

Mount Merrion

PARISH NEWS

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PARISH WEBSITE

www.mountmerrionparish.ie



Find us on Facebook

A FEW WORDS FROM FR. JOE...

What a first year it's been! Was it Dickens who spoke about the best of times and the worst of times?

The past 12 months have been a roller coaster with some weeks a blur of intensely demanding ministry, with so many funerals, and then extraordinarily quiet weeks in the depth of lock down. The first 6 weeks passed in a flash in the build up to Christmas, with lovely carols, uplifting liturgies, a packed church for Masses and so many warm words of greeting and welcome. Then we had the Peace Mass on New Year's Day and all looked good for 2020. Like the man in the Gospel who was content with his barns full of grain, we just had no idea what lay ahead. Covid-19 had crashed into our consciousness by mid-February and arrived into Ireland with a vengeance, targeting the elderly, the frail, especially those in nursing homes while we all entered in to a St Patrick's Day lockdown. Sadly, many lovely people died in the following months and we were not spared here in Mount Merrion. Gatherings of 10, made for sombre funerals, with the webcam a life line to families and friends who couldn't be present. It's been a year like no other. We are still waiting to complete the Confirmations and Communion, supporting engaged couples, and not at all sure how to begin the 2021 commitments.

So there is a huge question – what sort of parish will we be post Covid? I hope people will flock back to Mass and make up for all the time that we couldn't gather. That the sacraments will be appreciated all the more and that our faith will have matured and strengthened. I'm sure we will all be even more aware of how fragile life is, how much we need God and value our community of believers. We will have developed the digital dimension of parish and some of the blessings of technology will be embedded into how we relate to each other. Like all roller coaster rides it has been an exciting, exhilarating, stomach-churning journey. You don't control, steer or drive the roller coaster, you just hope to get off safely. I'm so proud of the parishioners who have kept the show on the road, supported the Masses, consoled the bereaved, cared for the children, looked after the priests and made it all worthwhile.

I'm looking forward to another Christmas with you and a New Year. Saying goodbye to 2020 won't be hard and my heart is full of hope that 2021 will allow us all more time shared together in prayer, in life, in friendship.

Fr. Joe Mullan



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

WAITING IN HOPE & EXPECTATION

Hello!

Welcome to your Autumn issue of the Parish News!

This year we reflect on what has been a very challenging and unprecedented time in all our lives. There have been some joys as we discover anew the beauty of nature, the importance of family, friends and neighbours but many lows with Covid-19 restrictions, illness and, for some, bereavement. Through all this, however, remains the strong heartbeat that is our Community. We support one another. We know we will be together again.

Work continues behind the scenes; Solèy Haiti's initiatives from afar in Haiti as they strive to support those in need; the work of the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul on the ground in our own area. Meanwhile, the local schools welcomed the children back after months of home schooling. The sacraments of Communion and Confirmation rescheduled again!

As we approach November, the month of Remembrance, then Advent and Christmas, keep an eye on our website – www.mountmerrionparish.ie, particularly in relation to Advent and activities we may be able to hold despite the current restrictions.

Do sign up to our weekly Newsletter online and keep connected to your Parish. If you have any queries, Rosemary and Vivienne are available in the Parish Office @ 01 288 1271 or parishoffice@mountmerrionparish.ie and have been doing trojan work during this very difficult time.

We look forward with hope and wish you every blessing for the year ahead.

The Editorial Team

Dear Parishioners & Friends

It is hard to believe we are now into the Autumn and Advent arrives late November! What a year of challenge it has been. Life is totally different. We have all been affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic. In normal times, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) would have updated you on what we have been doing, at the Parish AGM, but our parish was in lock down from March until July. Fr Joe spoke to an empty church during the Easter ceremonies. Families have suffered bereavement.

Weddings have been deferred. Some Baptisms too. And some Communion and Confirmations are on hold until 2021. We miss meeting friends and our lives before Covid-19. Our plans are on hold. Our dreams even. As we progress towards Advent, we might pause and reflect upon what this has meant for me. How is God speaking to me now? How do I feel? Is there something I can learn from it all? In our Parish News last year, I shared the Icon of Mary, as expectant mother, gently waiting for her Son. Beautiful, serene, peaceful, pondering: what can this all mean? Life transformed. This year the image is also one of waiting in hope – the icon of Our Lady who Brings Down Walls (see above) written amongst the graffiti on the Separation Wall between Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Advent is a time of waiting. It is a mystical time. Things seen and unseen. It can be a time of reflection on our own faith and none. A time for looking inwards. Waiting can be about pausing and holding sacred space, for myself, for others. In this listening: is there something I am called to do; is there something I might defer, as I pause and reflect on the earthly and Cosmic event unfolding?

As a Parish we move forward. We are going digital and we will have deeper connection with each other, supporting each other in these times.

We wish you, your family, and friends, a blessed Advent.

Audrey O'Sullivan

Chairperson, Mount Merrion Parish Pastoral Council



Graffiti painted along the 8m high concrete Separation Wall, between Bethlehem and Jerusalem – from Banksy's Peace Dove to poems and inscriptions – includes this icon of Our Lady who Brings Down Walls [Iconographer: Ian Knowles] written in 2010.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Fr. Joe Mullan (*President*), Audrey O'Sullivan (*Chairperson*), John Barry (*Secretary*), Clodagh O'Reilly-Boyles, Jennifer Kelly, Kay O'Donnell, Martina McFadian, Susanne O'Reilly.

CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER!

Like almost all voluntary and charity organisations, Covid-19 has had a very serious effect upon the finances of the parish and the diocese.

Prolonged periods of closure and restrictions has meant that Sunday collections have plummeted. Priests have endured a further 25% reduction in their income and a number of diocesan-paid employees have been let go.

Parish finances have also suffered significantly. Thankfully, contributions – through direct debit / online payments – have cushioned what would otherwise be an unsustainable position.

How can you help?

Contributions to the 'Sunday collections' and the parish funds would be most gratefully received! A generous response to the Christmas Dues in particular would also be very welcome. You can contribute

- Through the 'Donate' button on the parish website (www.mountmerrionparish.ie). There are a number of options for your funds.
- Sign up to a standing order (form available to download from the website)
- Drop your contribution in an envelope to the Parish Office / priests' houses.
- Swipe your card on the new credit card machine at the back of the church!

Parish Finance Committee

Donate Now
With
Easy Payments Plus

PARISH OF ST THÉRÈSE,
Account No: 47669173,
AIB Plc, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.
Sort Code: 933570
IBAN IE08AIBK93357047669173

SHINING A LIGHT ON CREATION



On September 1st, here at the Church of St Thérèse, we celebrated Pope Francis' "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation", by lighting the Eco-Congregation's Climate Justice Candle. This was the first day of the Season of Creation, which the global Christian family annually celebrates in prayer and action.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions advising against large events or small group gatherings, we celebrated the Season prayerfully instead. The Candle, placed near the altar within a display of seasonal foliage, served as a focus for quiet reflection on the beauty and care of Our Common Home. Central to this was Laudato Si's call "to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with ALL God's Creation".



Throughout the month, our parish newsletter and website conveyed a series of "Season of Creation" images and references, with additional insights reflected in our Prayers of the Faithful, Music Ministry, and Library. In the Faith Space a display was mounted which creatively merged visuals with text from Laudato Si's, "A Prayer for the Earth", and verses on nature in the thoughtful "Meadow" poem.

Our activities were inspired by Laudato Si's special anniversary year (May '20 - May '21), and a talk by former Trocaire CEO, Justin Kilcullen. Speaking to the parish in 2019, Justin



spoke about how parishes are responding to the climate and biodiversity crises. Encouraged, we co-ordinated a small task-specific group (with Church Administration, Gardening Group, Parish Pastoral Council, and Youth representatives) and began to complete an environmental check-up. This was a simple audit, with four key areas - Spiritual, Practical, Community and Global. A checklist of "have done" (e.g. paper recycling) and "could consider" (eg Creation Walks, workshops, "green" pastoral resources) tick boxes helped to identify current good practice and future priorities. ECI (Eco-Congregation Ireland) awarded our efforts with its' "AWARENESS" certificate, a first step towards becoming an Eco-Parish.



Although in early stages, our emerging ideas online, include eco-themed film and book clubs, youth talks and events, web development, "green" homilies, and reflections (e.g. water at Baptism). Additionally, we are hopeful that our current contact with DLR's Sustainable Transport and Biodiversity projects will result in bicycle stands, safe walkways, and developing our meadow.

All are welcome to participate in our quest to become a parish aiming to find ways to care for Our Common Home.

For further information, check out our weekly Parish Newsletter and Parish website – www.mountmerrionparish.ie

Useful Websites:

www.eco-congregationireland.com
www.trocaire.org

The Eco-Parish Co-ordinating Group on behalf of Mount Merrion Parish Pastoral Council



SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE – HAITI SUMMER PROJECTS

Dear Parishoners,

I hope you are all doing well during these extraordinary times we have been living in this last number of months. There is nobody amongst us who hasn't been affected by Covid-19 to some degree and that unfortunate fact is the same wherever you go in the world; the same is certainly the case for Haiti.

Daily life for Haitians remains incredibly difficult and has worsened over the last year or so. The cost of living in Haiti continues to increase at an unsustainable rate. A somewhat large bag of rice in Haiti as recently as August has cost approximately \$22 US and more than half of Haitians earn less than \$1 a day! Covid-19 has been another unfortunate added pressure. It is extremely difficult for Social Distancing to be practiced given the density of population. One of the major economic activities on a local level is the trading market. However Haitians, the majority of whom have not got access to electricity and certainly not internet access, do not have the option of working from home. To try and get enough rice or water to feed their family is the challenge; they simply must go to their market stall and work. There is so much more to the challenge of daily life and indeed Covid-19's impact in Haiti.

We had Fr. Tony's first anniversary recently and what wonderful tributes in both parishes to Tony. He would have been incredibly proud of both parishes and the community spirit which continues to thrive.

For us as a charity, Solèy Haiti could not travel to Gros Morne, Haiti this summer on account of Covid-19. The Summer Camps for the local children could not proceed safely either given how challenging it would be to implement social distancing protocols safely. However please be assured that your incredibly generous support of Solèy Haiti and its work in Haiti will truly make a life-changing difference to our project beneficiary. Our local partners identified a local family desperately in need of a home to be constructed for them. The name of the father of the family is Marcel Charleron. He is a tailor by trade and has three children which he takes



Mr. Charleron outside his new home constructed with the support and generosity of Mount Merion and Kilmacud Parishes.

care of by himself. He manages to just about support them with his work but had not been able to construct a safe house for them to live in. He had a mud and tin roof house, but it suffered severe damage during the earthquake. So while we must acknowledge the reality of life in Haiti, in Solèy Haiti our aim is always to mirror the spirit of the Haitian people in the face of such a challenge, and to meet it with resilience and hope.

We had Fr. Tony's first anniversary recently and what wonderful tributes in both parishes to Tony. He would have been incredibly proud of both parishes and the community spirit which continues to thrive. I had been thinking about him a lot in the preceding weeks and what we could do in Haiti to permanently honour his memory. In true Tony fashion, I felt like I needed to stop thinking and just do it!! I want to let you know some initial details of a memorial project I am planning for Fr. Tony in Haiti. There is a local primary school, 'L'Ecol Jezi Mari (The School of Jesus and Mary),

which Tony had been involved with. They require four additional classrooms in order for their children to be able to complete their primary education. So the memorial project for Tony will be to build the 'Fr. Tony wing' to this school in Haiti so these children can have what Tony always passionately felt was their absolute right and entitlement – an opportunity and chance at a better future.

I normally speak at weekend masses in November. Given the current Covid-19 context, who knows what form it will take. But what I will be doing is setting up a dedicated fundraising page online for this project and I will have more details of the fundraising page and the project itself when I am speaking with you in November.

Take care and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Patrick O'Neill
Chairperson, Solèy Haiti

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Pope Francis tells us that "We are all born to help each other". The SVP needs your help right now. No one will ever forget 2020: for some Covid 19 has been an inconvenience, for others it has been a time of fear and loneliness, and, for many, it has brought illness and great personal and financial loss.

Please help your local branch of the SVP to assist those in need this Christmas. In December, we hope to hold our Annual Church collections for donations of money and food. If we cannot do this, please leave a donation in the Sacristy. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church.

This assistance is put to good use. We channel your generosity to those in greatest need in our Parish and beyond. We reach out to those families in our community who need us. Sometimes we may advise on other local services available. Anyone in our Parish, who seeks our help, is contacted by our volunteers in a completely discreet and non-judgemental manner. The help we provide is not just financial but is direct, personal assistance based on the needs of the individual family.

Our helpline number is 086 600 9857

PARISH GROUPS IN ACTION

FAITH SPACE SUMMER & AUTUMN

In the early days of January 2020, the Faith Space Group had our usual good humoured and animated meeting to sketch out our ideas for the coming year. Who could have guessed that in a matter of mere weeks we would have to completely re-evaluate our plans.



We began the Spring season by celebrating St Brigid, using one of many stained-glass images of the saint, and suggesting that her qualities of goodness and resourcefulness can still inspire us now.

Pope Francis always has his finger on the pulse of the twenty first century. He encourages us to become more familiar with the "textbooks" of our Faith, and so we suggested that scripture reading might be considered an everyday occurrence, like grocery shopping, and we borrowed books from the parish library (available to all!) placing them in a supermarket basket (also borrowed for the occasion!)

Then it was time to offer some thoughts on how to approach Lent and Easter. In the same way that Operation Transformation challenges people to re-evaluate their physical and mental health, we proposed a "Lent Formation", with tasks to do the same for our spiritual development. Those tasks, however, came to an abrupt halt on March 27 as the church doors closed and the country entered Lockdown.



When the doors finally reopened at the end of June, we were all rather uncertain about how to resume our lives in the community. To try to express this, we installed a sunshine graphic of reasons to be grateful, with the message that "Every day may not be good, but there is some good in every day".

Summer progressed quietly and came to an end with a low key installation to mark the first anniversary of Fr Tony's death on August 28 2019, using a collage designed to mark his Silver Jubilee in 2016 and the uplifting Litany of Thanksgiving written by him.



In September, the Season of Creation, we turned again to Pope Francis, and considered his exhortation to us all to remember our duty to care for all creation by taking action against the thoughtless destruction of our Earth. Using a prayer suggestion from the Dublin Diocesan Website, we illustrated it with a large leaf shape composed of small leaves: small actions together form the Big Picture. This connected with the arrival in our church of the Candle of Eco-Congregation Ireland to which our parish is now affiliated.

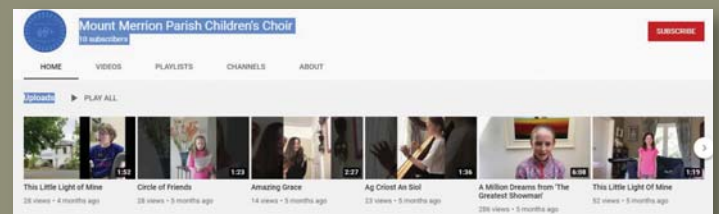
Part of our duty of care requires we show compassion and enable justice for refugees. We chose lines from a poem "Home" by Warsan Shire, together with images of contemporary sculptures in Rome and Dublin which portray the fear and desperation of those trying to escape violence and injustice.

We now approach November, the month of Remembrance. Last year we invited parishioners to pin a leaf on a cobweb in memory of a beloved departed, but this year as we must continue to stay apart, the interactive aspect of our remembering must sadly be curtailed.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Like everyone else, the Mount Merrion Parish Children's Choir have had to make major changes to how we sing together.

During the lockdown period, we created a YouTube channel, and posted compilation videos of the children singing some of their favorite songs and hymns. They had a different project each week and looked forward to seeing the finished product and being YouTube stars! Once public Mass resumed, we were able to get back to singing together, with just ten or twelve children at Mass each week, to comply with guidelines. Unfortunately, we have had to suspend practices or large group singing until there is a substantial improvement in the situation nationally. It is a challenging



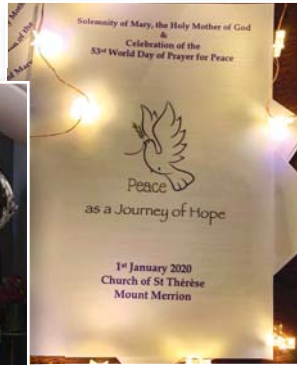
time for any 'arts'-based group, and it very difficult for the children to lose the social element of the choir. I was very happy to see that each week when we were able to sing in the Church, there was still huge interest in getting a spot!

We hope to be able to be back singing at Mass soon, but in the meantime please feel free to subscribe to our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMMnT5jK-8z1O5mZK8RLUTA/>

OUR PARISH T

1st January

53rd World Day of Prayer for Peace in Church of St Thérèse.



17th May

Virtual mass to mark the occasion of the First Holy Communion day that was for the boys & girls in 2nd class Oatlands Primary School, Scoil S & Mount Anville Junior Montessori



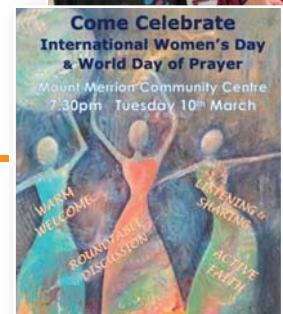
26th January

Sunday of the Word of God.



26th January

Welcome Fr. Joe.



10th March

International Women's Day & World Day of Prayer.



13th March

Church closes due to Covid.



17th

**St. Pa
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TIMELINE 2020

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ri School.



18th May

Church reopens after
first lockdown for
private prayer.



5th June

Trinity Sunday.



2nd July

Church reopens
for Mass after
lockdown.



March

Patrick's
y in
down.

28th August

First Anniversary of
Fr. Tony Coote, RIP.



26-28th August

Triduum of Prayer to
St. Oscar Romero.



25th July

Grandparent's Mass
celebrated with the
Papal Nuncio.



8th November

Virtual
Remembrance
Mass for those
who died.



19th September

Church closed for public Mass
due to reintroduction of
Covid level 3 restrictions.



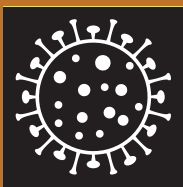
1st October

Covid level 3 – Mass for
feastday of St. Thérèse
in an empty church
via webcam.



29th November

Beginning of Advent.



This feels like a new world – *reflections during covid.*



I have been privileged to work in healthcare, as a doctor in St James' Hospital, during Covid-19. This has led to many new challenges on a daily basis, which have been covered to the point of exhaustion by the media, and I'm sure we are all sick of hearing about that, so I won't dwell too much on it now.

What I do want to reflect on is how this pandemic has brought the best out in people. I have seen so many small and large kindnesses in the past few weeks, both in and out of work, that were unexpected.

I bumped into one of my colleagues emerging from the hospital shop, armed with a few newspapers, an Ireland's Own, and a car magazine. I asked her what she was doing with such atypical reading material – it transpired that one of her patients was in isolation after being a close contact of a patient with Covid, and was not allowed to leave his room. He did not have his wallet with him either, and so was unable to order anything for himself from the shop. So, Jayne had decided to rectify the problem for him herself, bringing a little bit of brightness into his day.

Another patient, who sadly subsequently passed away from Covid, was very distressed as she had no rosary beads; within twenty four hours, about ten pairs had arrived outside Peggy's room, from various staff members who did not want her to be without that simple solace.

Unfortunately, visiting of all patients, both covid and non-covid, has been severely restricted in order to prevent spread; this has meant that families have faced separation for the first time, in some cases, in decades. Many people donated old iPads and tablets to the hospital, so that patients could Facetime with their families, bringing some comfort in being able to actually lay eyes on one another, even if it is at a distance.

Everyone is much friendlier in work these days. It's a rarity now to pass someone on the corridor or stairs without them nodding and smiling, or often stopping – at a distance – to check how each other is doing. I think we have all become more aware of one another, and of the fact that outside of the working environment, people are facing all kinds of challenges – from childcare to illness to bereavement – which they have never faced before.

In our communities too, acts of kindness are happening every day. Neighbours are helping each other with things like shopping, gardening, and even just socially distanced chats! We are helping each other merely by staying apart, an act of thoughtfulness in and of itself.

I managed to escape work early one Friday, and on spec, asked my mum if she'd like to come up to the Church with me to say a prayer and light a candle. I realised as we entered that the weeks when we were in lockdown were the longest time we had ever been away from this church and its community. I will never take it for granted again.

Covid-19 is a reminder to us that we cannot take each other or the places and hobbies we love for granted; that we are never in total control of our lives; and that for some things, there is no quick fix, no immediate answer. We must trust in God now more than ever and remember this sense of community and togetherness when we have finally come out the other end. He is with us always, and can be felt now more than ever, especially in our healthcare settings.

As a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, this was something upon which we reflected at our last meeting. We all look forward enormously to the day when we can be physically together again and continue to build on that spirit of fellowship that we already do so well in Mount Merrion.

Susanne O'Reilly, Choir Director - Mount Merrion Children's Choir & Member of Mount Merrion Parish Pastoral Council

Reflection

"2020 has been a very strange year so far. When we first went into lockdown, I thought it would only be for a few weeks. When I realised, we wouldn't be going back to school at all, I felt really sad and disappointed to be missing my last term of 6th class. All the way through primary school, we had looked forward to the last term, the 6th class play, the school tour night away, making our confirmation and our graduation – and we missed them all.



But when lockdown eased, we got to see our friends again and things got better. I started secondary school in September. Even though 2020 has been very hard, the silver lining is that if it wasn't for the pandemic we never would have got our puppy".

Schoolgirl

Reflection

2020 has been very difficult in relation to keeping my connections strong with my sense of Community and Faith. In lockdown and cocooning earlier this year, I missed going to mass and meeting my friends there. Going to the church physically has always been important to my sense of belonging. The sense of isolation could really get you down. My granddaughter's First Holy Communion was cancelled, rescheduled, and cancelled again and my Grandson's Confirmation – the same. However, I'm now better with technology! I can get on to the webcam to watch mass through the Parish Website, I can also attend a Zoom meeting – who'd have thought! I'm getting used to things while remaining hopeful that we will come through this terrible time.



Anon

Applause for the Kids

We know that the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation are extremely special and important to our pupils and their families. There were many disappointed children in 6th class and 2nd class as the Confirmation and First Holy Communion did not go ahead as planned in the last school year. A special Mass was held on May 17th to mark the occasion of the First Holy Communion day for the boys and girls in 2nd classes celebrated by Fr. Joe Mullan. Many of the families of the Oatlands Primary School, Scoil San Treasa and Mount Anville Junior Montessori School, and their friends and families, joined the Mass through the Mount Merrion Church webcam. The children created special Rainbow themed artwork and hung it up at home for the Mass.



After 5 months, Mount Anville Montessori Junior School is open again to the sound of children playing and a palpable energy in the whole community. From 8am, the grounds are filling up with youthful chat, games and sport – all of this happens even before school starts at 8:50am!! We play in pods, learn in bubbles and follow tight hand hygiene procedures throughout the day.

Being together is fun, delightful and fosters an environment of support and care for each other. It is wonderful to have the Mount Anville Montessori Junior School community back together again.

Mount Anville, Montessori Junior School



On Monday 31st August we were delighted to re-open the doors of our school and welcome the children back to Scoil San Treasa – in particular the new Junior Infants. There have been many changes to the regular routines and practices in the school but the boys and girls have adapted with ease and confidence and it is a lovely reminder to us all that children are remarkably resilient. They are to be commended for their very fine start to the new school year. We greatly value the ongoing support and good will of all and especially those who, over the summer months, helped to prepare the school for reopening. We pray for a happy, healthy and positive year ahead for every member of our school community.

Frances Mullin (Príomhoide)
Scoil San Treasa

Well done to the boys and girls, their parents/guardians, the Parents' Council and the wonderful staff in Oatlands Primary School for the successful reopening of our school. All of the hard work and preparation truly paid off and it was fantastic to see so many smiling faces on the way in the gates on the first day back, and indeed every day since. Our former 6th class pupils were thrilled to have made their Confirmation early in September and our 3rd class pupils are waiting patiently to celebrate the sacrament of First Holy Communion. It is brilliant having all of the children back to school; the place is full of life again and there is a really positive atmosphere.

We are currently enrolling for Junior Infants September 2021. Applications can be made through the school website www.oatlandsprimaryschool.ie

Siobhán McDonagh, Principal
Oatlands Primary School



**HOME
SCHOOL**

FR. TONY: A PILGRIM MAN

Tony was a pilgrim man. The hallmarks of a pilgrim are personal development, reflection and learning. These particular values are what I admired most in Tony. Tony's pilgrimages took students from Ballymun to Croke Patrick, UCD Volunteers Overseas to India, Haiti and parish pilgrimages to the Holy Land and his beloved Glendalough.

Pilgrimages are spiritual and emotional journeys where people forge solidarities, tell stories, and come closer to each other and God. This forging of people is the way Tony created communities of people around him. He had an extraordinary ability to gather many people from all kinds of backgrounds on his life's pilgrimage. The story of Tony's life is of a man who journeyed deep within himself and burned with love of God, as expressed in the life and public ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Tony was passionate about sharing the love, compassion and inclusivity of our God.

This love of God took Tony on a very visible Pilgrim journey 'Walk While You Can' from Donegal to Cork just as he

was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease. Along Tony's pilgrimage he shared with the nation his humour, humility and his humanity... He passionately believed in living each day... as he said, 'life is fragile, grab it with two hands, hold onto it and treasure it'. More than ever now, these words are so true as we have all experienced how fragile life is, living as we do in a time of pandemic...



In the midst of his sickness Tony discovered the will of God and he brought all of us on that Pilgrimage of Hope... Tony knew his final destination and he longed to meet his God – even though he found the journey there frustrating. We all have our memories, we all share the sense of loss we feel for Tony and we can all do as Tony asked – *Live while You Can*.

Extracts from the homily of Fr John Kelly, Director of Pastoral Care, Tallaght University Hospital, at 7.30pm Mass in our Church of St Thérèse on the weekend of Fr Tony's first anniversary.

Fr Tony was a bearer of hope. We remembered him with love and prayer on the weekend of the first anniversary of his death. An acer tree was planted in his memory along with a plaque quoting his words; 'Wherever we are, remember that goodness is within us and lets us be bearers of hope'. Thank you to the many parishioners who contributed ideas, donations and/or their presence at the Masses of the weekend. The sacristy meeting room will be renovated and named in Fr Tony's honour and the tapestry hanging in the church has been renewed to reflect Fr Tony's faith – our faith. We thank God for his life.



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



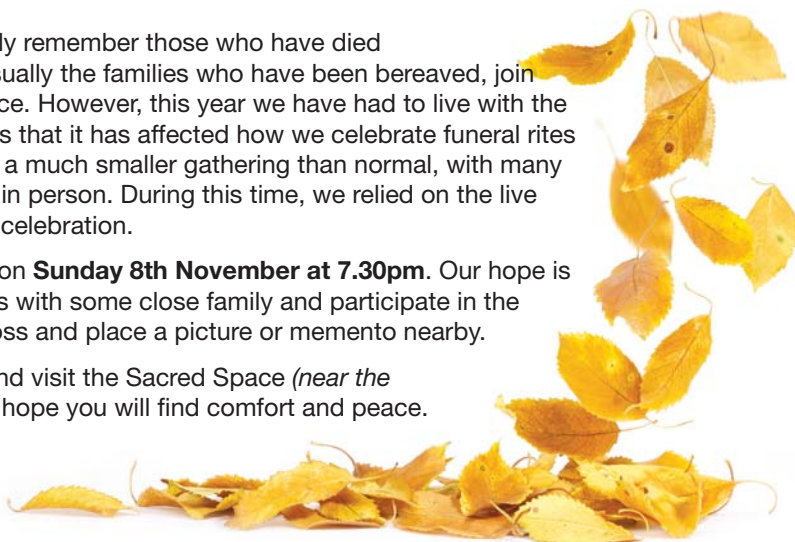
In November We Remember

During November, we particularly remember those who have died during the past 12 months. Usually the families who have been bereaved, join together in a Mass of Remembrance. However, this year we have had to live with the Corona virus and the different ways that it has affected how we celebrate funeral rites in the parish. For many of those bereaved, the funeral was a much smaller gathering than normal, with many family members, neighbours, and friends unable to attend in person. During this time, we relied on the live streaming of the mass to allow a wider participation in the celebration.

We intend to celebrate the annual Mass of Remembrance on **Sunday 8th November at 7.30pm**. Our hope is that those bereaved families can gather in their own homes with some close family and participate in the Mass together. Perhaps light a candle to remember your loss and place a picture or memento nearby.

During November please feel free to call into the Church and visit the Sacred Space (near the back of the Church), where the dead are remembered. We hope you will find comfort and peace.

Funeral Ministry Team



Advent Colouring Competition



First name:

Parent's Mobile No.:

Please drop your completed picture into the basket in Faith Space near the back of Church by December 20th.
Your name will be entered into a draw for a prize, so the very best of luck!

A warm welcome!

We are very happy to welcome **Shubert Laxina** as our new Head Sacristan.

Our thanks go to **Michael Shortt** who served as our sacristan for many years. We wish him well for the future.



Stay up-to-date with what is happening in the parish...

KEEP AN EYE OUT!



Why not sign up to receive the weekly newsletter by Email.

Sign on to website **www.mountmerriionparish.ie**
Scroll down **homepage** to **NEWSLETTER**
and enter your Email address to subscribe!



The Church Grounds & Maintenance Group having a well deserved socially distanced tea break! They did an amazing job preparing and planting the beautiful Acer tree for Fr Tony's 1st Anniversary.



THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Autumn Parish News and to our dedicated team of Parish Deliverers. As always, we extend a warm welcome to YOU especially if you are new to the Parish. Should you wish to volunteer and share your gifts within a Parish Group when restriction have been lifted or if you have ideas to share.... you would be very welcome.

As we head into November, a time of Remembrance and then Advent at this uncertain time, keep safe and full of Hope for the year ahead.



The floral displays lift our spirits and enhance the liturgy as we join Mass on the webcam. Thank you to all the members of the Floral Art Group & Altar Society and to the Church Cleaning Group who take such excellent care of the Church - we really appreciate your work, your creativity and your care.

Mount Merriion Parish Communications Team delivers Parish correspondence to all houses in the Parish area unless otherwise advised. If you do **not** wish us to deliver programmes or newsletters please contact the Parish Secretary at (01) 288 1271 or Email: parishoffice@mountmerriionparish.ie