



Mount Merrion PARISH NEWS

Church of St. Thérèse, Mount Merrion

Summer
2017



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Find us on Facebook

THE VARIED NATURE OF FAMILY LIFE

Next year it is hoped that Pope Francis will travel to Ireland to join in the World Meeting of Families due to take place in Dublin. We know that family life can be wonderful and supportive but it is also complex. No family is the same. It is true that it can be the first place that we learn to coexist with others and learn how to compromise.



Respect is how we should look at other families despite their composition or origin. When we point fingers at others it implies that we are perfect, that our family is perfect. Really?!!!!

Speaking last year about families Pope Francis said: Jesus never stops accepting and speaking to everyone, even those who no longer expect to encounter God in this life. That is an important lesson for the Church.

As the eldest of four boys, I remember our father leaving us when I was thirteen. I remember the sadness of that time, but also the courage of my mother. I remember how my mother was socially isolated, not invited to dances, or dinners, as she had been when she was part of a couple. I also recall a priest in our Parish at that time, who was an alcoholic, who helped us with hampers and other help until my mother could get a job. We survived it all, and became stronger, and thankfully, were reconciled with our father before he died four years ago. That's the story of our family, like and unlike many in our Parish today.

The Parish can be a safe place of support and nourishment for families but will be poorer if it is for only some families. I hope everyone who considers how they live a family life will understand that I see it like that too.

*I ask that the family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus
will bless what each of us call our family.*

Fr. Tony



Hello!

Welcome to the Summer Issue of our Parish News!

The Parish has been buzzing since the beginning of 2017 with so much happening to lift the spirits of our growing faith community. Our Christmas and Easter Services continue to attract huge attendances.

Our annual Sunday Mass in January for those baptised last year was a happy, noisy occasion as usual! We had First Holy Communions in May with the preparatory monthly Sunday Mass 'Do this In Memory' well attended through the year. We also had active, participative preparations for Confirmation in May, with 180 young people confirmed. Our Lenten Series of Talks – Unfolding Mystery – was stimulating, giving different perspectives on our faith and evoking personal hope and, indeed joy, for those attending.

Fr. Tony led 55 parishioners from Kilmacud and Mount Merrion Parishes to the Holy Land in April – a spiritually fulfilling, once in a lifetime experience for many. As well as plenty of fun by the happy sounds of it!

Our own four Parish Choirs have been very active, especially 'on the road', while some of our young Parish volunteers are in Haiti this summer working with local people on various development projects.

Our new-look Parish Website www.mountmerrionparish.ie, launched in early January, is proving very popular with many 'hits'. Try it for yourself!

All comments more than welcome mountmerrionpgct@gmail.com!!

We invite you to read the pages... and look at the photos bringing our Parish alive.

Enjoy your summer!

The Editorial Team

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: New Council in September

What is the Parish Pastoral Council?

- The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is an **important part of our Parish governance structure**.
- The PPC is a **consultative leadership group** through which priests and parishioners work together as partners in furthering the mission of Christ in the Parish.
- The primary ministry of the PPC is **to collaborate in planning the way forward for the parish** (the Parish Development Strategy).
- It does this in the context of the circumstances of the Parish, in the light of the gospels, the teachings of the Church, the signs of the times and the reflections of the members of the Parish Community (listening to our community).
- Through evolution of the PPC Strategy for the Parish the PPC has overseen the establishment of the Parish Group Co-ordination Team (PGCT) and the five umbrella groups that co-ordinate over 300 volunteers across 30 groups in the Parish.
 - ◆ The PGCT meets regularly with the Parish priest(s) and catechist and serves with the guidance of the Parish Pastoral Council.
 - ◆ The strategy, establishment and operational management of these five groups (Communications; Faith Development; Family; Liturgy; Social Justice) has transformed our parish and delivered on our goal to enhance, grow and evolve our Parish reputation as (1) a **welcoming parish** and (2) a **parish that listens to our community**.
- The PPC meets monthly and a standing order of business each month is the very important issue of child safeguarding within our Parish and our Community.
- At the monthly meeting the PPC

discusses policy issues within the Parish, Parish strategy, local activities and initiatives and guides PGCT programmes and activities.

The two primary considerations for the PPC in 2017 have been:

1. The discernment process and timings for the election of the new PPC 2017-2020.
2. Establishing co-ordinated structures, resources, training and schedules for laity led services within Kilmacud, Mount Merrion and Clonskeagh Parishes.

How do I get involved?

- If you'd like to be considered for the next PPC council 2017-2020, the process of discernment will start with a series of public meetings in September.
- Details of same will be announced in the weekend Newsletter, Website, Church Notice Boards and at Masses throughout the summer months.
- The process is also very well documented within our discernment booklet which will be available shortly to all.
- The process concludes with an election by parishioners within the Parish AGM in late September and will be facilitated by an external guest.
- The outgoing council will formally hand over to the new council during a PPC meeting in October and two members of the existing council will continue to serve in the new council for the first year to facilitate learning.
- The work of the PPC is very rewarding and critical to the further development of the parish and I would encourage you to consider serving what is, after all, our wonderful community.

**Kealan O'Reilly, Chairperson
Mount Merrion
Parish Pastoral Council**



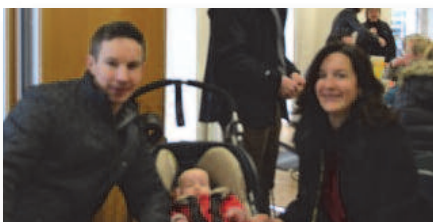
LOOK HOW MUCH WE HAVE GROWN!

MASS FOR THOSE BAPTISED DURING 2016



On January 29th last, the families of all the children baptised in the Parish during 2016 were invited to come and celebrate at our annual Baptism Mass. Some of the parents, siblings and grandparents did readings and brought up gifts, along with members of the baptism team. The children were each blessed by Fr. Tony during Mass and everyone gathered in the Community Centre afterwards for tea and a chat.

What a difference a year makes!





FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION PROGRAMME

'DO THIS IN MEMORY'

The "Do this in Memory Programme" involving a monthly Mass prepared by the parents of the communicants ran from September to May and will conclude on Sunday June 18th, Feast of Corpus Christi. The programme helps the children and their families mark the key milestones of the Church Year and prepare them for their First Confession and First Communion.

We would like to thank all the parents and the children who helped make the programme a success again this year.

Cliona and Maire

ENTRANCE PROCESSION



PALM SUNDAY



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



CHOIR NEWS



Senior Choir relaxing at the Limerick Choral Festival... then winning third prize!



Youth Choir host the Petit Chanteurs de Strasbourg, 12 April



Jenni Lynch and Fiona Hegarty, members of the Children's Choir, on TG4 News



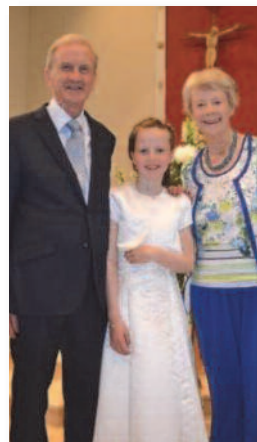
Senior Children's Choir Cork Choral Festival Winners – Joint third place!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - SCOIL SAN TREASA, MAY 20th

Celebrant: Fr. Tony Coote

Teachers: Naoise Maguire and Emma Cashman

Parish Catechist: Caroline Kehoe



Jubilee WALL HANGING

Can you find your button...?



In 2016 we celebrated the **60th JUBILEE OF THE OPENING OF THE CHURCH**. This milestone in our Parish's history was marked by a number of events and one of the most enduring is likely to be the making of the Jubilee Wall Hanging.

Since last September, following notices in the weekend Newsletter and local shops, a group of dedicated needle workers met on Saturdays in the Sacristy to work on it.

The basic design concept consists of three panels each of which is surrounded by symbols of many Parish organisations.



The left panel design is based on the Parish's Year of Mercy banner logo.



The centre one features one of the Church's "Rose" Windows, the Campanile, and the entrance porch.



The right panel contains the "Ship of Faith" used in the artwork for the Silver Jubilee of Fr. Tony's Ordination to the priesthood, which coincidentally took place during 2016 also.

These have all been developed with great artistry and imagination by the needleworkers using patchwork, beading, embroidery, quilting, appliqué, knitting and crochet. Their skills, guided by Rita and Shelagh and Barbara (on design) have created a beautiful textile that will be a Parish heirloom.



The request for parishioners to donate a significant family button received a great response, and these have been incorporated in the design. So everyone who wanted to be part of the project is represented!



We got a sneak preview on the weekend of February 28th last and a wall hanging system is being made which will enable us to put it in its permanent position on the wall to the left of St. Thérèse's Oratory.

Thank you to all involved!

EASTER

EVENING WAY OF THE CROSS



Setting off



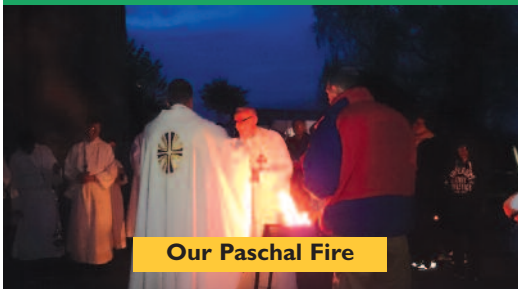
St. Brigid's Church



Taize Prayer around the Cross, Mount Merrion Church



EASTER VIGIL



Our Paschal Fire



Easter Saturday Vigil



Baptism of Fionn Joseph O'Reilly

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The people of Jerusalem



Jesus dies on the Cross

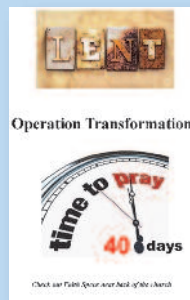


Jesus is placed in the tomb

LENT/EASTER FAITH SPACE

By happy coincidence, RTÉ's Operation Transformation was in full swing as we in the Faith Space Group were planning our Lenten display. We decided that a series that promoted physical and mental health was such a good idea, that we might "borrow" the title and apply the same principles to promoting spiritual health. We set out challenges for each

week of Lent to help work towards the Goal of spiritual health i.e. from challenging people in Week 1 to create space in their lives for the full life Jesus came to give us or in Week 5 to think critically about how our actions value others. Our hope is that we will



recommit ourselves to the actions of the challenges, even after the journey of these 40 days is over.



Come Holy Spirit - Parish Confirmation

Mount Anville Junior School, Scoil San Treasa, Oatlands Primary School and St. Brigid's National School.
Celebrant: V. Rev. Kieran McDermott, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation and Ecumenism and Fr. Tony Coote, Adm.

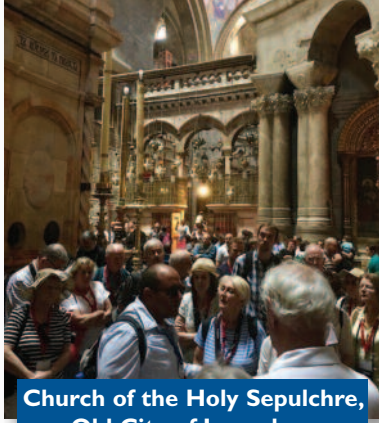
This year saw one of the largest groups for Confirmation in the Parish when 180 girls and boys received the Sacrament on April 27th. What a wonderful sunny day on which to be confirmed in the Light of the Spirit!

The class teachers in the schools prepared the young people with support from Caroline Kehoe, the Parish Catechist. A one day retreat, led by Fr. Tony and Caroline, was also part of the preparation. In addition, some of the young people took part in the "You shall be my Witness" Programme, which was held over 4 evenings in April. Thanks to Maggie Burns and Caroline who made this possible. Congratulations to all involved!

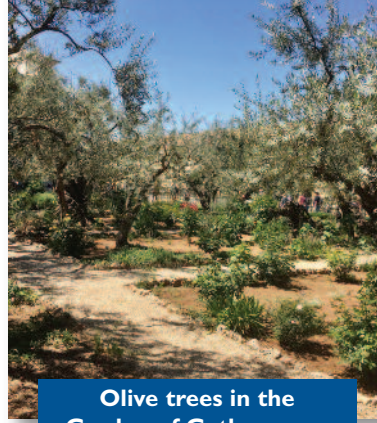




Open Air Mass at the Sea of Galilee



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Old City of Jerusalem



Olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane



Busy Bazaar in Nazareth

Parish Trip to the Holy Land

On Monday 17th April a group of over fifty parishioners embarked on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, under the leadership of Fr. Tony. As teachers in Scoil San Treasa it was a fantastic opportunity to be a part of this as we really got a sense of the regard in which the school is held within the parish. Many parishioners had links to the school in various way, and this gave us a sense of the history and the importance of the school to the parish.

What followed were nine terrific days which provided a unique insight into the life of Jesus, from his birth in Bethlehem to his crucifixion in Jerusalem. Spending five days in Jerusalem followed by four days at the Sea of Galilee we were fortunate to visit many of the Holy Sites. Witnessing people of the three Abrahamic religions; Judaism, Christianity and Islam worshipping in the Old City of Jerusalem was a reminder of the shared history of these religions which further underlines the hope for a peaceful solution to the ongoing instability in the Holy Land.

In what was a very busy trip, with early morning departures (that seemed to get earlier each morning!) it certainly must go down as a thoroughly memorable one. It has sparked great interest among the children, and indeed the staff, in the Holy Land. The chance to experience such a historical and culturally rich land is one we are very grateful for.

Paul Maguire and Naoise Maguire
Teachers in Scoil San Treasa

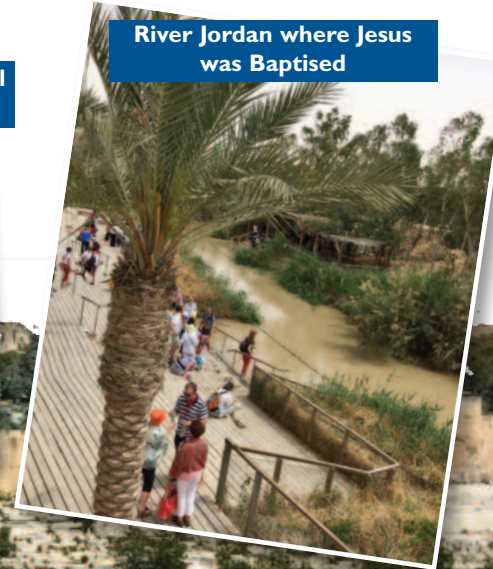
Ceremony at Cana of Galilee



Praying at the Wailing/Western Wall in Jerusalem



River Jordan where Jesus was Baptised



Our Group on the Mount of Olives with the City of Jerusalem in the background.



UNFOLDING MYSTERY - LENTEN TALKS & REFLECTIONS

Our Parish hosted a wonderful series of talks over the recent Lenten season thanks to a very inspiring collaboration with the Jesuit community and friends. In a series of Tuesday evening talks and Wednesday morning musings, we pondered together topics ranging from *Discernment: Making Good Decisions* to *Pope Francis & the Quiet Revolution* to *Ageing, Dying & Glory*. We are very grateful for the wonderful attendance at these initiatives and we hope you found something to support and inspire your Lenten journey.

If you would like to give any feedback or thoughts about these or any other such Parish initiatives, your comments are always welcome to the Parish Group Co-ordinating Team via email: mountmerrionpgct@gmail.com or parishoffice@mountmerrionparish.ie or to the Parish Office – Tel: 288 1271.

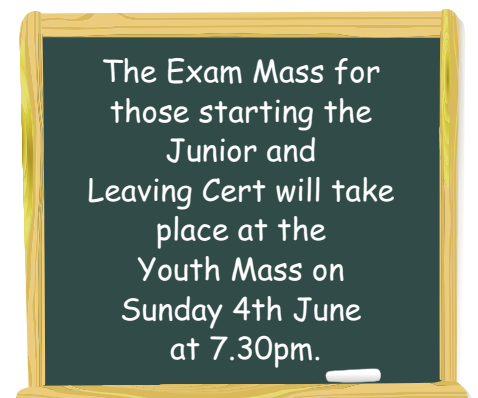
WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES: AUGUST 2018

We can expect to hear much about this upcoming event over the next few months, including our own Parish plans.

For further insight into the background, you might like to google a TEDTALK given by Pope Francis in April this year on;

**'WHY THE ONLY FUTURE WORTH
BUILDING INCLUDES EVERYONE'**
[WWW.TEDTALK.COM]

As Pope Francis too has expressed his desire to be with us here in Ireland for the WMOF in August 2018, many volunteers are needed to be part of the event's organisation. If you are interested contact the Meeting Office at www.worldmeeting2018.ie.



PARISH SUPPORTS SUMMER PROJECT IN GROS MORNE, HAITI



This summer I, and some of my fellow Medical students, along with others will be volunteering at the Mount Merrion Parish Project in Gros Morne in Haiti. The project is led by Patrick O'Neill, now a teacher in Blackrock College. Patrick and Fr Tony have worked together in Haiti over many years.

To me, the fact that it was a Parish project also meant assurance that every Euro donated would go specifically for the purpose intended ...and that I would see that with my own eyes. I also knew that the Parish had supported projects in the community of Gros Morne in Haiti before and that local connection too gave me faith to trust that it serves those in most need and seeks to make a real, tangible difference to their lives.

The huge need that exists in Haiti is well known... the country suffered horrifically from the 2010 earthquake and hurricane



Matthew last year. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world.

However, here's the difference, with your support, our project will make;

- 1) 650 of the poorest children of the area will attend a Sports and Literacy Camp for 3 weeks – I and my fellow volunteers will each teach a class at that camp.
- 2) We will build a house for a family recommended by Sr. Pat Dillon, a missionary sister who has been working there in the local community for 20 years. She has recommended a family who is living in a falling down house of rock & bedsheets in an isolated rural part of the area. The family has a single mom head-of-household, a live-in grandmother, 6 children, plus an aunt & her 4 children who are there periodically.
- 3) overall 80 people will be employed across the whole project and
- 4) 23,800 meals will be served over the course of the camp.

None of this is possible without the support of the people of Mount Merrion who gave so generously to our recent appeal which raised over €10,000. You can still support this project by leaving an envelope, containing your donation and marked "Haiti Appeal – Summer Parish Project" into the Parish Office.

Thank you very much!!

Helena Plapp



**DOING
EXAMS?
MAYBE
THIS
WILL
HELP...**

Lord, I ask You to help me at this stressful time. I feel that in addition to carrying my own burdens, I am carrying the expectations of so many others – family, friends, society. Help me to keep calm at this time, so that I can think straight and apply myself to the best of my ability. Let Your Spirit help and inspire me, so that I can remember all that I have studied and put together my answers in the best way. Guide me in all ways, so that I will find fulfilment in You. Amen.

The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is just that little "extra"

It always seems impossible until it is **DONE.**

Celebrations, Comings and Goings...



Congratulations on your Golden Jubilee Fr. Paddy!

This May Fr. Paddy celebrated 50 years' service in the priesthood. He was ordained in Clonliffe College by Archbishop John Charles McQuaid on 28th May 1967. After ordination he worked in the following parishes: **Priest Teacher at the Vocational School Dundrum 1967-1970; Crumlin 1970-1971; Ashford 1971-1975; Avoca 1975-1982; Sean McDermott Street 1982-1990; Athy 1990-2000; Donabate 2000-2011; Kilmacud- Mount Merrion 2011 to date.** The Parish Communities of Mount Merrion and Kilmacud joined Fr. Paddy and his family at the 11.30am Mass in Kilmacud Church on Sunday 21st May with refreshments afterwards.



Blessings on your new appointment Fr. Conleth!

Just after our last issue went to press, we got word that Fr. Conleth Meehan, who had been serving in Kilmacud and Mount Merrion since July 2010, had been appointed by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin to a new position in the Malahide/Portmarnock/Yellow Walls Group of parishes from December 18th. Each of us will have our own memories of Fr. Conleth's time among us and there was an opportunity to wish him well formally in late January. 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.



Welcome Fr. Edmond!

Fr. Edmond Grace S.J. is helping with weekend Masses in the Parish. He lives in the Jesuit Community in Leeson Street and is currently the Director of People Talk [Citizen Juries Shaping Government.] He is an occasional contributor to the Sacred Heart Messenger. He worked in Gardiner Street Church for some years and founded the Gardiner Street Sunday Evening Gospel Choir Mass. He was also involved for a time with the Family Mass in Rathmines Parish. He was chaplain in Clongowes Wood College and is a founder member of the National Family Support Network. He lectured for eight years in the National College of Ireland when it was still in Ranelagh. A wide range of experience and interests! We wish every blessing on his work in Mount Merrion.



Sheila Behan, Liam Daly, and P. J. Clarkon congratulate Fr. Paddy after his Celebration Mass in Kilmacud, Sunday 21st May

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Summer Parish News and to our dedicated team of Parish Deliverers. As always we extend a warm welcome to you should you wish to visit the church, to volunteer within a Parish Group or if you have ideas to share...

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Check out the Parish website: www.mountmerrionparish.ie

MOUNT MERRION

WEEKEND MASSES:
SATURDAY 6.00pm

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

MONDAY TO SATURDAY:
10.00am

MASS TIMES

KILMACUD

WEEKEND MASSES:
SATURDAY 6.00pm

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

Mount Merrion Parish Communications Team delivers Parish correspondence to all houses in the Parish area unless otherwise advised. If you do **not** wish us to deliver programmes or newsletters please contact the Parish Secretary at (01) 288 1271 or Email: parishoffice@mountmerrionparish.ie