



Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

27th June 2021

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

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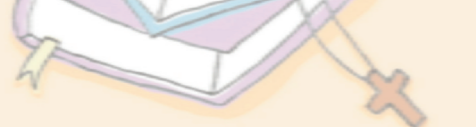
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

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



A few words from Fr Joe.....

On midsummers day, June 21st, I jumped in the car and headed down to Waterford with 3 priest friends for a few days away. It was the first proper break for all of us since last summer and the long winter coping with Covid. It was a time to rest and relax, to chat through the ups and downs of the recent past and to sleep, eat and chill out.

As this is the month of ordination anniversaries we spent time reminiscing about all the guys who started out with us, some left during seminary days, others since ordination and a couple have gone before us to God. Most thank God, are working away in the parishes of the Diocese, doing good work. One of our former seminary professors had died at the weekend and while we couldn't be at his funeral we made time to pray for him and share memories. It's been 35 years since we were ordained, and we've all turned 60 in the past year, and to say the least much has changed in that time!

Of course we talked too about all that lies ahead, expressing hope that Archbishop Dermot and his Task Force will find ways to stimulate the faith life of God's people in the Diocese in a way that will create new beginnings, build hope and help us reform our way of being church. We talked about the controversies of our recent past and present and wondered what the place of religion, faith and God is in the Ireland of tomorrow. Each of us enjoys life and ministry, love the people and parishes we work in and so want that the next generations of Catholics get to know and love the Lord and His church and get involved in building up their local parishes. We have been formed and trained to play a part in the mission of the church, to live and minister as priests and to share responsibility for parish life with the people we serve.

We are aware that with 35 years of service lived and 15 more before retirement at 76, that we won't be followed by a new generation of priests, at least not from Ireland. So we hope and pray and search for ways to share our experience, give of our best and yet live without exhaustion and burnout. We hope and pray for ever more involvement of laity, women, young people in leadership of parishes.

On one afternoon I went for a walk in the gardens and watched the bees. Just with the phone I captured this image of a bee, deep inside a flower, legs, body, back and wings laden with pollen, moving from plant to plant, sustaining life. He looked drowsy, not at all threatening and was doing something so simple, yet vital, in the chain of life. In nature when each of God's creatures plays their part, the eco system generates such amazing beauty. In our parishes, in the church, for the world when each of the baptised plays even a tiny role in living and sharing faith the eco system of God's kingdom flourishes too.

So even when we priests feel drowsy, weighted down by our ministry, hopefully God is harnessing our efforts to stimulate and support the faith of others. Thank you for all your prayers, affection and support which means so much to all those who minister in the church, we will continue share this adventure together.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 26th
6.00 Kathryn Broderick – 1st A
Sunday 27th
10.00 Mary Gough – 3rd A
Marie Flynn – R.D
Mairead Spencer – R.D
11.30 Betty Piggott – 15th A
Monday 28th
10.00 For all who are ill
Tuesday 29th
10.00 Liturgical Service
Friday 02nd July
10.00 Special Intention
Saturday 03rd
6.00 Pauline Curran – A
Nargis Vazir - A

PRAYER FOR SUMMERTIME

Loving God, Creator of all times and places, we thank you for the gift of summertime, the days of light, warmth and leisure.

Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere we look:

the multi-colored flowers,
the deep blue of the sky,
the tranquil surface of lakes,
the laughter of children at play,
people strolling in park,
families gathered around picnic tables and
the increased time to spend with family and friends.

As we open our eyes and ears to the landscape of nature and people,
open our hearts to receive all as gift.
Give us that insight to see you as the Divine Artist.
Help us to realize and appreciate that you are laboring
to keep all in existence.
And warm our souls with the awareness
of your presence.

Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer
deepen our awareness of you love
so that we may share this with others and enjoy
a summertime of re-creation. Amen



Our sympathies to the families, relatives and friends of **Fr. Gabriel Slattery** whose funeral took place here this week.

Mount Merrion Parish Pastoral Council (2017 – 2021)

Dear Parishioners

I am writing to let you know that the Mount Merrion Parish Pastoral Council had the last meeting of its fixed term, on Thursday last 10th June. This PPC was formed after a discernment process run in the Parish by the late Fr Tony Coote, in August / September 2017.

It has been a pleasure for this PPC to serve the parish of Mount Merrion during this challenging period (2017 to 2021) and navigating in particular: the terminal illness and untimely death of Fr Tony; a period of time where we had no parish priest but were (as a PPC) supported generously by Monsignor Paul Callan and Fr Fergus O'Connor (Vicar Forane) for which we were very thankful.

We welcomed Fr Joe Mullan as our new Parish priest (November 2019); we supported the Annual Peace Mass with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin (New Year's Day, 2020) and shortly after that, responded in co-responsibility with Fr Joe, to the fundamental changes brought by the Covid 19 restrictions. Daily Mass and other church services were moved on- line so we could continue with our faith practice while all keeping safe. We also recently celebrated in our beautiful Church the priestly ministry and life of service of the late Monsignor Ardlie McMahon, who served this parish for twenty five years.

One of our last tasks as a PPC has been to submit feedback to the Dublin Diocese on questions raised by the "Building Hope Task Force" where Archbishop Dermot Farrell is seeking feedback from Parish Pastoral Councils' on what we all need to do to secure our faith community for the future.

During the Summer, Fr Joe Mullan will continue to be supported in the work of the parish by an Executive team until such time as a new PPC is commissioned by Fr Joe, in the Autumn.

We would like to thank all the parishioners we have met during our tenure and for your wonderful support. Thank you again. With best wishes and every blessing.

Audrey O'Sullivan (Chairperson) | John Barry (Secretary) | Kay O'Donnell
Jennifer Kelly | Martina McNamara | Susanne O'Reilly | Fr Joe Mullan – (Mount Merrion PPC (2017 – 2021)

'Do not be afraid; only have faith!'

Central to today's readings is God the giver of life. We are encouraged to have faith in the Lord and in the life that God brings – not just here on earth, but also in heaven.

The passage from the Book of Wisdom in the **First Reading**, reminds us that God creates all things to have life, and to live that life well, resisting the temptations the evil one will bring.

In the **Second Reading**, St Paul offers guidance on responding to the many kinds of gifts that come from living that life well. We're not asked to make things harder for ourselves – but to use whatever surplus we have to share those gifts with others.

The Psalm gives us a song of praise and thanks for the gift of life, and the healing promise of the Lord. With the psalmist we can rejoice in the knowledge that the Lord comes to the help of those who call, regardless of our worthiness.

Through the miracles Jesus works in the Gospel, we are reminded once more of the healing, comfort, and new life that can be ours, if we but trust in the gift of faith.

During the week ahead, I may like to use my time in prayer with the Lord to ask for my own faith to continue to increase, so that I will have more than enough to offer those who are struggling with theirs.