



Mount Merrion PARISH NEWS

Church of St. Thérèse, Mount Merrion

Summer
2018



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PARISH WEBSITE
www.mountmerrionparish.ie



Find us on Facebook

BEARERS OF HOPE

As I write this piece I know we will shortly end the season of Easter and celebrate Pentecost. That feast commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on a group of frightened followers of Jesus. What happened there: the transformation of a scared group into the bold proclaimers of the good news about Jesus is incredible. It gives us a glimpse of how understandable fear can be replaced by hope. Of course, it only truly happens because the followers had encountered Jesus who accepted them as he found them, all weak, and some let him down. More importantly Jesus fulfilled his promise and defeated death.



Someone said to me that my recent diagnosis is a huge challenge to my faith. It does indeed make me question the mystery of sudden changes that can happen in our lives. But I do not despair. The road ahead for me is so unsure and though I have to take each slow step on my own I know I'm not alone. I have a very faithful family and dear friends as well as very kind parishioners. I'm so lucky!! Knowing I'm not alone makes it all more bearable. Also I have always felt close to Jesus Christ. I feel no distance between us now. I cling to him and know that despite any darkness there will always be a glimmer of light.

Hope is a delicate and at times fragile quality in our lives. Testing times can strengthen or diminish it. However the innate decency and kindness of most people we encounter sustains it. I have been sustained by the kindness of strangers and the repeated goodness of those I know. Wherever we are, remember that goodness is within us and lets us be bearers of hope.

Fr. Tony

MOUNT MERRION PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL UPDATE

Hello!

Welcome to the Summer issue of the Parish News!

Lots has been happening since Christmas and you are invited to check it out on the following pages...

As a Parish we've been preparing in an inclusive way for the World Meeting of Families taking place in August in Dublin – "We are Family".

With Fr Tony's recent diagnosis we are reminded of the importance of HOPE in our lives regardless of the circumstances.

Don't forget that our Parish website and external Noticeboard will keep us updated on events as they are about to happen. It will be a busier summer than normal in the Parish!

Wishing you a happy and safe summer.

The Editorial Team

It has been a busy few months since the Mount Merrion Parish Pastoral Council came together in late October 2017, as the **new** Parish Pastoral Council. It is hard to believe six months have passed! However, we have been a busy Parish!

Parish Survey:

As summer approaches, we have kicked off our parish 'pilot' survey. This pilot survey was created by the Parish Pastoral Council to enable us to find out more about your experience of faith and how the parish can help it to grow. We hope to learn, from your feedback, more about how we might shape our approach to prayer to help us on our faith journey (alongside the great work to-date) and about how we might put our faith more widely into action as a parish. A more extensive survey will follow at a later date.



We Are Family:

We had our, 'We are Family', banner hand-print event early in the year. Many of us came along representing the different and diverse families which we are here in our Parish. It was wonderful to see so many people wishing to symbolise, through our simple handprints, the love and care we have for one another and for our wider community as a Christian family. Fun was had by all!

Love, Friendship & Healing:

The theme of love and friendship continued into February, with our 'Celebration of Love and Friendship' evening where we took some time to pause and reflect with gratitude, on the relationships in our lives; where and with whom we belong and how the people in our lives bring us joy, love and well-being. Many people brought cherished symbols to share as part of the evening and it was great to catch up with one another over tea and cake afterwards. We also had our afternoon of 'healing' where many received holy oil and were touched by the prayerfulness of the event.



World Meeting of Families:

We continue to plan as a parish for the World Meeting of Families (Aug 21-26), with the knowledge that Pope Francis will attend some of the events. You will be able to read more about all this in different sections of the Parish News.

We are indeed especially blessed to have such a dynamic parish here in Mount Merrion with so many groups and individuals taking part in different ministries. If you would like to be (or have been thinking of getting) involved please reach out to a member of the Parish Pastoral Council or contact the Parish Office.

Thank you for your support and we welcome your feedback as always.



Mount Merrion Parish Pastoral Council 2017-2020

Back row left to right: John Barry, Alec Moore, Conor O'Doherty, Jennifer Kelly, Audrey O'Sullivan (Chairperson), Fr. Tony Coote, Clodagh O'Reilly-Boyles.
Front Row: Susanne O'Reilly, Kay O'Donnell and Martina McNamara.

Participation on the Parish Pastoral Council

We have three vacancies arising on the Parish Pastoral Council over the coming months. If through prayer, reflection and discernment you might like to put your name forward as an expression of interest, please contact Audrey O'Sullivan Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council, (via the Parish Office) for more information. The Parish Pastoral Council would like to fill the vacancies, ideally by the end of September.

Audrey O'Sullivan, Chairperson – Parish Pastoral Council

WALK WHILE YOU CAN

In March 2018 Fr Tony was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. For a man with untold energy levels as well as a contagious zest for life, this news came as a bolt of lightning. Tony found himself part of a vastly under-resourced medical world of lengthy waiting lists and over-burdened medics.

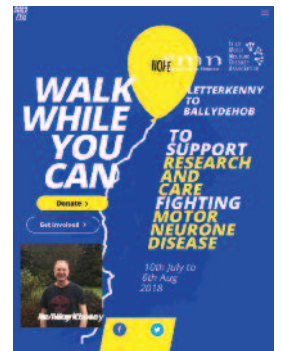
Never one to be struck down by adversity, **Tony came to the decision to walk the length of Ireland in order to raise funds** and to help highlight the need for further funding in this area.

So get baking, walking, singing, dancing, drinking tea – use your talents folks! Support the many events that will be held throughout the parish in the coming weeks and months. Fr Tony has been our source of HOPE, let us bring HOPE to those suffering from Motor Neurone Disease.

All funds raised for WWYC will be donated for research for new medication RMN and to the IMNDA for the care of those living with the illness.

For Donations by Tel: 01 7162 400. Online donations: idonate.ie/walkwhileyoucan

See website WWYC.ie for full details.



Ryan Tubridy & Fr Tony Coote

On Tuesday 15th May, Mount Anville Montessori Junior School held a sponsored walk in aid of Father Tony Coote and his 'Walk While You Can' charity. All 450 students plus 35 staff took part in the walk around the beautiful School grounds. It was a fun and energetic event and we are so grateful to the Mum's who also took part collecting with their buckets and balloons! So far we have raised €13,970 and still counting, with further fundraising events to take place on Friday at our Sports day. Our thanks to everyone who has donated so far.

Elizabeth Kavanagh, Principal

Everyone needs a helping hand... and sometimes it's as easy as making a cup of tea.



Solidarity with Fr. Tony

You CAN do something!

Join me in supporting the MND Association's annual appeal around **21st June** by hosting a Tea / Coffee Morning (or other event) in your home for your neighbours. Let's make it a real Community effort – neighbours joining neighbours – throughout Mount Merrion with a common cause, showing solidarity with Fr. Tony. If you think you could be a host, please contact **Jennifer Kelly 087-9349 227** for details.

A JOURNEY TO THE HEART

Songs of Hope for the Journey

An evening of music and reflection

will take place in

Church of St. Thérèse

Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin

Friday June 15th 2018

at 7.30pm

The evening will be led by Sr. Marie Dunne CHF

with the St. John of God Choir,
Holy Faith Past Pupils Choir and friends,
and will feature Mount Merrion Parish Children's Choir



During the event there will be a collection to support The Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association (IMNDA) and Research Motor Neurone (RMN)



ALL WELCOME

Beyond the Parish

HOPE

Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador in February 1977. On 12th March 1977, Rutilio Grande, a Jesuit priest and personal friend of Romero who had been creating self-reliance groups among the poor, was assassinated. His death had a profound impact on Romero who later stated: 'When I looked at Rutilio lying there dead, I thought, 'If they have killed him for doing what he did, then I too have to walk the same path.'

Romero began to speak out against the military government on behalf of the poor of his country. Once he appealed directly to the army saying 'In the name of God, in the name of his suffering people whose cry rises to heaven more loudly each day, I implore you, I beg you, I order you: stop the repression.'



Blessed Oscar, continue praying for the poor and be a voice for the voiceless, and as your gentle gaze reaches me, grant me peace. Amen

Oscar Romero was assassinated on the orders of the government, while saying Mass in a hospital Chapel, on 24th March 1980. Pope Francis declared him a martyr on 23rd May 2015.

Sr. Rosaleen Hughes wrote this icon. It shows Oscar holding his cross, a sign of martyrdom. His forehead is a common symbol in iconography for God's wisdom.

This Icon was commissioned by Fr. Tony for the Parish. It is located near the Faith Space in the Gathering Space towards the back of the church.



Mount Merrion Parish Outreach – Supporting Haiti Summer Projects



Over the last several years Mount Merrion Parish has supported Summer Projects in the community of Gros Morne in Haiti. The Projects serve those in most need and seek to make a real, tangible difference to their lives. Last year the Haiti collections in **Mount Merrion** and **Kilmacud Parishes** raised in excess of €15,000 and a group of parishioners and friends – young medical students – travelled as part of the Haiti Summer Project team. As a direct result of your generosity the achievements of the 2017 Haiti Project were;

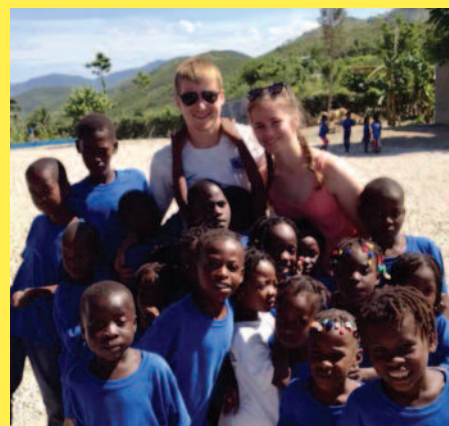


None of this was possible without the support of the people of **Mount Merrion & Kilmacud Parishes** for which the group is very grateful.

The 2018 Haiti Collections will take place in Mount Merrion on the weekend of May 26th/27th and in Kilmacud on the weekend of June 9th /10th.

Thank you very much for your continued generosity in support of this amazing project.

- 1) 650 of the poorest children of the area attended a Sports & Literacy Camp for 3 weeks.
- 2) 60 people were employed across the whole project.
- 3) 22,100 meals were served over the course of the camp.
- 4) A house was built for an extended family of 11 recommended by Sr. Patricia Dillon RJM, a missionary sister who has been working there in the local community for 20 years.



The FAITH SPACE Update

HOPE

As we begin our annual tidy-up in the Faith Space store, the props and texts remind us of how we marked events in our church since last Advent.

The Baby has arrived

To prepare for the celebration of **Christmas**, we imagined how Mary and Joseph might have experienced waiting for that special baby, and how their experiences are still today shared by many parents to be. Surely Mary made baby clothes? While Joseph, a carpenter, could have crafted a fine crib. And setting out on a journey close to the birth must have created anxiety, not to mention the distress of having no place to shelter. As Advent came to an end we decorated the space in a festive way to celebrate the arrival of the Baby Jesus.



But on Christmas Day, we gave thanks to God for the wonderful gift of His Son Jesus by adding a nativity mobile and three festive brightly coloured parcels in the Faith Space marked 'To Jesus from Me'.

**The human mind plans the way,
but the Lord directs the steps.**

For **Lent**, we decided to focus on the Stations of the Cross by placing a key word for each Station on a "paving stone", and which was expanded into a reflection pinned to the wall. The Stations at Ballintubber Abbey were a great inspiration

The paving stones formed the Cross on Good Friday, when parishioners were invited to sit in the Faith Space for private meditation. The Cross also provided the backdrop to the ecumenical Good Friday Service.

On Easter Sunday the Cross was transformed into a message of hope and joy, while rolled linen cloths were a reminder of the empty tomb.

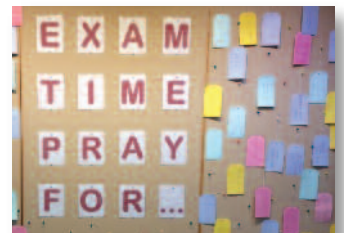
As **Easter** was early this year, there was not much time to celebrate the arrival of **Aspring**, but we did support the celebration of Love and Friendship organised by the Liturgy group, using our 'We are Family' banner.



Exam Time

As exam time looms, an interactive installation will hopefully remind parishioners to pray for all students whose names are written on labels pinned to the wall.

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.



Get colouring and when finished, drop in basket located in Faith Space near back of the church for display over the summer months.

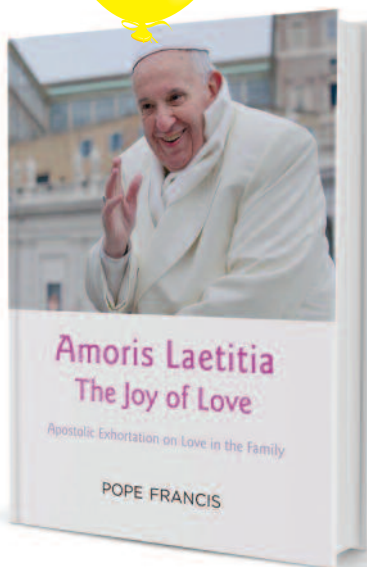
All our installations are the result of respectful but often hilarious group discussions and collaboration! We learn a lot from and with each other, but hope the Faith Space provides food for thought for parishioners also!

The Faith Space Team

HOPE

"WE ARE FAMILY" – Our journey leading to the World Meeting of Families 2018, Dublin.

START HERE



As a parish we chose our motto **"WE ARE FAMILY"** and our logo to guide and focus our gatherings and intention as we journeyed towards the World Meeting of Families (Aug 21-26).

Pope Francis asked of us that the event and its preparation would give families the opportunity 'to have a way of deepening their reflection and their sharing of the content of the ... **The Joy of Love** (Amoris Laetitia)'. And so we began...

We began in the months before Christmas with our **logo flags** (flying high ever since!) and a launch event where EVERYONE was invited to place a **handprint** on a huge banner which now decorates the belfry tower – such a colourful symbol of variety and diversity - just like family!

We moved on then to deal with the practicalities! We enjoyed and learned much from a very supportive and educational evening in our church with David Coleman (psychologist) who helped us around the area of **Effective Communication** within families.



(20th May), the summer and Ballydehob (reach out to elsewhere in



As Advent and Christmas fast approached, we ran a seasonal programme which, along with opportunities for prayer and reflection, included **Advent Wreath Making** for families and an **Advent / Carol Service** led by our Family Mass Choir.



Our **"WE ARE FAMILY"** (WMOF) conference. The two the

In the New Year then, after our annual **Baptism Mass** celebrating all the families of babies baptised in our parish in the previous year, the parish hosted a **Celebration of Love & Friendship** around the time of St Valentine's Day for all those celebrating wedding anniversaries, those recently married or engaged, partners and friends and anyone whom we love. It was an evening of music, poetry, re-commitment and refreshments - an occasion filled with meaning, song, love and laughter...we even cut (and shared) a cake (or two)!!



Later in February, Fr Tony facilitated evenings of conversation about **The Joy of Love** (Amoris Laetitia) – the central document to read in preparation for the World Meeting of Families. It addresses issues relating to family life today, relationships and the meaning of love. The meetings were warmly welcomed and allowed an open discussion of modern issues relating to marriage, love and indeed all our relationships.





Amoris

Let's talk Family! Let's be Family!



In March, with the heavy snow outside, we held a beautiful

Ceremony of Healing. Healing being central to the ministry of Jesus and the church today, we invited everyone afflicted by illness of body, mind or spirit to come for a blessing with holy oils. It was a very special occasion after which we gathered at the back of the church for tea/coffee and a chat.

As we moved through Lent, then Holy Week in April to the joy of the Easter Season we continued to pray for our parish as family in all its diversity. We joined parish families celebrating

Confirmation (13th April), then **First Holy Communion** in all three of our parish schools – Mount Anville Junior School (28th April), Scoil San Treasa (19th May) and Oatlands Primary School (26th May).

Along the way, our journey as a parish family took an unexpected turn as we learned of Fr Tony's diagnosis with Motor Neurone Disease and, as a parish community – a family, we drew close to offer love and support in a myriad of different ways including fundraising for his charity '**Walk While**

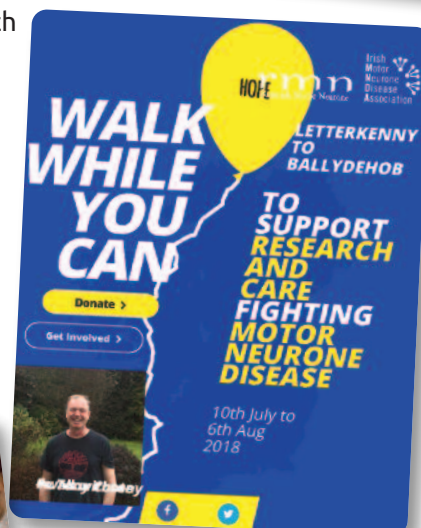
You Can' (www.yc.ie) with our Big Bring & Buy Bake Sale & Coffee Morning the Walk This Way Sponsored Walk (27th May) and other events to follow over as we support the WWYC fundraising journey from Letterkenny (10th July) to 6th August). We are aware too of the needs of others far from here and we them too through our support of the **Haiti Summer Projects** mentioned in this Parish News.

WMOF FAMILY" journey towards the World Meeting of Families continues and we welcome the news that Pope Francis will be there. WMOF events at which Pope Francis' attendance is confirmed are; Festival of Families 25th August (venue: Croke Park Stadium) and the Final Mass on Sunday 26th August (venue: Phoenix Park).

Both of these events are free but ticketed. Tickets will be limited subject to venue capacity and availability. At time of going to print, the tickets for both these events are not on general release.

Currently, it is still possible to register for the WMOF Congress 22nd–24th August (venue: RDS), which also includes the possibility of booking free tickets for the Festival of Families and the Final Mass. Further details will be released in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye on the website <https://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/> for further information.

May the Lord guide us on our continued journey. Amen





Through the lens

HOPE

Bless our Parish Holy Communicants and those confirmed in 2018.





reverence and poignancy of the prayer and walking together was a profound experience, I think, for all of us.

It is often difficult to convey a deep experience to others but I hope you can appreciate some of it from the description and words above. On the return a number of people commented on the sense of community and deepening of connections amongst people who lived in the parish and knew each other now in a new way. My great thanks to all of you who came to Aran, for your openness and great sense of community and for making the job of organizer a very easy one.

Caroline Kehoe, Parish Catechist

Caroline's Corner

As I sit down to write today on this the first day of May I am full of the experience of having spent a wonderful few days with people from the parishes of Mount Merrion and Kilmacud on Inis Mór. As part of the parish team's vision for the year and our ongoing aim to offer and support education, exploration of spirituality and diverse experiences of faith education in the parishes, this pilgrimage / retreat provided an opportunity to take some time away with others to connect and reflect after Easter. Along with the *post Easter talks with Michael Screene* and our *Renewal and Funeral Ministry training* over the last months we wanted to offer something nourishing and contemplative for people to experience together: time out from the busy lives that we find ourselves in.

Inis Mór is a place rich in our Celtic Christian heritage and the place where the great monastic schools of St Enda and Ciarán were established. Over the course of the 4 days the group was wonderfully and gently facilitated by Deirdre Ní Chinnéide to take time to explore and connect with this great spiritual tradition that is very close to us and, through gentle prayer silence and

gathering together, we all returned nourished and feeling blessed by the experience.

There were many wonderful moments over the course of the few days and a personal highlight was the walking of the rounds at St. Ciarán's well. We were invited to collect 7 stones and walk around the well remembering and connecting with those dear to us and for whom we wanted to pray. We walked in the footsteps of the generations of people who have gone before us and who all over Ireland at the place of holy wells for hundreds of years have prayed and remembered their loved ones in this elemental way. We were silent and the



Limerick Choral Festival



The Choir came in 2nd Place in the Youth Choirs Competition of this year's Limerick Choral Festival in March.

Colour your way from Letterkenny to Ballydehob

HOPE



First name:

Age:

Have fun colouring in this page and when finished, drop in basket located in Faith Space near back of the church. Your artwork will be displayed in the space over the summer months, so do come and check it out!

Bake Sale in aid of wwyc.ie – what a wonderful community morning...



GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

This Regulation (data protection rules) comes into force across the EU on 25th May 2018.

What is it?

The Regulation strengthens the rights of individuals and gives you control over your personal data. Stricter measures will be introduced for organisations that collect, control and process your personal data.

How is the Parish preparing?

Briefings have been held recently in Clonliffe to outline how each Parish should prepare. This month a questionnaire will be sent to all Parish staff and co-ordinators of the volunteer groups. They will be asked to state the personal data they have gathered for their work/voluntary activity, how they hold it and use it. Retention periods for different types of personal data will be advised to the Parish by the Diocese.

A Data Privacy Notice on the Parish website provides more detail <https://www.mountmerrionparish.ie/data-privacy-notice-the-parish-of-st-therese-mount-merrion/>

Additional Information

The Data Protection Commissioner has made information available at www.dataprotection.ie and <http://gdprandyou.ie/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Concert in Church, Fundraiser for Motor Neurone Disease – Friday 15th June @ 7.30pm

'Drink Tea for MND' – around 21st June

Fr. Tony's Walk from Letterkenny to Ballydehob

www.wwyc.ie

10th July to 6th August

World Meeting of Families 21st-26th August

Pope's visit 25th-26th August

Parish AGM - Tuesday 25th September (tbc)

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everyone 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 volunteer and share your gifts within a parish group or if you have ideas to share...

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

MOUNT MERRION

WEEKEND MASSES:

SATURDAY 6.00pm

SUNDAYS

10.00am [Parish Choir]

11.15am [Family Mass]

7.30pm [Youth Group]

MON, WED, THURS, FRI & SAT:

10.00am

TUES: 10.00am

Liturgy of the Word Service with Holy Communion

MASS TIMES

CLONSKEAGH

WEEKEND MASSES:

SATURDAY 6.30pm

SUNDAYS

10.30am

MONDAY TO SATURDAY:

10.00am

KILMACUD

WEEKEND MASSES:

SATURDAY 6.00pm

SUNDAYS

10.00am and 11.30am

MON, TUES, WED, FRI & SAT:

10.00am

THURS: 10.00am

Liturgy of the Word Service with Holy Communion

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