



# Mount Merrion PARISH NEWS

Church of St. Thérèse, Mount Merrion



Winter  
2016



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## PARISH OFFICE

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Find us on Facebook

## ACTIVE WAITING

**W**e all need patience waiting. Waiting in a queue in the shops, waiting for the traffic in front to move, for exam or medical test results, for understanding from a loved one, for self-acceptance, or indeed simply for guests to arrive.

The Old Testament people had no choice but to wait. They believed that the Anointed One that God would send, the Messiah, would come before many of them had died. But that was not the case.

Advent is a time of waiting, celebrating an event that has already happened, and anticipating an event yet to happen. The Messiah, Jesus, has already walked on this earth. Bound initially by culture and place his liberating message is for all the world. He knows what it's like to live on the earth with daily routine, unexpected events, and times of celebration and loss. Into these events in his own time and in ours he brought/brings inclusivity, mercy, peace and love. In the future, he has promised to come again and this time take us home asking us not to be afraid.

We want our parish to also be a place of inclusivity, mercy, peace and love. And that is ultimately down to all of us in how we seek to imbue these values and truly live them. Let our waiting this Advent be active and real.

And then may we all have very happy and blessed Christmas.



Fr. Tony





# Hello!

A warm welcome to our December Parish News.

And a very special welcome to you if you are new to our faith community!

At the moment we are experiencing cold days and early nights coming in but our spirits are lifted as we progress our way towards Christmas and all the hope it offers to each one of us.

Our Parish has been very busy since activities resumed last September. Highlights included the Church's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in early October; the closing of the Year of Mercy with an Evening of Prayer, Reflection and Healing in Kilmacud Church in early November. And our Advent Week of Guided Prayer for all three Parishes at the end of November.

The next few months are important for all of us as we reflect in a discerning way on the process for our new Parish Pastoral Council in May 2017.

No doubt, our new Website (and new external Notice Board!) will keep us updated on all Parish developments.

Exciting times indeed for 2017!

**The Editorial Team**

## FR. CONLETH MOVING ON!

As we go to press, we have just heard that Fr Conleth Meehan who has been serving in Kilmacud and Mount Merrion since his arrival has been appointed by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin to a new position in the Malahide/Portmarnock/Yellow Walls Group of Parish from December 18th. Each of us will have our own memories of Fr Conleth's time among us and there will be an opportunity to wish him well formally in the new year. In a spirit of thanksgiving for his ministry in Mount Merrion, we ask God's blessing on him, his family and his work in the years ahead.



## Mount Merrion Parish Pastoral Council 2014-2017



Since the Parish News was published in Autumn 2016, the PPC, at its monthly meeting on 6th September, was briefed by Ann Markey (Communications Team) on the work to date. The team was congratulated on the new noticeboard and the plans for the new website were outlined.



The AGM took place on 20th September and activities in the Parish, celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Church building, were outlined. The work on the tapestry was displayed and it is hoped to have it on display early next year. During the AGM there was a discussion on various matters of interest including the use of hymn sheets to encourage the congregation to join in the singing at all Masses. Parishioners also raised the topic of eulogies at funerals and it was advised

these should be kept to the end of Mass.

On 4th October the Parish Pastoral Councils of Clonskeagh, Kilmacud and Mount Merrion met in the Community Centre to get to know one another and see how best practices and resources could be shared. An example of this was the Lenten Programme held in Kilmacud. This involved five evenings of discussion on *Evangelii Gaudium* which was followed by a parish meeting in June 2016 facilitated by the Archdiocese.

The results of the Pilot Focus Group which took place in Autumn 2015 (in Mount Merrion) were outlined among which was that there is a positive feeling about the church and a worry about administering services as priests grow older and retire.

The Archbishop has identified Clonskeagh, Kilmacud and Mount Merrion as "three parishes together". It was agreed that a working group be formed to look at the possibility of more lay involvement in leading services where a priest may not be available to celebrate Mass.

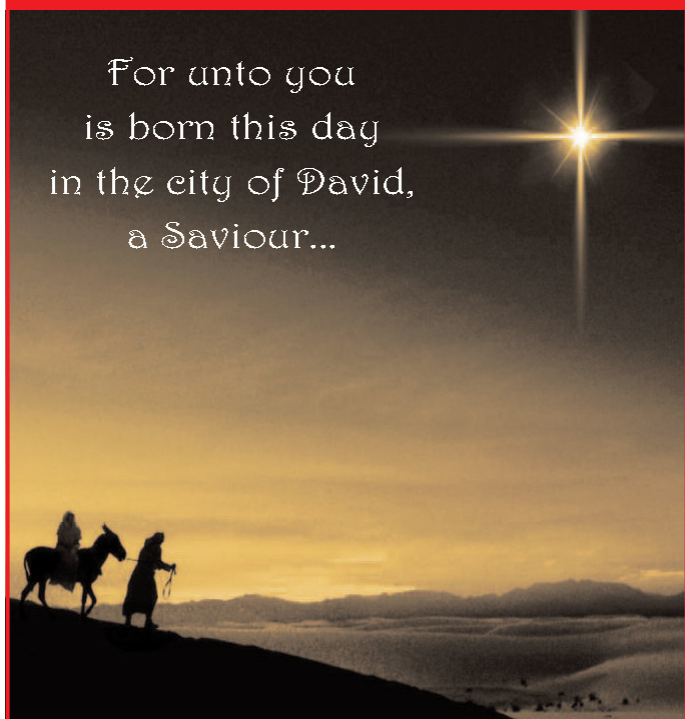
Early in Spring 2017 the PPC will start the process of seeking new members to come forward for election in May 2017 to a new PPC.





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME



For unto you  
is born this day  
in the city of David,  
a Saviour...

### CHRISTMAS EVE: SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER

- No 10am Mass
- 4pm: 'Happy BIRTHDAY Jesus'
- 6pm: Vigil Mass for Christmas
- 7.30pm: Youth Mass for Christmas
- 9.30pm: Christmas Carols (Senior Choir)
- 10pm: Mass for Christmas Night

### CHRISTMAS DAY: SUNDAY 25th DECEMBER

- 10am: (Senior Choir)
- 11.15am: Family Mass for Christmas Day
- No Evening Mass

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: MONDAY 19th DECEMBER 7.30pm:

Joint Kilmacud/Mount Merrion  
Communal Celebration in the  
Church of St. Thérèse, Mount Merrion

### INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS

Christmas Eve: 9.30pm-10am & 1pm-3pm



### MASS WITH THOSE BAPTISED IN THE PARISH DURING 2016:

Date to be confirmed

## UNVEILING AND BLESSING OF JUBILEE WALL HANGING Sunday 19th February



### DO THIS IN MEMORY MASSES FOR (First Holy Communion preparation)

- SUNDAY 22nd JANUARY – 11.15am
- SUNDAY 12th FEBRUARY – 11.15am
- SUNDAY 19th MARCH – 11.15am
- SUNDAY 9th APRIL – 11.15am  
*Palm Sunday*
- SUNDAY 30th APRIL – 11.15am
- SUNDAY 18th JUNE  
To be announced  
[Corpus Christi Procession]

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CEREMONIES 2017



- MOUNT ANVILLE JUNIOR SCHOOL:  
Saturday 6th May
- SCOIL SAN TREASA:  
Saturday 20th May
- OATLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL:  
Saturday 27th May



Friday 28th APRIL





## ADVENT IN THE PARISH

### BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

The second annual Advent wreath making took place on 4 December.

Originally arranged for families of younger children after the 11.15 mass, it was also run this year for a wider range of parishioners after the 10.00 mass.

An enjoyable morning was had by lots of the children (and older children)! Many homes will be adorned with an array of creative wreaths! Talent abounds!

Thanks to Marese Murphy and the Floral Art Group for leading such an enjoyable activity!



## Mount Merrion & Kilmacud Parishes – Christmas Carol Service

Kilmacud and Mount Merrion Parishes joined together on December 11th at 4pm for a Christmas Carol Service in the Church of St Thérèse. Three choirs were involved - the Kilmacud Parish Youth Choir (a new choir formed in April this year), the Mount Merrion Parish Senior Choir and the Mount Merrion Children's Choir.

All were in full voice alongside their wonderful musicians – especially the young guitarists! It was a lovely occasion for the many who attended the service.

Light refreshments offered afterwards by our Hospitality Group in the Community Centre were much appreciated as the weather, although unseasonable warm, had turned a little damp as we left the Church.

The carol service included such seasonal classics as *Adeste Fideles*, *Joy to the World*, *Away in a Manger* and *Little Donkey* alongside a wonderful Christmas “mash-up” arranged by the young people in the Mount Merrion Children's Choir. *Gaudete* was sung honouring the day that was in it – the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Known as *Gaudete* or ‘rejoice’ Sunday, it is the day on which we celebrate our joy as we prepare for and anticipate the birth of the Lord on Christmas Day and when He comes again. The rose-coloured or pink candle was also lit on the Advent wreath during the service symbolising this joy.

The carols were interspersed with readings, poetry and prayer all of which combined to create a wonderful celebration of vibrancy and energy from the young and ‘not-so-young’ alike.

The Choir Directors, Aideen McCallum, Kevin O'Regan and Susanne O'Reilly along with organist Eilis Hannon and accompanist Helen Prendergast and of course the choirs and musicians should certainly take a bow!



Advent Calendar

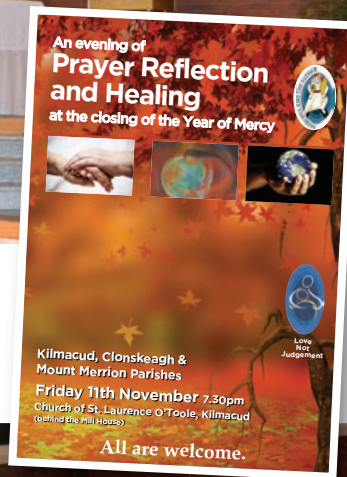




## CLOSURE OF YEAR OF MERCY



Through music, song and reflection the three parishes of Mount Merrion, Kilmacud and Clonskeagh gathered together for an evening of prayer and healing to mark the closing of the Year of Mercy. Held in Kilmacud church, parishioners were joined by singer and composer, Deirdre Ni Chinneide, as well as a number of musicians. It was a special evening and welcomed everyone, regardless of where we are on our journey.



## JUBILEE WALL HANGING - A WORK IN PROGRESS

Thanks to Brid Harrington [*in the early stages*], Barbara Kenny [*for the design*], Shelagh Leech, Rita McBride + 25 other 'crafts' people, our JUBILEE WALL HANGING, celebrating 60 years since the Opening of the Church, is well on the way towards the deadline of February next, the closing of our Jubilee Year. The three main panels are almost completed and Parish Groups are currently coming up with motifs to represent their work for the borders. Families in the parish brought lots of small buttons which have been incorporated into the overall design. The finished Hanging will be unveiled on the wall beside St. Thérèse's Shrine on Sunday February 19th 2017 – the date the church was opened and blessed in 1956.







## 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF SAINT THÉRÈSE, MOUNT MERRION



Homily notes of **Most Rev. Diarmuid Martin** Archbishop of Dublin, Church of Saint Thérèse, Mount Merrion, 1st October 2016.

Is it harder to believe today than it was in 1956 when this Church was built? Is it harder for a young person, with all the drive and idealism and generosity of a young person, to believe today? Are our catechesis and our Catholic educational structures failing, if they leave so many indifferent to God in their lives? Is secular Ireland Godless, or simply shy about God? Is faith individualistic and a purely private matter or is there a space for faith in building society?



What happens when the overall impact of faith in God diminishes within a society? Where the overall presence of God in society diminishes or becomes relativized, then society as a whole begins to ask itself if God matters at all. If society goes about its business without God really mattering, then the overall ethos of faith in society changes and society becomes more and more secular.

I am not a fan of Mission Statements. Overall they are very bland and so politically correct that they may inspire but will never offend anyone.

So I was especially surprised and pleased looking at your parish website to read your Mission Statement which goes right into the real mission of the Church today:

***“Secure in the belief that we are loved by God to make love a reality in our homes, in our parish and beyond in a spirit of prayer and service”.***

A Mission Statement in general attempts to put into words what we are here to do. Your Mission Statement, however, begins with God and what God does. Our God is a God who loves us. If we begin our understanding of society with the wrong God, then we will never influence society in the right way.





We celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the opening of this **Church on a hill** in a very different world to that of 1956. Building a Church on a hill can be interpreted in different ways. It could be looked on as a watchtower to protect and even to dominate. The **Church on a hill** will only take on its real significance when those who frequent the building authentically witness to what the building is for. It is the place where people encounter the mercy of God in such a way as that it frees them to be apostles of mercy, *“in their home in the parish and beyond, in a spirit of prayer and service”*.



Faith is not just about doing things. Faith is never just an intellectual exercise. Faith is not a response to a catalogue of do’s, much less a catalogue of don’ts. Faith is a fundamental attitude which involves the entire person in a relationship with God.

The Church on a hill will remain just a billboard with bland messages if it fails to be an open-ended invitation to all to go up to something which takes us beyond ourselves, changing and clarifying the language and the attitudes of our everyday.

Above all the building will be an invitation to prayer, ***the central focal point of where our humanity and our reason are captured into something which goes beyond ourselves and leads us into an encounter with the mercy and the beauty of our God.***

See more at: <http://www.dublindiocese.ie>  
[Archbishop’s Homilies]







# WELCOMING PARISH – COMMUNICATIONS

## Here's what we've been up to!

It's been a busy year – the first calendar year that various Parish groups have been working together under the Welcoming Parish – Communications umbrella! Here are some of the things we have been up to in 2016...

### New look but same old address!

Just in time for Christmas, the new-look website has been launched. Why not check it out at [www.mountmerrionparish.ie](http://www.mountmerrionparish.ie).

As you will see, the website has been totally redesigned. The overriding objective was to develop an engaging, attractive and informative website which meets the needs of a range of parishioners and visitors.



It will have all of the up-to-date information you may be seeking. But it will have much more..

**Notices of up-coming events**

**News of recent past events.**

Don't miss out even if you can't attend

**Weekly Newsletter** which you can download at home

**Webcam.** Join a ceremony even if you can't be in the church.

And some new features

See the "**Faith Space**" at home. You have probably seen the way in which this group visually bring to life the key messages / themes of our faith throughout the year in an engaging, thoughtful and often provocative way. See it now and learn more on the *Faith Space* section.

**Sign up** to receive emails of the weekly Newsletter and other significant events

The redesign has been led by the Website Group (Christine Mullock, Helen O'Connell, Sue Martin, Ann Markey, and Mark Byrne in the earlier stages). Professional website designer, Philip Troy (also a parishioner) from Hoot.ie, won the tender to redesign the website. Input and assistance from all of the other parish groups has meant that the website was ready to launch in a short timeframe.

After the website goes live the challenge is to keep it updated and the Website Group will co-ordinate this with the other Parish Groups and Parish Office.

Let us know what you think at [mountmerrionpgct@gmail.com](mailto:mountmerrionpgct@gmail.com)!

### Did you notice the new external Noticeboard?

If you have missed the Noticeboard so far, change your route to the church and have a look! Located at the edge of the millennium garden on the way from The Rise carpark to the main church door you'll find it!







The external noticeboard was installed in September and illuminated a short time later!

It is one way in which the parish can share contact and event information as well as other messages with those who may not visit the church regularly.

Thanks to Barbara Kenny who coordinated this project, and to Paddy Donoghue and his team of maintenance men for arranging its installation and illumination! Thanks also to the Noticeboard team who maintain it and ensure the information is current.

**What about the new flags?**

Our parish recognises that the message of God's love is not only for those who are able to attend the church. The flagpoles around the church were commissioned to fly a new flag – with a logo designed by our parish accompanied by a motto from Fr Tony “Love not Judgement”.

Embodying the essence of this Year of Mercy message they will be re-flown again in the future.



**Love  
Not  
Judgement**

**And everything else...**

You are reading third issue of the *Parish News* which is delivered to all homes in the parish. This is the first time in quite some time that we have been able to produce three issues in one year.



Thanks to Brenda O’Tighearnaigh and to all the contributors for making this possible. Thanks also to the **Deliverers Group**, for doing the leg work!

Our **Hospitality Group** continues to provide refreshments after many events, including the preparation masses for First Holy Communion. This year was busy with events marking the 60 Year Jubilee of the opening of the church as well as the 25th anniversary of Fr Tony’s Ordination.



Have you seen the Parish Shop which was re-modelled earlier this year? (inside the main porch on the left hand side). More improvements to follow next year. A wide variety of religious and signed Mass cards, holy water fonts etc., are available for sale. It is open after all weekday and Sunday morning Masses.



Parish Shop

**Greeters Group**, a few new volunteers joined the team greeting parishioners before the Sunday Masses. A few more are also welcome!

**And now for 2017...**

The plan for next year is to build on the new communications “infrastructure” that has been put in place so that we continue to serve our parishioners and local community.

Got ideas for better communication in the Parish? Please share them with us – email on [mountmerrionpgct@gmail.com](mailto:mountmerrionpgct@gmail.com). New ideas are always welcome!

**Ann Markey,**  
Communications Co-ordinator



## MOUNT MERRION, CLONSKEAGH & KILMACUD A Week of Guided Prayer

Over the past week people in the parish have been participating in our Advent week of guided prayer. Each day they come to meet with a prayer guide to reflect, share, and pray. We are very pleased to have a wonderful team of Guides with us this week and it has been a very reflective and gentle start to the Christmas season here in the parish. It has been a great opportunity before the busyness and seasonal chaos begins to take over to have an opportunity to take some time out and space for oneself. Many thanks to everyone involved, to the prayer guides, the participants for their openness and willingness to try something new and all those in the daily running of the parish office who have facilitated our use of the Parish meeting rooms this week.

Thank you Everybody!



*Charline's* Corner

## DO THIS IN MEMORY FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION PROGRAMME



**E**NROLMENT for our 2017 First Holy Communicants took place on Sunday 20th November during the 11.15am Family Mass. This was followed on Sunday 11th December with the first of our **DO THIS IN MEMORY SUNDAY MASSES**, celebrating the 3rd Sunday of Advent. The music for this Mass was provided by Oatlands Primary School Choir and Band – celebrating both the Advent Season and the upcoming Feast of Christmas.



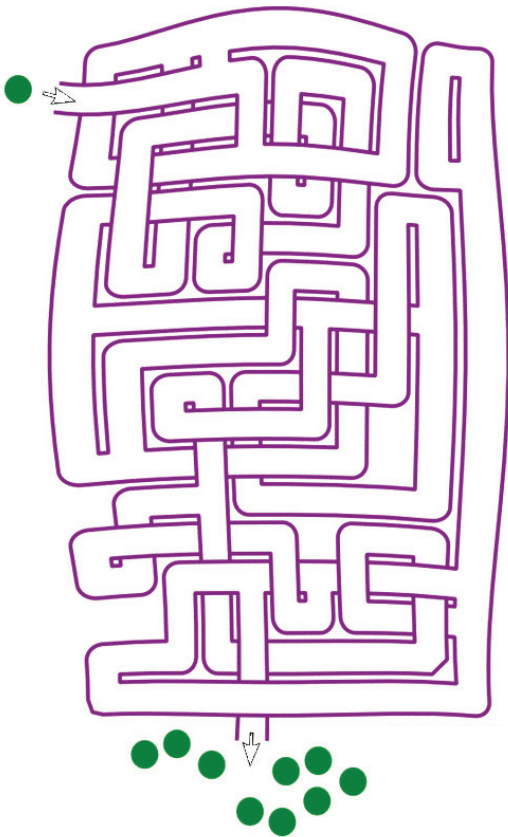
## CONFIRMATION MASS

**E**nrolment for the 2017 Confirmation candidates took place on Sunday December 4th during the Evening Mass with great participation from some of the young people involved and music with the Sunday Evening Youth Choir.





# JUST FOR FUN!



Find the shortest path through the maze for the green marble to join the others at the bottom.

## Wordsearch



## Joy to the World

S	H	R	R	Y	M	G	Z	S	B	Z	S	D
L	H	T	R	I	B	H	T	B	Z	E	G	T
E	H	S	C	M	G	A	J	A	J	S	N	H
M	Z	Y	A	L	R	A	J	D	M	N	I	R
A	O	R	T	L	U	E	M	V	I	E	S	E
C	Y	H	W	I	S	E	M	E	N	C	S	E
E	J	Y	P	U	V	T	K	N	F	N	E	K
L	P	E	S	E	R	I	K	T	A	I	L	I
C	W	D	M	E	S	B	T	P	N	K	B	N
A	L	E	G	N	A	O	L	A	T	N	A	G
R	H	N	N	S	T	X	J	Z	N	A	T	S
I	A	R	E	J	O	I	C	E	M	R	S	J
M	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	F	X	S

ADVENT  
ANGEL  
BETHLEHEM  
BIRTH  
BLESSINGS  
CAMELS  
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MAGI  
MANGER  
MARY  
MIRACLE

MYRRH  
NATIVITY  
REJOICE  
STABLE  
STAR  
THREE KINGS  
WISE MEN

## Station Mass in Roebuck Castle



A number of Station (Road) Masses were celebrated across the Parish and in Kilmacud during November. They are a welcome opportunity for parishioners from a specific road to get together for Mass in a neighbour's home and catch up over a cuppa afterwards. This was an initiative prompted by Fr Tony in early Autumn and has proved to be very popular. Given the demand for these Masses it is hoped that they will be continued again in the spring.







## Welcome Fr. Jerry Maher

I have spent the last 25 years in the Diocese of Monterey, California, USA. Someone asked me last week what I enjoyed most about it. Well, apart from the sunny sky, the big blue ocean and the white sandy beaches, I have enjoyed very much working with a diverse group of people.



I have enjoyed being very much part of that diversity and walking together with people who are searching for a deeper meaning to life, whether questioning their faith or just trying to live out what they believe.

One of the Programmes in the Parish that I really enjoyed is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

Adults who wished to be baptised, confirmed and receive holy communion at the Easter Vigil, journey as a group with a Parish Team to learn and share their faith with each other. Of course, this is so nourishing for those preparing for the sacraments but also for the Parish

Team and the whole Parish Faith Community who experience the rituals at Sunday Mass throughout the year. People seem to have made the 'choice' to be Catholic and have a hunger and desire to be nourished and participate in their Faith.

Now, I am here for a time based in Clonskeagh, but assisting in Kilmacud and Mount Merrion as well. There may be less sunshine about that in California! However people are people everywhere. I imagine we are all searching for something. All of us have questions and fears, joys and sorrows. I hope that my time here will be nourishing for you and me and we can all grow together as a community of faith in whatever way the Spirit is moving in our lives.

*Fr. Jerry*



### Thank You!

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our December Parish News.

As always we extend a warm welcome to YOU should you wish to volunteer and share your gifts within a parish group or if you have ideas to share.

Wishing you Christmas blessings!



#### MOUNT MERRION

**WEEKEND MASSES:**  
SATURDAY 6.00pm  
[Lisieux Singers]

SUNDAYS  
10.00am [Senior Choir]  
11.15am [Family Mass]  
7.30pm [Youth Group]

**MONDAY TO SATURDAY:**  
10.00am

#### MASS TIMES

##### KILMACUD

**WEEKEND MASSES:**  
SATURDAY 6.00pm  
[Family Mass]

SUNDAYS  
10.00am and 11.30am

**MONDAY TO SATURDAY:**  
10.00am

##### CLONSKEAGH

**WEEKEND MASSES:**  
SATURDAY 6.30pm

SUNDAYS  
10.00am and 11.30am

**MONDAY TO SATURDAY:**  
10.00am