



*'You are my Son,
the Beloved,
my favour rests
on you'*

Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

10th January 2021

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

Parish Team

Fr. Joe Mullan administrator
Mount Merrion, Kilmacud & Clonskeagh
79 The Rise - text 087 2326254
email jmullan39@eircom.net
Fr. Donie O'Connor text 0899796447

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

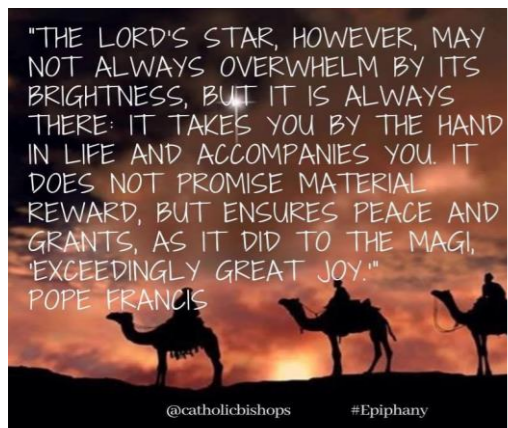
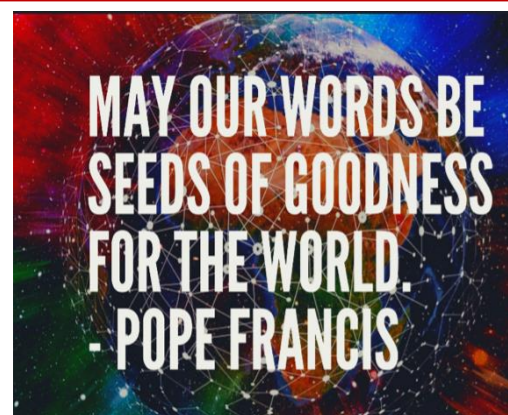
e: parishoffice@mountmerrionparish.ie
Head sacristan: Shubert Laxina

Community Centre tel. 2884485
e: mountmerrioncommunitycentre@gmail.com

Society of St. Vincent De Paul
Helpline 086 6009857



check out our website
www.mountmerrionparish.ie



a few words from Fr Joe.....

How many pine needles are there on a Christmas Tree? I wondered about this when I took down my tree just after the Epiphany. Having removed all the lights and decorations, the tree looked fine to me, but the floor was carpeted with pine needles. Then I pulled the tree towards me, and danced it across the room, into the hall and pushed it out the door.

It still looked good, but oh my God there were pine needles everywhere. I picked up the big bits, brushed away all the needles stuck along the edges of the carpet and then hoovered and hoovered and hoovered. When at last I was finished, got the hoover packed away, and darkness was closing in I reached over to close the venetian blinds and roared in frustration as another cloud of needles fell onto the pristine chairs and carpet below. I think that for as long as this lockdown lasts I will be picking up errant bits of Christmas Tree.

Still it was worth it, the lights from all our houses, on trees inside and out, have illuminated the dullness of these mid-winter days. Finding light shining through the darkness is a real theme of Christmas, and it comes from our wonder and awe by the crib, in the generosity of parents, family and friends, and yes even Santa himself, as so many gifts have been given and received.

We have a lot to be thankful for even in this strangest of years. Covid may have changed our plans but our hearts were in the right place. Covid can't control who we love, how we share or shake our belief in the one born in Bethlehem. We will take up the challenges of the New Year, drawing strength from longer days, hopefully brighter and warmer, and remain strong in our resolve to make the most of our time, to care, love and support each other.

We will dream of better times and hope that they come soon, reuniting us with those we love, lifting the veil of fear and anxiety that many experience and restore the best of the life we had before. Hopefully we will be all the better after these tough months, kinder, more aware of the needs of others and ever generous in our care of the vulnerable and the poor.
Happy New Year.

P.S. there are pine needles on my pillow, they must have been stuck in my hair! Ahhhhhhhh



When Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan and was baptized by John the Baptist, he did so not because he was in need of repentance, or conversion: he did it to be among people who need forgiveness, among us sinners, and to take upon himself the burden of our sins.

— Pope Francis —

AZ QUOTES

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 10th
10.00 Gearoid Ferris – A
Alice & Josh Regan – A
Tom Monks – A
Emma McManus – R.D
Melissa Brooke – R.D

Monday 11th
10.00 For all who are ill

Tuesday 12th
10.00 Liturgical Service

Wednesday 13th
10.00

Thursday 14th
10.00

Friday 15th
10.00 Seamus Duignan – A

Saturday 16th
10.00

Sunday 17th
10.00 Marie & Don Cockburn – A
James & Evelyn Cockburn – A
The Scully family – R
Mary and Eddie Cummins – A

I HAVE BAPTISED YOU WITH WATER, BUT HE WILL BAPTISE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Today's feast of the Baptism of Our Lord brings to an end the season of Christmas. Coming after the Epiphany of the Lord, it can be seen as a second manifestation of Christ, as the heavens are opened before the whole world. Through Christ's baptism, in which the entire Trinity is present (**Gospel**), the world is made into a second creation.

In the **First Reading**, from Isaiah, we hear how God's word will bear fruit in us. The one we see being baptised in the Gospel *is* the Word and, by carrying out the Father's will perfectly, all creation is restored.

This is why we can join with the **Psalmist**: 'With joy we shall draw water from the wells of salvation'!

St John develops this theme (**Second Reading**) when he says that because Jesus overcame the world by water and blood, so we, with the Spirit living in us, can be saved.

This coming week, let's strive to deepen our trust in the Father, who is our salvation; to nurture our faith in the Spirit, who works in us to ensure we do not return empty-handed; and to strengthen our joy in the Son, through whose incarnation and baptism we are made into God's children.

NOTICES

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Baptisms in the parish have really be effected by the Covid 19 restrictions, as families couldn't travel, celebrate or mix the generations safely. So congratulations to all who were baptised during the year, thanks for your patience to those who are still waiting, hopefully it won't be too long before those celebrations can take place.

Support for the Collections

Many thanks for your extraordinary generosity this Christmas, first for the St Vincent De Paul collection and then for the Christmas Dues both the poor of the parish and the priests of parish and beyond are blessed by your kindness which is greatly appreciated. Also for those who contribute by standing order, online or by using the 'Tap and Pay' terminal.

Parish Office

There is no public access to the Parish Office during Level 5 restrictions. Please contact the office by phone at 2881271 between 9 and 11 from Monday to Friday. Thank You.

Level 5 Restrictions

We are delighted that the Church can remain open for private prayer during this time of level 5 restrictions, while the liturgies move online. Our thanks to all those who arrange to open and close the church, maintain the sanitising and ensure that our visitors find the church warm and clean. It takes real commitment from a number of parish volunteers and staff to make this happen.

Schools closure

The schools in the parish are closed at least until the end of the month, the children will persevere with online learning and families do their best to adapt to this change in schedule. We hope and pray that the schools will be able to reopen as soon as possible and send our best wishes to all the staff, teachers and the wider school community. Please keep them in your prayers.

Parish Liturgy

Thanks to everyone who prepared and animated the liturgies of Christmas, those who arranged the MassPass, the decorations and flowers, the various ministries, the music, stewarding and sanitising the celebrants and all who joined in the prayers in person or by web streaming, it was so uplifting, joyful and full of faith.

Almighty, eternal God,
when the Spirit descended upon Jesus
at his baptism in the Jordan,
you revealed him as your beloved Son.
Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit,
faithful to our calling. Amen



"The Spirit of God descended like a dove"