

JESUS IS THE GIVER OF SIGHT

Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

22nd March 2020

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
www.mountmerrionparish.ie

LAUDATO SI: Lenten and Easter Reflections "Finding God in A Leaf"

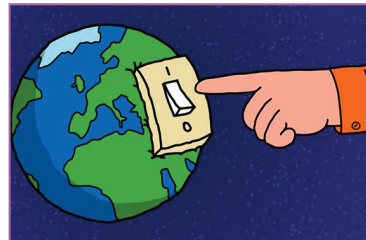
Given the Covid Virus Delay policy and current Diocesan and parish arrangements, it would seem best to cancel this Monday's scheduled "Finding God in A Leaf" session (No.3)



Our sympathies to the family, relatives and friends of **Gerard Cooney, Mary Fogarty, David Earlie, Aidan Moran, Sheila McAleese, Dermot O'Beirne, Daniel O'Leary and Peggy McManus** whose funeral took place here recently.

NOTICE

Mass will be broadcast each day
from the RTE News Channel
[on Sky that is 521]



Join millions for the global lights out event and be part of the generation who are choosing to CARE for our world by SWITCHING OFF your lights for ONE HOUR on **SATURDAY, 28th MARCH 2020, 8.30-9.30pm.**

Wake up from your sleep and Christ will shine on you!

Each year Laetare ('Rejoice') Sunday gives encouragement to all those travelling the Lenten road to Holy Week and Easter.

Today's readings affirm that I do not make this journey alone. I am offered a helping hand by the Lord who is my shepherd and guide (Psalm). By leading me on the right path in goodness, he is being true to his name. I want for nothing. Though I may have been walking in darkness, even sometimes feeling as if I am trapped in the valley of the shadow of death, I am now exposed to the light of the Lord. And the Lord, looking with love at my heart rather than at external appearances (First Reading), illuminates me, turning me into light (Second Reading). Jesus curing the man born blind is a well-known piece of scripture (Gospel). Perhaps I am like the one without sight who can suddenly see. And finding myself looking at the Son of Man, I can come to believe and to trust in him even more deeply. Reason, indeed, to rejoice today!

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and
unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

6.00 Micky and Maura Breen – A
Fionan & Maura Moriarty – A

Sunday 22nd

10.00 Padraic O'Shea – A
Micky and Maura Breen – A
Fionan & Maura Moriarty – A
Lorna Kennedy – 1st A
Margaret Devane – A

Monday 23rd

10.00 For all who are ill

Tuesday 24th

10.00 Liturgical Service

Wednesday 25th

10.00 Ellen Dunne – A
Rose McDonald – A

Thursday 26th

10.00 Living & Deceased members of St.
Joseph's Young Priests Society

Friday 27th

10.00

Saturday 28th

10.00

Sunday 29th

10.00 Celine McCormack - A
John Cullen – A
Joe Stanley – A
Patrick & Rosaleen McGann – A
Margaret Moran - A

Any Mass Intentions that are booked for the weekends will be included in the Sunday 10.00am Mass which will be on our Webcam

Press the Pause Button

The current public health crisis has given rise to understandable anxiety. While mass gatherings are not possible we can remain united in prayer, music and reflection. Here is a possible 8 step programme to follow or adapt to your own situation. The **music suggestions** are taken from the Emmanuel 2020 Programme for second level schools in the Archdiocese of Dublin. They are available on iTunes and Spotify.



Slow Me Down Lord (Bernadette Egan) will set the scene for this time of reflection.



1. Sit on a step for five minutes. Bring to mind a time when you were less than Christian in your dealings with others. 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' (John 13:35)
They'll Know We Are Christians (Peter Scholte)

2. Become a hermit for a while. Take an hour off from your mobile phone or internet to be quiet with your own thoughts. Protect this 'godly' time with a wall of stillness



3. Try to notice when your mind is taken over by cruel or vengeful thoughts about others. Every time you wash your hands consciously let go of these thoughts.
The Face Of Peace (Sam Shortall)



4. If going out for a walk put on the hat of thoughtfulness, the cloak of charity and shoes of goodness. Open yourself to an awareness of the presence of Christ in each other.
You The Christ (Ian Callanan)



5. God's mercy is poured out freely on us. Every time you pour a glass of water, tea or milk simply stop and say 'Lord have mercy'.



6. The word humility has a root in the Latin for earth or ground. Every time you stand up or put your feet on the floor pray for humility. Become 'grounded' and aware of the source of your blessings.
Blinded By Your Grace (Thorneycroft-Smith, Owuo and Emenike)

LET US JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER



O almighty and eternal God,
refreshment in our weariness, support in weakness:
from you all creatures receive energy, existence and life.

We come to you to invoke your mercy because
today we know deeply the fragility of our human condition
as we live in the midst of a new viral epidemic.

We entrust the sick and their families to you:
bring healing to their body, their mind and their spirit.

Help all members of society to carry out their tasks well
and strengthen the spirit of solidarity among them.

Support and comfort the doctors and health professionals
on the front line and all the carers in carrying out their service.

You, who are the source of all good,
bless the entire human family abundantly,
remove all evil from us and grant us firm faith, hope and love.

Free us from the epidemic that is affecting us
so that we can return to our usual occupations calmly
and praise you and thank you with a renewed heart.

In you we trust and raise our plea to you because you, Father, are the
author of life, and with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in unity with
the Holy Spirit, live and reign forever and ever. Amen.
Mary, our Mother, health of the sick, pray for us!

[Rough translation of a prayer recently issued by the Italian Bishops Conference]



7. When you take a drink pause and listen for the voice of Jesus.
'Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?' (Matthew 20:22)
Gospel Plow (Trad: Rory Cooney)

8. Patience is an important survival tool to have under our belt
these days when we are doing our best to be safe and to protect
others in our family and community.



*'Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.'*

*And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.'* (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin S.J.)

Keep Me Safe O God (Ian Callanan)

Be Nice (Sarah Hart) is a good motto to have at all times. Stay safe.

