

Pay Caesar what
belongs to Caesar --
and God what belongs
to God.

Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

18th October 2020

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
www.mountmerrionparish.ie



DONATION ENVELOPES AVAILABLE
AT THE CHURCH

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.

Watch the Pope's video on
www.mountmerrionparish.ie

A few words from Fr Joe.....

I had a little look around at the confessionals when I arrived in Mt Merrion. In my previous parish, when I started, there were four massive confessionals, we had two dismantled and disposed of, we used another and the fourth was full of chairs and boxes of candles. Here there are a couple of functioning, but little used confessionals and another one that has been converted into a very discreet cupboard for the altar servers albs.

If you tuned into 'Confessors' on RTE on Monday evening you will have seen that this story is replicated all over the country. The rather engaging documentary gave many insights, it showed some beautiful and immaculately kept parish churches, it made light of the many and varied ways that redundant confessionals are now used.

Then little by little it allowed many ordinary, decent priests speak about their experience as confessors, as they mildly administered the sacrament of reconciliation. In their commentary, they chatted about the history of the sacrament in their own life time and down through the ages, and in the conversation the image of God moved from stern judge to loving father.

The first confessions of those preparing for their Communion allowed the viewer to compare the contemporary experience with their own and many will have registered the comfort and ease of the little ones and the supportive encouragement of the confessors.

When the programme moved into the period of Covid 19 it left the churches and entered into the priests' kitchens and parlours and porches, and the ever-cheerful fathers fiddled with the iPhone, lights and internet connection so as to stream the Mass. Confessions were not only out of the box, but out in the fresh air, with due social distance.

My personal memory to take away was the image of the celebrant, looking out from his makeshift altar in a doorway, to the people gathered in their cars, and all extending a hand from within to wave a salute of friendship and solidarity with each other. It was an insight into the smaller, more humble church to which we hope many will return and encounter their God and brothers and sisters on the journey to holiness and peace.



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 18th

10.00 Brigid Murtagh – a
Eddie and Mary Cummins – A
Tom & Carmel O'Mara – A
The family and friends of Tom and Carmel O'Mara.
Special Intention
Hal and Marcella McCarthy - A
Sean Mulligan – 1st A
Caitlin Macraith – 1st A
Deirdre O'Callaghan – 1st A
Marie Schuster – M.M

Monday 19th

10.00 For all who are ill
James Vincent Nolan – R.D

Tuesday 20th

10.00 Liturgical Service

Wednesday 21st

10.00 Kathleen Dineen – A
Marie Dunne – A

Thursday 22nd

10.00 Anne Griffin – A

Friday 23rd

10.00 Kitty and Paddy Lyons – A

Saturday 24th

10.00

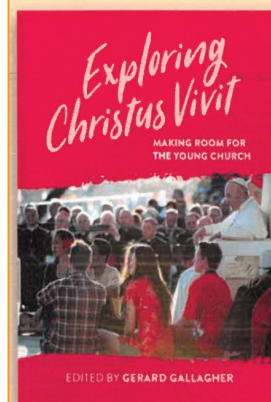
Sunday 25th

10.00 Dan and Colette Dowling – 30th A
Andrew and Ita Crotty – B.R

VERITAS publications invites you to the virtual launch of

Exploring Christus Vivit

MAKING ROOM FOR
THE YOUNG CHURCH



Launched by
Archbishop Eamon Martin,
Archbishop of Armagh

In conversation with
Dermot Kelly,
Redemptorists Ireland, Director
of Youth Ministry

Paul Jarzembowski,
National coordinator for youth and
young adult ministries, United States
Conference of Catholic Bishops

Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ,
Consultor to the General Secretariat
of Synod of Bishops

Wednesday,
21 October at 6.30 p.m.

To register please email:
events@veritas.ie

Give to God what belongs to God

Today's readings concentrate on God as ruler over all the world.

The **First Reading** teaches us about the relationship between God and Cyrus, one of the most powerful earthly rulers. Even though Cyrus did not know God, God works through him, giving Cyrus all that he needs to help accomplish God's plans.

The **Psalm** is a song full of praise for the Lord, who is 'above all gods', and who will judge fairly. The psalmist calls us to speak of the Lord's greatness and glory throughout the world, and to pay him worship and honour.

In the **Second Reading**, St Paul gives thanks to God and prays for the Christian community in Thessalonica. Chosen and loved by God, the community – aided by the power of the Holy Spirit, and strengthened by its faith and hope in God – continues in its work.

The **Gospel** message is that we belong completely to God and are therefore called to offer God our entire selves. Jesus is aware that the Pharisees and Herodians are trying to trip him up when they ask if Jewish people should pay taxes to the Romans. Although he confirms that this is reasonable, at the same time he also affirms that our first duty is to serve God, and to give God what is due.

This week, maybe we can pray for the rulers and leaders of our world, particularly during these difficult times, asking that God will work through them towards justice and peace. We ask too that the Holy Spirit will guide each of us in how we can serve God best.