

So don't be afraid:  
you are worth  
more than  
many sparrows.



## MOUNT MERRION PARISH

21<sup>st</sup> June 2020

[www.mountmerrionparish.ie](http://www.mountmerrionparish.ie)

### PARISH TEAM

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### PARISH OFFICE

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.mountmerrionparish.ie](http://www.mountmerrionparish.ie)

### COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary.

The support line is open seven days a week,

8am - 8pm by calling [0818 222 024](tel:0818222024)

Rest in  
Peace

Our sympathies to the family, relatives and friends of **Seamus Smyth and Mona Smiley** whose funeral took place here recently.

### A FEW WORDS FROM FR JOE

The reopening of the churches for Mass on June 29<sup>th</sup> is in a sense a new beginning for the faithful, for priests and all who belong in the family of faith. Pope Francis was reflecting during the week on the possibility that some things will change now, that a new church will emerge from this long period of prayer and reflection that has been happening while we have been fasting from the Eucharist, staying apart from family and friends and waiting for the pandemic to pass. So, are we going to return to 'normal' or will there be new shoots in the garden of the church? The honest answer is none of us really knows.

The experience of being away from Mass won't really affect those who rarely come to Mass! The real sense of disappointment and loss felt by the children all ready for First Communion and Confirmation, with their families was very real and will no doubt be remembered for many years to come. For those with the habit of weekly and daily attendance at Mass there will be a discernment as to whether this is the right moment to return, for some it will be a simple yes, for others there will be an extension to the waiting as anxiety, underlying conditions or care for other members of the household will make it difficult to gather in a crowd.

This past week, since the rules were relaxed, has meant when we are out and about there are many more people sharing the common space. So now social distancing is more difficult and maybe more important, and whether to wear masks or not a much more pressing concern. In our parishes, as a response to the Bishop's guidelines, a COVID 19 committee is looking at the space inside the churches, measuring distances, closing off seats, setting up sanitation points, putting signage on doors, markers on floors and cleaning, cleaning, cleaning. But no matter what we do to prepare we don't know whether the space we have, for the numbers we can safely accommodate will be sufficient. We will struggle to cope if more people come and logically we have to close the doors, turn away those who want to enter and pray. We will only find peace if everyone is thinking of others. We will all need to change at least a little! It will take more time to assemble and be ready for Mass, so come early! Sanitising at the doors will mean waiting in line, some people will wisely bring their own sanitiser and help speed up that process. Finding our way to the 'green' seats which are available, avoiding the red seats which are closed off, maintaining the 2 metres distancing. Avoiding the church completely if we have a head cold, coughs and sniffles just won't work when inside with others.

Working out the best way to distribute communion, managing to cater for the senior members of the community, integrating music, using missalettes just the once, surviving without toilets, using a different door, all of these little changes will be demanding for us. If it does happen that the 'church full' notice means you can't come in, then please be generous enough to come back to a later Mass, or come to a Mass during the week, perhaps log in when you get home and watch the Mass on the website.

We are a supportive community and these coming weeks will be an opportunity to put our patience, resilience and community spirit into action. Thank you in advance for your co-operation. If you have any thoughts or ideas then please drop me a line or chat to one of the COVID 19 committee members. I am so looking forward to seeing your smiling faces in front of me when celebrating the Mass. as we pray together.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>

10.00

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

10.00 Mary O'Shea – A

Anita Gallagher – A

John Shanahan - A

Patrick Dunne – Special Intention

Special Intention

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

10.00 Baby Molly – M.M

For all who are ill

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

10.00 Liturgical Service

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

10.00 Sean Tiernan – A

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

10.00

Friday 26<sup>th</sup>

10.00

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

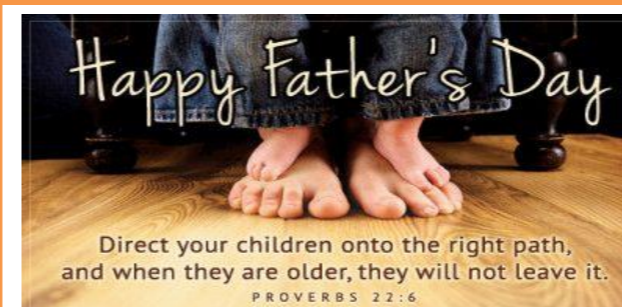
10.00

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>

10.00 John and Eileen Fennessy – A

Mary Gough – A

Due to COVID-19 the church remains CLOSED at Mass times but is open daily for private prayer after 10am Mass / Liturgy of the Word. All Masses and liturgies are accessible via: [www.mountmerrionparish.ie/webcam/](http://www.mountmerrionparish.ie/webcam/) Any Mass Intentions that are booked for the weekends will be included in the Sunday 10.00am Mass.



DO NOT LOOK FORWARD IN FEAR  
TO THE CHANGES IN LIFE; RATHER, LOOK TO  
THEM WITH FULL HOPE  
THAT AS THEY ARISE, GOD,

*Whose very own you are,*

WILL LEAD YOU SAFELY THROUGH ALL  
THINGS; AND WHEN YOU CANNOT STAND I  
GOD WILL CARRY YOU IN HIS ARMS.

*Do not fear*

WHAT MAY HAPPEN TOMORROW;  
THE SAME UNDERSTANDING FATHER WHO  
CARES FOR YOU TODAY WILL TAKE CARE OF  
YOU THEN AND EVERY DAY.

HE WILL EITHER SHIELD YOU FROM SUFFERING  
OR WILL GIVE YOU  
UNFAILING STRENGTH TO BEAR IT.

*Be at peace*

AND PUT ASIDE ALL ANXIOUS  
THOUGHTS AND IMAGINATIONS.

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

### BE KIND

As lockdown starts to ease you decide for you, I'll decide for me. None of us have the same circumstances (medically high risk child/ family member or a business about to go under, etc.) Let's all stay in our own lanes and keep the judgement down as we begin to unlock. No one should feel pressured either way. Just a thought; As all of us are trying to figure out how to ease back into normal, please remember:

Some people don't agree with the unlocking, that's ok. Be kind.

Some people are still planning to stay home, that's ok. Be kind.

Some are still scared of getting the virus and a second wave happening, that's ok. Be kind.

Some are sighing with relief to go back to work knowing they may not lose their business or their homes, that's ok. Be kind.

Some are thankful they can finally have the surgery they have had put off, that's ok. Be kind.

Some will be able to attend interviews after weeks without a job, that's ok. Be kind.

Some will wear masks for weeks, that's ok. Be kind.

Some people will rush out to get their hair or nails done, that's ok. Be kind.

The point is, everyone has different viewpoints/feelings and that's ok. Be kind.

We each have a different story. If you need to stay home, stay home. But be kind. If you need to go out, just respect others when in public and be kind!

Don't judge fellow humans because you're not in their story. We all are in different mental states than we were months ago.

So remember. **BE KIND.**



### Jesus instructed the Twelve: 'Do not be afraid'

Today's readings are very apt for our current times, where many of us are experiencing vulnerability, tension, and unpredictability.

Yet as followers of Christ, we are being called to trust in God our Father, who knows us intimately and understands our needs. In the **First Reading**, we hear Jeremiah's challenging voice giving an unpopular message to the people, who must change their self-centred way of living. In his isolation, Jeremiah turns to the Lord to ask for help, for he needs friendship in very real ways in his difficulties.

The **Psalm** is a cry of anguish from one in great danger. Yet despite his distress, the psalmist has confidence in the great love of God. Paul teaches that the consequence of sin is 'death': a death that includes the death of our friendship with God. But Paul also emphasises the abundant reality of divine grace; a free gift introduced into the world through Christ Jesus (**Second Reading**).

In today's **Gospel**, Jesus reminds the Twelve that they are not promised success; they will suffer. Yet he bids them repeatedly, 'Do not be afraid'. The Father's tender care will never desert them. God is on their side: not as a remote figure, but as a Father who has intimate knowledge of and care for each of them.

In these our own times of trial and vulnerability, we pray for God's guidance and teaching. 'Lord, you invite us to cry out with complete confidence in the Father's boundless love. This day we offer you praise and thanks for your abundant gifts to us in our poverty and weakness.'