



# Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

11th October 2020

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

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## PARISH OFFICE

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



This set of keys were left in the church a few weeks ago. The owner can collect at the sacristy. Thank you

## OLD RADIOS

Can parishioners who have the old radios that they used to listen to the Mass bring them back to the Parish Office.

## ECO AWARENESS

Following completion of an eco-audit (check-up), St Therese's has received Eco-Congregation Ireland's "AWARENESS" certificate, which encourages the parish's hope to together incorporate environmental measures into all aspects of church life, thereby celebrating Creation in this anniversary year of Laudato Si (May 2020-May 2021) and into the future.  
[www.ecocongregationireland.com](http://www.ecocongregationireland.com)



## A few words from the Parish Priest...

Two weeks ago, writing in the Newsletter, I expressed my opinion that if the level 3 restrictions were going to be extended that some new initiatives would need to be explored to connect parishioners, clergy, and ministry groups. We now know that for a further 3 weeks, at the very least, we will not be able to gather at the church, share the Eucharist in person or meet face to face. This is a hugely challenging moment for me personally, for most clergy and many parishioners. So, what can we do? Perhaps there are possibilities in becoming a competent 'Digital Parish' using the internet, web streaming, Zoom and Facebook more fully. Before suggesting any innovations, I would first applaud those who prepare the Parish News a couple of times a year and deliver it to every household, a huge amount of work. Also, those who prepare a weekly newsletter, and maintain a Website and a Facebook page.

I have been delighted in the way that many people have shared their positive experiences of participation in Mass and sacraments from the webcam. Yet there is a lot of room for improvement, we have a very basic older camera, the live feed sometimes disappears, and the recording services do not always work. We could, as a Parish, invest in a camera system that can zoom in and focus on different areas in the church. We can certainly explore which providers can enhance our experience. There would of course be a financial cost to any innovation.

We can also consider developing a Parish App, which would be similar to the website but make communications with parishioners and groups very fast, with parish information accessible via your mobile phone to access Parish communications, different ministry group, parish activities etc. Have a look at the Newbridge parish app if you would like to see an excellent example of this technology. Moving from paper to online could be part of our Eco-parish development.

We can explore new ways of having talks and meetings online as most work places are currently doing. This would allow groups to meet and priests and catechists virtual access to the classrooms of children preparing for sacraments, making online visits. We could use Zoom or a similar platform.

The Parish Council discussed these points on Tuesday and will quickly do some research and make definite proposals. They were very enthusiastic about Mount Merrion becoming a Digital Parish, bringing about wider connections and meeting parishioner needs as we navigate more lock down measures over the Winter months. I will ask the Finance Committee to assess whatever spending may be necessary. Then for all this to make an impact we will depend on parishioners to also adapt and change, to log in and watch, to join Zoom meetings and download the App, to cherish the connections we have with each other and to continue to innovate, move forward and build up the parish.

## "Tap and Donate"

The terminal in the church has had some problems recently. The connection to the server was lost. Hopefully the internal memory will have held the information on the recent donations which will be processed very soon. Many thanks to those who have used the terminal. All donations made in this way are for the parish

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 10th

10.00 Aileen O'Doherty - A

Sunday 11th

10.00 Maureen & Eileen Craddock – A

Joe Soden – A

Shaun & Pat McCarthy – 60th Wedding A

Maura, Ita Cleary and Vera Gallagher A

Monday 12th

10.00 For all who are ill

Tuesday 13th

10.00 Liturgical Service

Wednesday 14th

10.00 Timlin family

Thursday 15th

10.00

Friday 16th

10.00

Saturday 17th

10.00

Sunday 18th

10.00 Brigid Murtagh – A

Eddie & Mary Cummins – A

Tom & Carmel O'Mara – A

The family & friends of Tom and Carmel O'Mara

Special Intention

## World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday is the Holy Father's annual appeal so the life-giving work of missionaries can continue. This year celebrations will take place over the weekend of the 18th October.

During this time, all parishes worldwide will offer Mass collections and donations to aid the work of missionaries and mission overseas. World Mission Sunday takes place in every parish where the Church is present. Including, not only across Ireland and Europe, but also in poorer parishes in the developing world. This is why it is such a special moment because it allows all members of the universal Church family, regardless of location or background, to play a part in supporting each other.

Right now, missionaries desperately need our support. In many poorer parishes in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, missionaries are on the front line. They already do so much. Walking hand-in-hand with marginalised communities, long before and long after any emergency. Worryingly the pandemic means World Mission Sunday is in real jeopardy. Show missionaries you care by supporting World Mission Sunday. Your prayers and generosity will change lives.

**“Our task is to serve the poor. Even when it becomes difficult, we are ready to move forward!”**

Sister Marie Catherine, Niger, West Africa



## Pope's Prayer Intention – October 2020

The Laity's Mission in the Church



*We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.*

## COME TO THE WEDDING!



Parable of the Wedding Feast, Nelly Bube (Kazakhstan)

Images of banquets and feasting, of hospitality and generosity abound in this week's readings.

In the **First Reading**, the prophet Isaiah tells how God will prepare a banquet of rich food for all peoples. He will remove their sadness so that all will rejoice in the saving hand of God.

**The Psalm** echoes the theme of the care that God, as shepherd, has for all his people. It ends with an image of a banquet and generous hospitality.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, has utter confidence that God will give him strength as he faces hardship in prison. This is revealed through the generosity of others, who will be amply rewarded.

**The Gospel** from St Matthew offers us yet another parable of the Kingdom. The messianic banquet is offered to all, Jews and Gentiles – though some refuse and are rejected. All of us, good and bad alike, have only to respond to the invitation.

The wedding feast is not just a heavenly banquet: the Kingdom is in the here and now. What invitations, in the banquet of life, will come my way this week?

## A PRAYER TO THE CREATOR

**LORD, FATHER OF OUR HUMAN FAMILY,  
YOU CREATED ALL HUMAN BEINGS EQUAL IN DIGNITY:  
POUR FORTH INTO OUR HEARTS A FRATERNAL SPIRIT**

**AND INSPIRE IN US  
A DREAM OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER,  
DIALOGUE, JUSTICE AND PEACE.**

**MOVE US TO CREATE HEALTHIER SOCIETIES  
AND A MORE DIGNIFIED WORLD,  
A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER, POVERTY,  
VIOLENCE AND WAR.**

Franciscus

