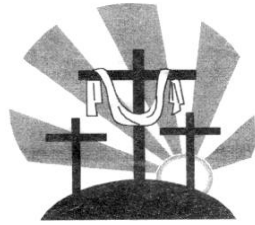


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the soul of Edward McGlynn and the following whose anniversaries occur: Gerard McLoughlin, Terry, Joe and Jody Gavin, Frank and Sharon Waters, Sister Francis Teresa, Joe, Caithln and Paddy Mansfield, Bernadette and William Seagrave, Emma and Stanley Rigley, Christy and Stephen Murphy, Evelyn Mulreany, Lily Burke and Fergus Murphy.

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
November 17 th 2024	€935	€755

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

The white basket is for the collection for Share, which meets the needs of poorer parishes and of central agencies of the Diocese.

WEEKLY
BULLETIN



St. Mary's, Star of Sea Sandymount
November 24th 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

Statement on the General Election 2024 by Archbishop Dermot Farrell

It has been said that politicians campaign in poetry and govern in prose. It is certainly true that extravagant promises and self-promoting claims are the order of the day. That said, there are two slogans you will hear in these days, whose cynical falsehood is not only dis-energising, but more importantly risks degrading our democracy and political health: they are: ‘voting doesn’t make any difference’, and ‘they are all the same’.

First of all, voting does make a difference. Every vote counts. Your vote counts. Imagine living in a society with no elections, no democratic accountability, no contest of ideas, programmes, or vision. History shows that such societies are run by the powerful for their own benefit, while freedom of belief and expression are restricted, or even suppressed. Voting matters because it is how we hold our leaders to account and mandate what we believe to be important.

Voting also matters because all politicians are *not* the same: individual politicians, and political parties, differ in their values and beliefs, their ideas and priorities, their capabilities and judgement. It is true that powerful forces may constrain some policy choices. But governments exercise influence and control over vast areas of community life, and of the land we share. Their judgements and priorities do make a difference, through the legislation and policies they choose to pursue. They are those on whom we rely, not only to act wisely when crises occur and the unexpected happens—as it always does, but to plan prudently and with vision for a shared future in our common home.

The democratic system aligns with the Christian vision of the dignity of each person and our duty to serve the common good. To be effective, democracy needs people who are willing to put themselves forward, outline their policies, and accept the

judgement of the people in the ballot box. Recent months have seen efforts to intimidate and threaten public representatives. We have seen many politicians choose to step back from politics as a result. We should be grateful that there are many women and men who, despite this frightening and dangerous turn in public life, are willing to offer themselves in public service at these elections.

Christians legitimately differ in their political views: there is no Christian party that can lay claim to the Christian community as a bloc. There is no obligation on Christians to support any particular party. But there is a duty on every Christian to support the common good to the best of our ability. Voting in the General Election on November 29th is a feasible and responsible act of citizenship to support the common good. Taking the trouble to consider who offers the best prospect of advancing the common good rather than personal interest or advantage is an important exercise in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are most affected by public policies. Identifying candidates who have the personal qualities and experience to be effective public representatives is an important judgement. The Irish electoral system ensures that personal qualities and characteristics do matter, since multi-seat constituencies and the PR system mean we can judge personal qualities, as well as party policies.

Like every aspect of life, voting is open to the work of the Holy Spirit to guide our judgement. To vote is an exercise in hope, and hope is a mark of authentic Christian faith—the great gift of the Holy Spirit. To express our hope by voting is to overcome the negativity and cynicism that result in political propaganda, and the devaluing of those who are different. It is to take a stance against the fear and lack of courage which generate resentment, hatred, anger, even violence.

Let us pray for all those who have offered themselves for election, that they will engage with the public and with each other with respect, and will in turn receive the respect of those they canvas. Let us pray too that our society will vote into office leaders who will govern the people with integrity and wisdom and serve the common good with dedication and commitment.

+Dermot Farrell
Archbishop of Dublin
20th November 2024

Do This in Memory Mass'-23rd November

We welcome all children preparing for their First Holy Communion in our Parish in 2025, together with their parents, to the 6pm Vigil Mass this Saturday.. ALL Parishioners attending are invited to share refreshments afterwards in the School Hall.

Thank You Father John

The Parish Pastoral Council invites all Parishioners to a special celebration to be held next weekend on Sunday, 1st December following the 12pm Mass in honour of Fr. John McDonagh in appreciation of the many years he has been our Parish Priest. The PPC will continue to be available at the back of the Church at Masses this weekend to liaise with Parishioners who would like to assist in the preparations in any way.

Lectio Divina

Next Tuesday, 26th November, the final meeting for Lectio Divina, in the current series, will be held at 6.30 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Rooms. There will be no Lectio Divina during Advent and the Christmas Season.

Advent Events in our Parish

On Sunday, 1st December, a **Taize Prayer Service** will be held in St. Mary' Star of the Sea at 5 p.m.. This candlelit service with its meditative style of music and chant, is based on the practice of the ecumenical Christian Monastic Community at Taize, Saone et Loire, Burgundy in France founded by Brother Roger after World War II

Three local Christian Communities will host a series of Evening Prayer Services on consecutive Tuesdays of Advent at 7 p.m. as follows:

on Tuesday 3rd December, the Church of Ireland Community of St. Matthews, Irishtown;

on Tuesday 10th December, the Methodist Community of Christ Church, Sandymount Green; and

on Tuesday, 17th December, at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Sandymount Road

Online Advent Service 30th November

The Monastery of St Alphonsus, Drumcondra (the Red Nuns) will hold an Advent Service on November 30 at 3.30 p.m. which is open to all. It will be recorded on the webcam so that you can revisit it and use it as a prayer tool. A copy of the service can be found online and their webcam can be accessed at webcam.www.rednuns.com