



Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

9th May 2021

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
www.mountmerrionparish.ie

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

From Saturday 15th May the Vigil Mass returns at the usual time of 6.00pm. On Sunday May 16th there are Masses at 10.00 and 11.30am and 7.30pm.

The church has been organised in four different areas according to the Covid 19 regulations. Each area can hold not more than 50 people and the areas are to be 4 metres apart. Members of the congregation must enter and leave the church through the door designated for their area and it is not allowed to move from one area to another, even to light a candle at a favourite shrine. Stewards will count the parishioners as they arrive and close off each section when the maximum number of people permitted have entered. Communion will be distributed to each section and to those who may wish to follow the Mass online from their cars.

A few words from Fr Joe.....

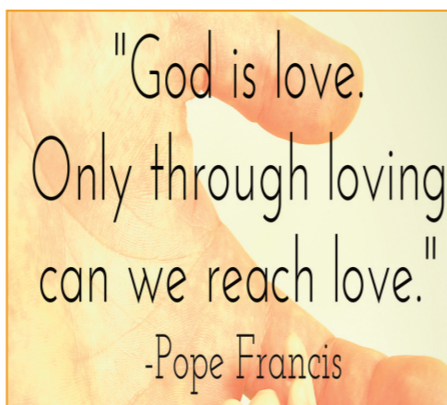
To those of you who are able and willing to attend Mass in person this weekend, welcome back. To those still remaining apart for the moment thank you for your perseverance and strength. To everyone else let's rejoice that the Covid 19 virus is steadily being made less threatening by vaccination and determined public effort. Even to hear our politicians and medical experts suggest that by August we will be doing many things without restrictions is so uplifting. There is more than light at the end of the tunnel!

The expression 'Building back better' invites us all to think about how we did things in the past, to reflect on what helped us get through the past 15 months and to dream about how we will be in the near future. I don't know what the lasting effect of the pandemic will be on the parish community and the wider church. With everyone else I am so conscious of those who suffered through the loss of a loved one during this time. While we all did our best with funerals they were so different to our normal way of marking the end of life that there surely will be some need to address grief and bereavement and to gather and remember.

Catching up on sacraments that have been deferred will keep many of us busy in the later part of the summer and into the autumn. As we've mentioned before it is planned to finish the Confirmations from last year, then celebrate with this year's 6th Class and when that's done move onto the 1st Communions. The timing and planning can only begin when we are given the green light by the health and diocesan authorities and we will keep you posted.

There is also the possibility that Covid and all its consequences will have challenged some people's faith in God and relationship with the church and parish. I don't know how we can best listen to the experience of people and respond to it, but I know we would like to try. There is a special priority in addressing the needs of young people at this time, more than any other sector of society this period of 'strange living' has impacted them profoundly. If there is any way we can contribute to enriching their lives in the coming months and the year ahead we would really like to do that too.

I've always believed in a God who journeys with us, who is present in our joys and sorrows, who carries us through the darkest hours. To this God of closeness and care we entrust our parish and each other, praying for guidance, support and inspiration.



MASS INTENTIONS

- Sunday 09th
 - 10.00 Colm and Maureen Boland – A
 - Graham Elmes – A
 - Ann McCarthy – R.D
 - John Heerey – R.D
 - Anne and John Quinn - A
- 10.00 Stephen Blake – A
- Monday 10th
 - 10.00 Mgr. Ardle McMahon RIP
- Tuesday 11th
 - 10.00 Liturgical Service
- Wednesday 12th
 - 10.00 Michael Sweeney – A
- Thursday 13th
 - 10.00 Gearóid Ferris – M.M
- Sunday 16th
 - 10.00 Joseph and Sheila Akins – A
 - Vincent Kelly – A
 - Bob Kelly - A
 - Marie Guilfoyle – 4th A



"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

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.



Mgr. Ardle McMahon RIP

News came to us this morning that our former Parish Priest, Mgr. Ardle Mc Mahon has died peacefully and gone to his eternal reward. On behalf of the parish we extend deepest sympathy to his niece Helen and his extended family, his friends and his brother priests.

The funeral arrangements are as follows:

His remains will arrive at the Church of St Therese, Mount Merrion, at 4.30pm on Saturday 8th May and be received by His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin.

Parishioners are welcome to visit the church on Sunday for private prayer and pass by his coffin, remembering his service to the community here.

On Monday May10th his Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am with burial afterwards in St Fintan's Cemetery, Sutton.

Attendance at the funeral Mass is restricted to 50 people, family and close friends, and will be live streamed on the parish webcam. Please keep him and all who mourn his passing in your prayers this weekend.

"I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" John 11:25-26



People who love each other fully and truly are the happiest people in the world. They may have little, they may have nothing, but they are happy people. Everything depends on how we love one another.

— Mother Teresa —

God is love, and we show we know God when we act with generous love

God's love is both profoundly faithful and utterly overwhelming. This is what this Sunday's readings reveal, with the First Reading showing a love that is also universal. The early disciples, at first limited in their mission, are now convinced that God's love embraces everyone.

It's a theme taken up in the **Second Reading** where St John says that God is love and acts lovingly when he sends his Son to reveal what true love means. God's outreach to the whole human race is what today's Psalm sings of so joyfully.

In the **Gospel**, St John goes on to speak ever more deeply of God's love for us. He recalls Jesus's teaching about his loving relationship with his Father and of his desire to make this relationship both known and available. All are invited into that same intimate relationship!

Perhaps this week, I might ask for the grace to let that teaching sink into my heart and become a reality in the way I live and by the fruit I bear.

'Help me, Lord, to respond to your friendship by being a true friend to you through my loving relationships with my sisters, brothers and all of creation. Amen.'