

Your contributions last week to support:

- Your priests - 1st Collection : **€763**
- Share - 2nd Collection: **€541**
- Running Expenses of the Parish (Family offering/weekly envelope: **€1,170**

Are you playing your part?

Family Offering envelopes / Standing Order forms are available through the parish office.

The monthly Church Gate Collection for the **St. Vincent De Paul Society** takes place after Mass **this weekend**. Please support if you can.

Journey into Freedom - Stories of Hope

An invitation to hear stories of hope from people who will inspire

This free community event began last week in St. Maelruain's Senior School, Old Bawn Ave., Tallaght and will continue weekly at 8pm on the 19th, 25th March and April 1st, 8th and 15th.

Fr. Peter McVerry is one of the speakers invited to talk about the meaning of faith for him in his work on behalf of the homeless, also Eileen Reid, who spoke about her experience as a singer in the showband era and her reconnection with God last week, and Ger Brennan, former Dublin footballer, has been invited to discuss the role of faith, trust and family throughout his sporting career. For more information contact parish offices at 01-4510160/01-4141838.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration takes place on Fridays after 10am Mass until 3pm. All are welcome to come along and spend a little of that time in quiet prayer and reflection.

Pilgrimage to Knock

Our parish grouping of St. Aidan's Brookfield, St. Thomas', Jobstown and St. Mark's will be joining the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock, which will be led by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, to celebrate 140 years since the apparition in 1879. The pilgrimage will take place on **Saturday, 27th April 2019**. The cost, including transport, will be **€40**. We will be stopping off on the way for tea/coffee and a scone and there will be an evening meal on the way back, both of which are included in the cost. The bus will be leaving at 7.30am sharp. Anyone wishing to join us should call into the parish office as soon as possible to book a seat on the bus. A **€10** deposit is required to secure your place and final payment will be due by Thursday, 18th April as the parish office will be closed from Good Friday, 19th April until Monday, 29th April.

Gianna Care Baby Bank Drop-In Evening

The Gianna Care Baby Bank Drop-in Evening will take place on **Friday, March 29th from 6pm - 8pm** in St. Thomas' Parish Centre, Jobstown. Any parents who are struggling to buy products such as nappies, wipes, etc. for their little ones can visit the parish centre and collect what they need for **FREE**. If you know of anyone who might need a little extra help please let them know about the drop-in evening.

A weekly café is now open in the Church of the Incarnation, Fettercairn on **Wednesdays from 11am - 2pm**. The café is free and open to all. So why not pop in for a free cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit or two, and most importantly a chat. The door is open and all are most welcome!

PARISH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2019

We are taking bookings for our annual parish pilgrimage to Lourdes which takes place this year from the **19th - 23rd August**. The cost for four nights is **€608 per person sharing (full board)**. The hotel is the Sant Sauveur which is very close to the grotto. **A non-refundable deposit of €200 is required**. The deposit can be paid in instalments over the next few weeks in the parish office any weekday morning or with Sylvia after 12.30 Mass on Sundays.

A **Tai Chi and Meditation Day** with Anne Courtney and Miriam Healy Sensei will take place in the Dominican Retreat Centre, Tallaght Village on Saturday, **March 30th, 10am - 4pm**. It will be a day of gentle Tai Chi and gentle relaxation through meditation. The cost is **€55** (includes lunch and tea and coffee breaks) Booking is essential, tel. 01-4048189/4048123, email: retreathouse@eircom.net

During the season of Lent there are no flowers around the altar sanctuary or the side altars. So perhaps, for those who like to leave flowers at Our Lady's or the Sacred Heart Shrines, you might consider giving a small donation to Trócaire instead.

Parish Pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo

A pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo will be led by Fr. Bill O'Shaughnessy from the **12th - 16th October**. The cost of the 4 nights pilgrimage is **€649** per person sharing. A **€200** non-refundable deposit is required. We will be spending 1 night in Benevento, staying at the Grand Hotel Italiano and 3 nights in San Giovanni Rotondo, staying at the Hotel Centro di Spiritualita. The cost includes breakfast, lunch and evening meals. We will be visiting St. Pio's birthplace in Pietrelcina, St. Pio's tomb, Archangel Michael's cave and St. Matthew's shrine. Please contact the parish office 4620777 or Margaret Leonard at 087-4169109.

Fr. Pat McKinley
68 Maplewood Rd.
Tel. (01) 451 3109

Rev. Bill O'Shaughnessy
70 Maplewood Rd.
(01) 459 0746

email: stmarkschurch@eircom.net

Fr. Martin Hughes
c/o Parish Office

Parish Office
Monday - Friday
10.30am - 12.30pm
www.stmarksspringfield.com

Duty Phone
87 1092426
(emergencies only, Tel. (01) 462 0777
when listed contacts are not available



WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING:

James McMahon, Patricia Joyce and Annam Varghese who died recently

ANNIVERSARIES

**Andrew McNevin
Anne and Pat Syron
Mick Lohan
Sr. Rosina O'Leary
K.J. Mathew
Ellen and Joseph Potter
Patrick McLaughlin (1st Anniversary)**

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

BOOKINGS FOR BAPTISMS:

Bookings for baptisms take place in the parish office (church porch) Mon to Fri- 10.30am -12.30 pm, tel: 4620777. Three month's notice is required. Baptisms take place: 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in St. Mark's Church at 1.30pm.

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

St. Mark's Church

Monday - Friday: 10am

WEEKEND MASSES

St. Mark's Parish Church

Saturday: Vigil - 6.30pm

Sunday: 12.30pm

1st Sunday of the month: 12.30pm - Family (Children's) Mass

(St. Mark's Youth Choir - 12.30 Mass 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month)

Church of the Incarnation, Fettercairn

Sunday: 10.00am

Last Sunday of the month: 10am - Family (Children's) Mass

1st Saturday of the month:

Vine Mass (Taize style): 7.00pm

Confessions

6pm - 6.20pm on Saturdays (subject to availability of a priest)

17th March 2019 - St. Patrick's Day

CALCUTTA 2019

When Norah Merriman invited me to travel to Calcutta with her group in February this year I wasn't quite sure what to expect. However, to meet face to face with those involved with the Hope Foundation was a privilege. Their selfless dedication to improving the lives of so many impoverished and destitute people, from babies to the very old, was truly inspiring.

I got to witness first hand their day to day support and interaction with these beautiful people by travelling one evening with the night watch mobile dispensary/ clinic that visits 3 different slum areas on a rotating basis each week. A doctor, nurse and social worker travels with the unit who check if there is anyone in need of assistance. They have gotten to know the people living in the slums and assist them wherever possible, providing medical and social care, etc. that they otherwise would not be able to access.

On our visit to the Hope Hospital the group was delighted to see that a new third floor extension had been built since their visit last year. This extension, through the great vision and determination of one of the Indian doctors working at the hospital, was built with donations received, providing a new operating theatre which will help improve the quality of care given to the very poorest in Calcutta.

Also on the positive side, street children are still being helped to get an education, along with life skills training to help them on their way as young adults. We met two such young men who were street children and are now employed in the Hope Hospital. I also got to meet another young woman who is now a social worker. It was wonderful to see how their young lives were turned around with the help given by the Hope Foundation.

We also had an opportunity to visit two nursing homes for the elderly. The residents are the very poor who were found living on the streets with no one to care for them. Their lives have been helped greatly by those who now look after them, providing them with food, shelter and a warm bed. We had the privilege, also, of volunteering, on a daily basis, in a small hospice where destitute men and women are rescued and taken into care, and where they receive much needed treatment.

Although I witnessed terrible conditions in the slums of Calcutta - a sight hard to imagine unless you see it first hand - those living there were people of great warmth and a welcoming smile. - **Marian**

On behalf of the poor, destitute people and street children of Calcutta, **a very sincere thank you** to Margaret Leonard and her Bingo Team at St. Mark's G.A.A. Club for **€546** raised through the raffle, to Margaret Goulding and her Crochet/Craft Ladies for **€560**, and to everyone who dropped in donations to us personally and to the office totalling **€4,549**. All of the above initiatives are only possible with the help of your very generous donations.

Kind regards, Norah Merriman and Marian Kavanagh