



Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

2nd May 2021

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

Returning Parish Library Books

A gentle reminder to anyone who may have forgotten about a book they borrowed some time ago from our parish library. Books can be returned to the drawer in the library, which is open whenever the church is open for prayer (and soon, we hope, for Masses!).

Thank you

Easter Dues

Many thanks to all who have supported the Dues collection with such tremendous generosity. Your support of the priests, locally and in the more financially challenged parishes and the sick and retired priests is so heartening and uplifting.

Thank you from all of us.

A few words from Fr Joe.....

All across the country this weekend people are dreaming, making plans, thinking about what they can do, when they can travel and visit family and friends, at the heart of this dream is our desire to be with those we love. More than anything we are social beings and the deprivation, the hardship of being cut off from others has been a deeply painful and challenging aspect of the whole Covid 19 era.

While people have been fantastic, remaining strong and positive, looking out for others and appreciating the work of the frontline workers, we have been praying for this day, a good news day.

I haven't seen a single member of my family since August of last year, and have rarely eaten in company since Christmas, so yes, I too am dying to see, hug and hold, those I love. Bring it on!

The atmosphere in the church building during these months has been so strange, eerily quiet, doors closed, masses devoid of parishioners, not a cough, a child crying, or a dropped coin, just silence. Hopefully that is coming to an end now and God willing we will never have to close again.

Like every other sector of society, we will have a gradual return to parish life. The headlines today speak of up to 50 people being allowed attend religious services and we will work towards doing what is permitted in a safe, secure and supportive way. Hopefully by next weekend we can be more specific about the schedule of masses, the numbers and return of sacraments alongside mass.

It goes without saying that we are deeply grateful to all the staff, priests and parishioners who have literally kept the show on the road during the past 15 months and we are very hopeful that many of ministry and leadership groups will reactivate and carry on their excellent work in the months ahead.

A few words from Rosemary

It is hard to believe that I am leaving Mount Merrion after 25 years, it has been like a second home to me. Thank you for the friendship and kindness that was shared over those years, it has been a privilege to be part of such a wonderful community. The emails cards and texts that have been sent to me are greatly appreciated.

As sad as I am that my time as Parish Secretary has come to an end, you can all rest assured that the Parish Office will continue to be run with the same care and dedication.

Take care and God bless.

Rosemary

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 01st May

10.00 Elise O'Hagan – 1st A

Sunday 02nd May

10.00 Anne Donnelly - A
Bridget Hannon – M.M
John McDermott – A
Nora Byrne – A
Bridget Hannan – M.M
Inez Feehan – A
Brendan Piggott – 2nd A

Monday 03rd

10.00 For all who are ill

Tuesday 04th

10.00 Liturgical Service

Wednesday 05th

10.00 Holy Souls

Edmond Aboud – 4th A

*Rest in
Peace*

Our sympathies to the
families, relatives and friends
of **Patricia Galligan**
whose funerals took place here
this week

*Go out to the whole world;
proclaim the Good News.*

Psalms 117



POPE FRANCIS'
INVITATION TO
PRAY IN MAY FOR
AN END TO THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

#PRAYINMAY

PRAYER FOR EXAM TIME

Lord, I ask you to help me at this stressful time. I feel that in addition to carrying my own burdens, I am carrying the expectations of so many others – family, friends, society. Help me to keep calm at this time, so that I can think straight and apply myself to the best of my ability. Let your Spirit help and inspire me, so that I can remember all that I have studied and put together my answers in the best way. Guide me in all ways so that I will find fulfilment in You.

Amen

TRUE VINE by Joshua Bowen

When the rain begins to fall
And the winds begin to blow
You will not be swept away
You will continue to grow

For my vine reaches high towards the light
And my roots delve deep into truth
And overflowing joy and love
Are produced within my fruit

My Father is the gardener
He tends to every need
He prunes each branch that
do bear fruit
And he severs every weed

Stay in the vine and produce much fruit
To glorify His name
Apart from the vine a branch is nothing
But fuel to feed the flame

He loved me as a tiny seed
He nurtured each blossoming plant
He helped me to mature and grow
From seed to fruit bearing branch

'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.'

Today's readings remind us that when, like St Paul, 'we believe in the name of Jesus Christ', we accept the intimate relationship to which God invites us. We become branches of the true vine, Jesus Christ.

The **Gospel** shows the amazing intimacy that Jesus offers through the wonderful image of the vine and branches. Having Jesus, the true vine, live within our hearts, we as his disciples, the branches, will bear fruit; cut off from Jesus, we can do nothing at all. Jesus reveals his Father as the vinedresser, tending to us with love, and sometimes pruning us so that we can produce more plentiful fruit.

In the **Second Reading**, John reminds us that by believing in Jesus Christ, and loving one another, we are doing what God wants, and that God lives in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. He also reassures us that we have nothing to fear in God's loving presence. We get an indication of the fruit that Jesus speaks of when John tells us that our love needs 'not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active.'

We see an example of this in the **First Reading**, where Saul proves his love for Jesus by preaching about him to the community. The apostles come to accept him and the local churches begin to put down roots and grow, drawing now from a new source of life: the Holy Spirit.

The **Psalms**, part of which we heard on Palm Sunday, and which Jesus prayed on the cross, closes today with words of the Lord's love, generosity and faithfulness. We are all invited to worship and serve him.

During the week, I may like to ponder the relationship God longs to have with me, and the fruit he enables me to bear