



Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

28th February 2021

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

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PARISH OFFICE
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SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
 Helpline 086 6009857

 **CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE**
www.mountmerrionparish.ie

World Day of Prayer
 Build on a Strong Foundation
 Matthew 7:24-27
<https://worlddayofprayer.net/index.html>



A few words from Fr Joe.....

Just outside my kitchen window a bare tree stands. I see it there each morning at my first prayers of each Lenten day. While it is in the deep slumber of winter, with not a single leaf showing, it welcomes birds and gives them a place to stand, rest and sing.

It has been my Covid companion, always a little lift, just to see it there. Wind moves its branches, their gentle swaying soothes my spirits. Rain makes it glisten, shiny bark reflects the silver light of day. Recently snow settled briefly on its limbs, swelling tiny sticks. Today seven pink buds opened, I named them after the days of the week, reserving "Sunday" for the most colourful of them. Beneath the surface sap is rising, another ring forming, leaves will soon burst into the warming spring like days. Trees grow till they fall.

The winter tree is clearly defined, the trunk carries the outstretched branches firmly supported. When I go to the altar to pray, the rows of empty benches stretch from sanctuary to door and remind me of my tree.

When I catch a glimpse of parishioners, slipping into pray during the day, sitting here and there, they give life like the buds which adorn those branches. For the tree spring will work its magic, it will surely unfold into leaf and the lovely skeleton of the tree will vanish.

Without winter, it's hard to fully appreciate the way the tree holds itself in nature. The greater challenge is to see how the empty pews carry the living church, which this Covid winter contains at home. My heart yearns for that time when our mid-summer comes and licit gatherings join us like the leaves on the tree into a sea of faces, a chorus of voices, a murmuring of responses.

Let the Lenten prayers carry you towards the God who lives in nature, dwells in each other and holds us all in being, till we fall.

Let's Live Lent!



Join us for Pastoral Conversations
 5 Tuesdays starting 16th February @8pm

- Feb 16: Let it Go
- Feb 23: Would you listen to Him?
- March 2: Songs of the Sanctuary
- March 9: Into the Light
- March 16th Seeds of Hope

Presented by a team from the Office
 for Evangelisation and the Liturgy Resource
 Centre.

To book email
lisia.cashen@dublindiocese.ie

Bringing the Lenten Gospels to Life

MASS INTENTIONS

- Saturday 27th 10.00 am**
 Timothy and Lillian Rafferty – A
- Sunday 28th 10.00 am**
 Carmel Hecker – 1st A
 Patrick, Nora, Tristan Moran – A
 Aidan Moran – 1st A
 Tony and Joan O'Halloran – A
 Peter Kennedy - A
 Special Intention – Get well
 Michael Brown – R.D
 Mary Varley – A
 Mary Moran – A
 Kathleen Conroy – A
 Rose Mazzola – A
 Peggy Fisher – M.M
 Laura Lombard – M.M
 Kathleen Keaveny – 1st A
 David Sheehan - A
- Monday 1st March 10.00 am**
 Paul Kerrane – A
- Tuesday 2nd 10.00 am**
 Liturgical Service
- Sunday 07th 10.00 am**

'This is my Son, the Beloved.'

Trust in the Lord is the theme that links all this week's readings.

As we continue our Lenten journey, we are reminded of the extent of the Lord's love and generosity – if we but listen to his voice and place our trust in him.

In the **First Reading** we see the depth of Abraham's trust in God as he is asked to sacrifice his beloved son. Abraham's faithfulness is rewarded with more blessings than he could ever have imagined.

The **Psalms** give thanks and praise to the Lord who has freed him, reminding us that he trusted God even when sorely afflicted. Like him, we can rejoice as we walk in the presence of the Lord.

In the **Second Reading**, echoing the story of Abraham and Isaac, St Paul challenges us to recall the enormity of God's love for the world in giving up his Son. With Jesus standing at the right hand of God pleading for us, we can have confidence in placing all our trust in him.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus asks Peter, James and John to trust him and not speak of the wonder of what they have witnessed on the mountain top.

This week we pray for the grace to trust and to listen ever more closely to the voice of the Lord, so that we too might walk in his presence.



Mount Merrion Parish Pastoral Council
 invites you to join our 2021 series of

LENTEN "TALKS ON THURSDAYS" @ 8pm (via ZOOM)

Thurs 4th March - Fr Paddy Moran CSSp
 Missionary and Director of Vocations for the Spiritans
 "Our Lenten journey through the desert that is Covid: Searching for God in the signs of the times"

Thurs 11th March – Rev. Canon Gillian Wharton
 Rector of Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion
 "Lent 2021 - More Self-Care and Love of Others, and Less Sin"

Thurs 18th March - Dr Jessie Rogers
 Lecturer in Sacred Scripture, St Patrick's College Maynooth
 "Always the same, always new: becoming ourselves in the presence of an untamed God."

Thurs 25th March – Fr Columba McCann OSB
 Monk of Glenstal Abbey
 "What is God doing for Lent? Wisdom about Christian Transformation from St Thérèse of Lisieux and St Benedict of Nursia"

TO REGISTER

Please contact the Mount Merrion Parish Office by email on parishoffice@mountmerrionparish.ie.
 You will be sent a ZOOM weblink to allow you to join the live talk each Thursday.
 The talks are free and all are welcome.

SPECIAL LAUDATO SI' FIFTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR:

Where to now?


TOGETHER, BUILDING A CULTURE OF CARE

Join us on Tuesday
 2nd 16th 23rd March
 8-9 pm Dublin Time

For Zoom details contact:
ta.info.irl@gmail.com

With **JANE MELLETT**
 Trócaire | Laudato Si' Working Group

Hosted by
 Catherine Boylan and Matet Gayondato
 Teresian Association



"A Culture of Care"
 ANSWERING THE CALL TO CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.