



Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

17th January 2021

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

Parish Team

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check out our website
www.mountmerrionparish.ie

a few words from Fr Joe.....

In my extended family, we are 63 cousins, children of 8 families. Of these 9 were adopted as children and we all grew up together as cousins and shared the same grandparents. During this week, I have been very mindful of all those women whose children were adopted, of all the adopted themselves and all the families like our own who welcomed an adopted child. Knowing the story of these various family members I am aware of the desire of some of them to know about their birth mother and their father.

I have seen first-hand the joys and pain of that journey of discovery with some great successes and some pretty painful rejections. To my shame I don't know exactly how these adopted cousins came to their adopting families, this part of the story wasn't widely shared in the family.

The stories of their lives before they came to be with my aunts and uncles wasn't much spoken of. I am aware of mention of nuns and convents and I imagine that Mother and Baby Homes are part of our story too. Now I am wrestling with questions as to why we didn't talk about this aspect of their lives more openly.

There has been a great deal of pain, sorrow, anger and outrage expressed during the week as the final report of The Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes was first leaked and then published. So many different aspects of the reality of life in these Homes has been revealed, apologised for and comment on, it is hard to take it all in.

The Church played an enormous part in this aspect of Irish life for the first 60 years of the Irish State some of which is deeply shameful and totally lacking in Christian love. Bishops, Religious Congregations and others within the church community have expressed unreserved apologies, promised to make reparations and to sustain all effected by this harsh and unkind regime.

This is the very least they can do and their actions will be closely scrutinised in the months ahead to ensure that actions follow in keeping with these promises. The church of today, all of us, are asked to bring the compassion of Christ to our encounter with all the people affected by this report.

18th - 25th January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

It was the great desire of Jesus, the night before his Passion and Death, that all his disciples be united as one, and each year from 18-25th January, the Church prays in particular for this desire of Jesus. This year the theme and texts for the Week of Prayer has been prepared by the women's ecumenical community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme they have chosen is: "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" Jn 15:1-17

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Carmelite Sisters regret that we cannot open our chapel for the public to join us in prayer this year. However, we will still offer our Evening Prayer each day this week for Christian Unity, and we invite everyone to visit our website where we will provide resources to help you unite with us, e.g. daily prayer leaflets, reflections, and hopefully some video links of our evening prayer during the week. Please visit: www.kilmacudcarmel.ie/christianunity

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 16th

10.00 Margaret Patricia McGuinness – 1st A

Sunday 17th

10.00 Marie & Don Cockburn – A
James & Evelyn Cockburn – A
The Scully family – R
Mary and Eddie Cockburn – A
Ann Lawler – 1st A
Special Intention
Patrick Duffy – A

Monday 18th

10.00 For all who are ill

Tuesday 19th

10.00 Liturgical Service

Wednesday 20th

10.00 Timlin Family

Thursday 21st

10.00 Joseph and Mary O'Grady – A

Friday 22nd

10.00

Saturday 23rd

10.00

Sunday 24th

10.00 Micheal O'Conneagain – A

Bill Lawlor – 1st A

Des Murphy – R.D

Pat Byrne – R.D

Joanne Wylde – R.D

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING - 2021

The Loyola Institute
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

In conjunction with



Date And Time

Wed, 27 Jan 2021, 17:30 –
Wed, 24 Feb 2021, 20:00 GMT



Location

Online Event



Refund Policy

Refunds up to 7 days before event



2021 Programme (delivered live via Zoom)

This introductory course in Theology is intended to meet the need, expressed by some, to be more literate about their faith. Very often our understanding is more intuitive than explicit and our ability to deal in an informed and enlightened way with many of the complex religious and moral issues that arise can be quite limited. We sometimes wish we had more to draw on so as to be better able to explain how we see things. *This series is an attempt to respond to this need and to introduce people who are interested to the wealth of theological insight that is available in the Catholic tradition.*

€20

Tickets

For more information go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/faith-seeking-understanding-2021-tickets-131006739685>

'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!'

Like the people in today's readings, we, too, are called by Christ: called to spend time with him; to work with him; to offer our bodies, hearts and minds in loving service of God's will.

The **First Reading** tells the delightful story of God's initiative in the life of the boy Samuel, who is open to the call of the Lord despite his youth, signalling the beginnings of a close relationship with God.

The **Psalms** invites us to a personal knowledge of and intimate relationship with God. God desires '*an open ear*', bidding us to make Samuel's prayer our own: '*Speak Lord, your servant is listening*'.

Writing to those in Corinth, a city notorious for its vice, Paul emphasises that both our bodies and our souls are meant for the glory of God. The physical body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and we come together in unity as the cosmic body of Christ (**Second Reading**).

John the Evangelist describes the call of the first disciples, where Jesus asks the searching question addressed to every reader of the **Gospel**: '*What do you want?*' Here begins the journey of getting to know Jesus, as the disciples (and we ourselves) follow on the path of deepening faith towards an understanding of who Jesus Christ is.

This week, we, too, may ask for the grace of an *open ear* and an open-hearted response to Jesus's invitation to '*Come and see*'. We also remember those of our sisters and brothers who, like Samuel, as yet have '*no knowledge of the Lord*', and ask that they may come to know the safety and peace such knowledge can bring in an uncertain world.



Maynooth College Reflects on COVID-19 - Conference Thursday 21st January 20

by St. Patrick's College Maynooth

Where is God in this pandemic? Can we draw meaning out of the long months of suffering? What can church communities do to survive and even prosper in times of restriction? Finally, what will be the lasting effects on church life?

Join this free online conference, where theologians and philosophers from St Patrick's College will offer their thought-provoking perspectives on these issues. Following the See-Judge-Act method, the conference will have three 90-minute sessions. You are welcome to attend as much or as little of the day as you wish.

For further information and to register go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/maynooth-college-reflects-on-covid-19-conference-thursday-21st-january-20-tickets-132113925307>



"Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" (Jn 15:5-9)

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2021

