



# Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

1st August 2021

[www.mountmerrionparish.ie](http://www.mountmerrionparish.ie)

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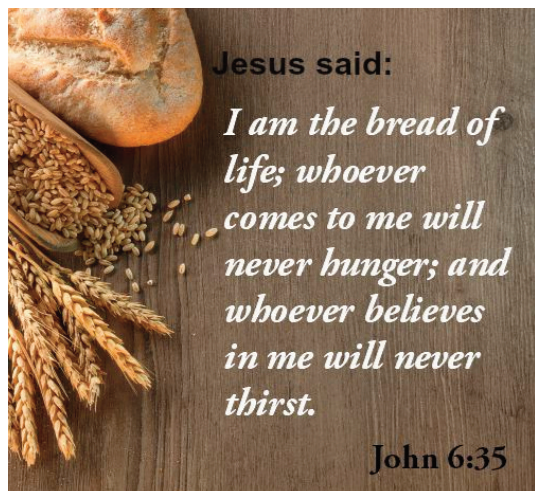


CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

[www.mountmerrionparish.ie](http://www.mountmerrionparish.ie)



Our sympathies to the families, relatives and friends of **Eithne Mac Donald, Shay Curtin and Elizabeth (Pat) Kinsella** whose funerals took place here this week.



Jesus said:

*I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger; and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*

John 6:35

A few words from Fr Joe.....

Last Sunday Pope Francis gave us the first 'Day of Prayer for Grandparents and Elderly people'. As I had been away for the previous week I didn't have time to read up on it before preparing the newsletter. So, my apologies that it wasn't promoted in advance. I did read the excellent letter that the Holy Father wrote for the occasion and I recommend it to you, just Google "Pope's Letter for Grandparents Day 2021" and you will find the text in English. In the letter Pope Francis talks about God sending his angels to accompany us as we make our way through life, and reminds us that we can be that angel for each other. The senior members of the community can really benefit from the care and attention, thoughtfulness, love and affection of their family and friends, their neighbours, church and community. He also reminds those who are advanced in years that their dreams, memories and prayers are an essential support for the generations which follow, and he sees that even the least mobile, the frail and the ill can still be a powerful source of love, support and companionship to the younger members of their families. It is one of his great insights that everyone has a role to play, all contribute something to the common good. The spirit of the day is captured in the prayer written for the occasion:

I thank You, Lord,  
for the comfort of Your presence:  
even in times of loneliness,  
You are my hope and my confidence,  
You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!  
I thank You for having given me a family  
and for having blessed me with a long life.  
I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty,  
for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me.  
I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You call me.  
Increase, O Lord, my faith,  
make me a channel of your peace,  
teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me,  
to never stop dreaming  
and to tell of your wonders to new generations.  
Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,  
that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.  
Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world,  
that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed,  
the poor consoled and wars ended.  
Sustain me in weakness  
and help me to live life to the full  
in each moment that You give me,  
in the certainty that you are with me every day,  
even until the end of the age.  
Amen.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 31st  
10.00 Brian Collins – R.D  
Eithne Mac Donald – R.D  
6.00 Mary Fitzgerald – M.M  
Sunday 01st  
10.00 Special Intention  
Noel Feddis – R.D  
Margaret Galvin- 1st A  
Monday 02nd August  
10.00 For all who are ill  
Tuesday 03rd  
10.00 Liturgical Service  
Wednesday 04th  
10.00 Holy Souls  
Saturday 07th  
10.00 Kay Doyle – 14th A  
6.00 Margaret Daly - A  
Sunday 08th  
11.30 Josephine Cox – M.M

## THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bread of Life sent us from heaven,  
eternal food to fill our soul.

Living Word, fill with Your Spirit,  
You are the Manna Who makes us whole.  
Master You call, we follow,  
You lead us where we dare not go.  
Your Path is straight; we will not stumble.  
You light The Way; we enter in Your Gate.

Nourishment that does sustain us,  
our daily need Who truly feeds.  
Prosperity in Love abounding,  
You give us strength to plant Your Seed.

You gave Your body so we may live again;  
Your flesh You offered, pure sacrifice.  
You told us eat of this New Covenant,  
drink in Your blood; You are The Christ.

Yours is the food that fills each cell with light,  
You are the water that takes our thirst.  
You are the substance that flourishes with  
might;  
You are the Last, You are the First.

Master You call, we follow,  
You lead us where we dare not go.  
Your Path is straight; we will not stumble.  
You light The Way; we enter in Your gate.

Bread of Life sent us from heaven,  
eternal food to fill our soul.  
Living Word, fill with Your Spirit,  
You are the Manna Who makes us whole.

## Christ, the Bread of Life

This is the first of several Sunday Gospels where we contemplate Jesus's teaching on the bread of life. It follows last week's account of the feeding of the five thousand.

The **First Reading** tells us of the hungry, grumbling Israelites in the desert and the gift of manna that God sends them.

The Psalm echoes this event, 'he gave them manna from heaven. Mere mortals ate the bread of angels'.



The message of the **Second Reading**, following the sections from Ephesians, links in with the new way of life demanded when we follow the discipleship of Jesus.

In the **Gospel**, the crowd have been searching for Jesus, perhaps wanting more of the physical bread he has given them. Jesus's teaching appeals to their deeper, spiritual hunger.

In our prayer this week, we can turn to God, knowing that, whatever the situation, he will always provide for his people. May it lead us also to a greater appreciation of the Eucharist.

## Universal prayer intention: Social friendship - Pope Francis

The Bible says that whoever finds a friend has found a treasure. I would like to invite everyone to go beyond their groups of friends and build social friendship, which is so necessary for living together well.

We especially need to have a renewed encounter with the most impoverished and vulnerable, those on the peripheries. And we need to distance ourselves from populisms that exploit the anguish of the people without providing solutions, proposing a mystique that solves nothing. We must flee from social enmity which only destroys, and leave "polarization" behind.

And this isn't always easy, especially today when part of our politics, society and media are bent on creating enemies so as to defeat them in a game of power.

Dialogue is the path to seeing reality in a new way, so we can live with passion the challenges we face in constructing the common good.

Let us pray that, in social, economic, and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship, men and women who always hold out a helping hand, and may no spaces of enmity and war remain.

