

ST. SYLVESTER'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Mass Times: Sunday: 10.00am, 11.15am, 12.30pm & 5.30pm. Weekdays: 10.00am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Mon 10.30am -10.30 p.m. Tues. 10.30am – 3.00pm & 7 -9pm.

Wed 10.30 -2.00pm & 7 -9pm. First Fridays: 1030 v-7.30pm.

MALAHIDE PARISH CENTRE – we welcome all visitors to Malahide especially from outside Ireland.

St. Sylvester's is clustered with the parishes of, Kinsealy, Portmarnock and Yellow Walls

Our Parish Centre is open for refreshments all day every day – Please visit our Prayer Chapel.

For information about the Centre or to book a room contact Sharon Tel: 086 0492369 or email sharon@malahideparishcentre.com

St. Sylvester's 1000 Club Draw had the December and January Draws last Wednesday 28th January. The lucky numbers drawn were: **December Draw 1st prize** €1000 – Ticket No. 324; **2nd Prize** €500 – Ticket No. 582; **3rd Prize** €250 – Ticket No. 283; **4th Prize** €250 – Ticket No. 226. **January Draw 1st prize** €1000 – Ticket No. 309; **2nd Prize** €500 – Ticket 247; **3rd Prize** €250 – Ticket 064; **4th Prize** €250 – Ticket 129. Congratulations to all the lucky winners and sincere thanks to all who joined and supported the 1000 Club Draw

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK: The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is also World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Prayer for those who are sick is very important to the Christian way of life. To know the presence and blessing of God's love in our illness can be a source of both personal and physical healing. Next weekend we are asked to highlight World Day of the Sick in our liturgy. **Here in this parish we will have a 'Service of Anointing of the Sick' at 3.00p.m. next Sunday 8th Feb.** The Sacrament of the sick can be received by anybody of any age who has any kind of physical, psychological or mental illness and by anybody over 65 years of age.

WHY PRAY?

Much has been written about prayer but it doesn't always work for everyone and for some it has left them disappointed, their prayer wasn't heard - or so it seems. All the great writers on prayer would say that every prayer is answered in some way. It may not be in the way expected, it may not be straight away but every prayer has some benefit and is never wasted. That's why prayer can be such a precious gift not just to you but to so many others as well. Every time we pray for someone we extend our love, concern and support to them. We may not understand why or how but it's enough to know that with our prayers God is doing far more than we realise.

We welcome the following who were Baptised recently:

Conor Michael Slattery, Erin Gillian Bridget Hassett, Aoifa Bernadette Tobin, Liam Bruce Horgan and Isobel Rose Sheanon.

Weekly Collection: We thank people for their contributions:

1st Collection €1548 (blue basket) for the clergy of the Archdiocese
2nd Collection €1440 (red basket) towards the Share Collection

Mass Intentions for the week

Monday: Maura & Tony Ryan (A)

Tuesday: Joan Smith (R.I.P.)

Wednesday: Funeral Mass for Joe Dignam R.I.P.

Thursday: Stannie & Mona Wrafter (A)

Friday: Altar List of the Dead

Saturday: Brendan Maher (A)

Adult Education Classes will commence Monday 2nd Feb. in Community School at 7.30, phone 01 8460949.

SIGNS found outside some churches somewhere: 1) This is a ch—ch. What is missing? 2) You are not too bad to come in. You are not too good to stay out; 3) Try Jesus. If you don't like Him, the devil will always take you back; 4) You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving; 5) Aspire to inspire before you expire.

FEAST OF SAINT BRIGID Secondary patron Saint of our country is this Sunday, 1st February. She spent a lot of time in prayer and in caring for the sick and the poor. The 1st of February also marks the beginning of Spring.

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD / CANDLEMAS DAY: Monday, 2nd February, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord or Candlemas Day. Candles will be blessed during the 10.00a.m.

ENROLMENT FOR CONFIRMATION in our parish takes place on Tue, 3rd Feb, at 1.00pm in St Sylvester's Church

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE: The Blessing of Throats will take place after 10.00a.m. Mass on Tuesday 3rd Feb. If for any reason that is not possible on Tuesday morning the blessing of throats will happen on another morning.

MALAHIDE LADIES CLUB: Meeting next Wed 4th Feb in the Grand Hotel at 8.00 pm. Talk on Bee's and Honey.

LECTIO DIVINA: Tuesday 10.30-11.30 a.m. Prayer Chapel. Contact Phil 086 0638074

PADRO PIO DEVOTIONS Friday 6th February, in Sacred Heart Church, Seabury 7.pm. celebrated by Fr. Angelus O'Neill O.F.M.Cap. with a blessing from a relic of St. Pio.

ST SYLVESTERS SENIOR' SOCIAL GROUP meet each Wed. from 10.45 to 12.45 in Parish Centre.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Donal (Donie) Dunne whose funeral took place during the week

PLANNING FOR SERVICES IN THE ABSENCE OF A PRIEST

In recent months Gertrude Gill, Our Parish Pastoral Worker, has been training a group of parishioners to lead congregations in 'Services of The Word Without Communion' on weekdays in the event of a priest being unavailable to say Mass and 'Services of The Word and Communion' on a Sunday in the event of a priest scheduled to say Mass not turning up.

With the reduction in the number of priests serving in our Cluster area and the four parish churches having scheduled Masses at around 10.00a.m on weekdays it becomes an increasing reality that we cannot guarantee daily Mass every morning in all four parish churches.

For this cluster area there is also the reality that in the absence at any weekend of two priests from the cluster area we need to have a priest from outside the area to cover mid morning Sunday Masses in the cluster. In the event of an absence happening with little or no notice and one priest is already away then some church in the cluster area will be without a Mass on that particular Sunday morning.

At the same time we cannot allow a situation to arise where people turn up for Mass on a Sunday or a weekday and nothing happens because a priest does not turn up for Mass due to unforeseen circumstances.

We also need to have structures in place to facilitate the priests within the cluster to have the time to attend their own personal wellbeing.

The leaders of the 'Services of Word and Communion' and 'Services of Word without Communion' are being trained to lead congregations in liturgical ceremonies that enable the local Christian community to continue to gather together in their church and pray together as a local parish community.

There will be two types of Services

1) **SERVICE OF THE WORD AND COMMUNION:** This type of Service would happen officially in the event of people turning up for a scheduled Mass on a Sunday or a weekday and no priest turns up to say the Mass and no other priest is available. The distribution of Holy Communion would take place on those occasions.

However, those who are being trained need to become familiar with leading such a Service and the only way to do that is to schedule occasions when we do not have Mass but have the 'Service of Word and Communion'. It is proposed that this would happen on **one weekday morning** in the week for a period of time until all who are being trained have become familiar and experienced with the format of the Service so that in the event of an emergency situation arising, particularly on a Sunday, they would be comfortable with leading the congregation in a 'Service of the Word and Holy Communion'. There is no point in being trained for something and then when the emergency occasion arises one falls away for want of practice.

From time to time those trained in leading 'Services of the Word and Communion' would need to refresh their familiarity with conducting the Services. To ensure that happens we need to schedule weekday Services of the Word and Communion on a regular basis.

It is important to note that a 'Service of the Word and Communion' would NEVER be planned to take place on a Sunday. Such a Service would only take place on a Sunday in the event of the unforeseen circumstance of a priest not turning up for a Mass he was due to celebrate. We will always ensure that Sunday Masses in the cluster have a priest to celebrate them but we need to be more aware of the potential for things to go wrong in any of the churches on a particular Sunday with little or no notice and being unable to do anything about it. That is why we need trained and experienced leaders of the Service of Word and Communion.

2) **SERVICE OF THE WORD WITHOUT COMMUNION:** This type of Service is what the Irish Bishops are probably going to recommend on an ongoing basis as a way of dealing with what would happen on a planned basis when the absence of a priest to say Mass in a particular church is known in advance. It would consist of the prayers and scripture readings of the day and other forms of devotional rituals that would touch a cord with people's lives and their journeys of faith. Likewise those who are being trained need to become familiar with leading such a Service. It would NEVER be planned that a 'Service of the Word Without Communion' would be scheduled to take place on a Sunday but only on a weekday.

In each of the other three churches in our Cluster area there is one day a week when Mass is not celebrated. On Saturday mornings there is only one Mass celebrated in the cluster area and that is in Malahide. It is proposed that we would schedule these Services to take place on Thursdays in Malahide, circumstances

permitting. It is also proposed that we start with the 'Services of The Word and Communion' as this format is the one that it is important for those who have been trained to become familiar with at first. The commissioning of those trained will take place on Sunday 15th February at the 11.15a.m. Mass.

These Services would take place on one day a week only. In circumstances where a number of priests in the cluster area are unavailable at the same time these Services could take place on more than one weekday in a given week.

This arrangement would not prevent the celebration of weddings or funerals or other important circumstances when the celebration of Mass would be appropriate.

If anybody has any questions, enquiries or concerns regarding this arrangement please contact Fr. Kevin Moore.