



Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter IN MEMORY OF FR. TONY

'When the train stops I will step onto that platform with hope and no fear'

30th August 2020

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Joe Mullan Administrator
Mount Merrion, Kilmacud & Clonskeagh
79 The Rise - text 087 232 6254
email jmullan39@eircom.net

Fr. Paddy O'Byrne C.C.
Kilmacud Tel: 2882257

Fr. Brian O'Reilly A.P

Audrey O'Sullivan Chairperson, PPC

PARISH OFFICE

Monday – Friday 9am – 12pm

Rosemary Dempsey & Vivienne Dempsey
Tel. 2881271

E:parishoffice@mountmerrionparish.ie

COMMUNITY CENTRE Tel. 2884485
E:mountmerrioncommunitycentre@gmail.com

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
Helpline 086 6009857

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
www.mountmerrionparish.ie

Fr Tony: Bearer of Hope

We were blessed to have had Fr Tony as our 'parish priest' and friend for 10 years. Ours was his first parish appointment and Tony brought an energy and freshness which was joyous, occasionally chaotic and always liberating. Children and parents alike, making their way to school, will remember the raised hand and cheery 'Hiya', as Tony strode up the carpark to the church in the morning. Others will remember the easy response 'Cool!...let's do it!' agreeing to every positive idea or initiative which crossed anyone's mind in the course of a meeting (always brief!) or a casual chat.

There were many recipients of Tony's quiet kindnesses – the visit in tough times, the kind word, the funny story, the thoughtful gift, the shared coffee or bottle of wine. He brought joy and good humour with his warm smile and frequent laugh; he prompted reflection with those succinct homilies and he gathered us together in prayer; at Mass, through inspired liturgies, on retreat in Glendalough or the Aran Islands, on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, in novena prayer to St Óscar Romero - whose life and courage inspired him.

Through these myriad of ways he drew us to the Jesus he spoke of and to the values which Jesus Christ shared with us during His life on earth. Pope Francis speaks to us of attracting people to the Joy of the Gospel. Tony epitomised that, indeed it was said of him by one of his doctors that he embodied his faith. Tony's faith inspired action and outreach – to the Syrian refugees, to the people of Haiti and of course for the IMNDA ...and we walked with him, while we could.

Having moved here from his chaplaincy role in UCD, Tony continued to reach out to young people and some, inspired by Tony, hiked to Glendalough, travelled to World Youth Days or volunteered in Haiti. Some say it was one of the best experiences of their lives. We hear tell now of plans for a new Tony Coote wing of a school in Haiti and hope it brings much closeness between our parishes and the people of Haiti. What a legacy that would be for our dear Fr Tony!

Tony's vision was of an open, healing and welcoming Church. 'Love, not Judgement' he had emblazoned on flags flying during the Year of the Mercy. To illustrate our parish family - handprints of all colours and sizes proudly stamped, by any and all who wished to join in, on huge banners subsequently affixed to the external walls of Clonskeagh, Kilmacud and Mount Merrion churches. If there was a suggestion that the execution of such an paint project might cause a bit of a mess, Tony eyes would light up at the sheer chaos and fun of it! Tony had a great capacity for joy - the handprint project was fun and was a powerful visual representation of inclusion.

Tony's faith, as he told us later, in his book 'Live While You Can', was predicated on the three pillars of Inclusivity, Compassion and Love. His parish initiatives latterly too, reflected those three pillars. Tony reached out, with the PPC, to the LGBT community and hosted them and their families in his home. He wanted to offer a safe space where life stories could be heard. Tony encouraged lay-led liturgy and welcomed new opportunities for women in particular, to gather, to have their voices heard and to lead.

Tony's faith and hope in the face of his diagnosis and death were inspirational and he attributed that to his faithful family, his dear friends, the kindness of his parishioners and his closeness to Jesus. Writing, the year before he died, Tony said "I have always felt close to Jesus Christ...I cling to him now and know that despite any darkness there will always be a glimmer of light." Tony spoke powerfully of that glimmer of light...that Hope. He chose a yellow balloon as a symbol of Hope for WWYC ...and he was a bearer of that Christian Hope to us, his parishioners, too. We thank God for his life. As we remember him and his family and grieve him on the first anniversary of his death, we remember too his challenge to us;

'Wherever we are, remember that goodness is within us and lets us be bearers of hope.'

Fr Tony Coote R.I.P.
16-06-1964 – 28-08-2019

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 29th
6.00 Fr. Tony Coote – 1st A
Tommy McLaughlin 1st A
Sunday 30th
10.00 Fr. Tony Coote 1st A
Philomena Donnelly – A
Brian Murphy – 20th A
11.15 Fr. Tony Coote 1st A
Anthony Redmond - M.M.
7.30 Fr. Tony Coote – 1st A
Mary O Colmain – A
Monday 31st
10.00 For all who are ill
Tuesday 1st September
10.00 Liturgical Service
Wednesday 2nd
10.00
Thursday 3rd
10.00 Special Intention
Josephine O'Leary - A
Friday 4th
10.00 Altar Lists
Saturday 5th
10.00
12.00 Oatlands Confirmations
6.00 Brendan ODonoghue – 1st A
Don & Marie Cockburn – A
Sunday 6th
10.00 Kay, Declan & Paul Reddy – A
Mary & Denis Coveney – A
11.15
7.30 Ann Sweetman – A
Tom Murphy - A

LITANY OF LOVE & THANKSGIVING: [prayed by Fr Tony]



Response: We thank you

God of Love, we thank you for the many ways we have been given a touch of your goodness. **We thank you.**

For the love that draws us to friendship and fidelity. **We thank you.**

For love that leads us to kindness and compassion. **We thank you.**

For love that draws us towards the sacred and the serene. **We thank you.**

For love that soothes our heartaches and gentles our pain. **We thank you.**

For love that sees the worth and beauty in each human being. We thank you. For love that reaches out in forgiveness. **We thank you.**

For love that offers the hand of warm welcome. **We thank you.**

For love that urges us to take risks and have courage. **We thank you.**

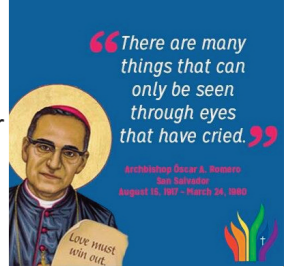
For love that is tenderness. **We thank you.**

ST ÓSCAR ROMERO



This year marks the 40th anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Óscar Romero, shot dead as he celebrated Mass in San Salvador.

Our St. Óscar Romero icon, written by the iconographer Sr Rosaleen Hogan and blessed by Fr Tony during the Easter Vigil 2018, is situated near the Gathering Area in the church.



Fr Tony had a particular interest in and drew inspiration from the remarkable life and courage of St Óscar Romero. Shortly before his death, Fr Tony invited us to join him in a novena of prayer to St Óscar Romero. Last week, in remembrance of Fr. Tony, we echoed that initiative in a triduum of prayer ending on Fr Tony's anniversary. **St. Oscar Romero, pray for us**



A prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

-Pope Francis, Laudato Si

Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association



This year, as Covid-19 has played havoc with plans, we are encouraged to join something special by taking part in "Walk While You Can, Where You Can" for the IMNDA anytime from the 28th August (Fr. Tony's 1st anniversary) to 12th September (the day we would have walked together in the Phoenix Park as we did last year). You can register online by simply visiting imnda.ie

