

Whoever is not
against us is for us

Mark 9.40

Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

26th September 2021

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

PARISH TEAM

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.mountmerrionparish.ie



MASS TIMES

Monday: 10:00am

Tuesday: 10:00 am Liturgical Service

Wednesday: 10:00am

Thursday: 10:00am

Friday: 10:00am

Saturday: 10:00am | Vigil: 6:00pm

Sunday: 10:00am | 11:30am | 7:30pm



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is having an outdoor collection for this weekend Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th of September. Your generosity is appreciated.

A few words from Fr Joe.....

Carrying the coffin of my uncle John from the hearse to his grave on Tuesday felt like the end of an era. He was 87, a wonderful man, bursting with energy and full of love and goodness. He was the last of the four Curran brothers to die, and four of his five sisters, my mother among them, have gone before him, leaving just one of the nine behind. I felt so sad for Auntie Barbara, now a frail older woman who has stood at the open graves of both her parents and all her siblings. "I'd like to go quietly when my time comes" she whispered to me as we walked back to the car, a quiet humble woman, she wouldn't care for all the drama that he generated!

It's been four years since the last family funeral and I'd forgotten the emotional roller coaster that the days after death bring us on. I was sad for uncle John, but to be honest his light was dimming in the few years since his beloved wife died. A picture on the Mass leaflet, probably taken at a wedding a few years ago, showed them together, finely dressed, beaming and beautiful, a memory of better days. Meeting his children, my cousins, was tearful and sad, they had done so much to make his final years and days comfortable and uplifting. Now they face life without either of their parents, they will learn to lean even more on each other. The wider family turned out in good numbers and it was such a relief to be able to have a couple of hundred people in the church for the Mass, there was even a small choir.

Listening to many anecdotes about his life was fascinating. As always you have one perspective on a relative, but his work colleagues, sporting pals, the other members of the chorus of the Belfast Opera, have all sorts of stories, everyone infused with admiration, appreciation and affection.

Every one of the nine siblings were people of faith, strong Catholics, active in the church and committed to all kinds of charitable works here and abroad. John read at Mass on Tuesdays when his name was on the rota, he believed in the Word that he proclaimed and held himself to the high standards that the followers of Jesus are called to. He had deep pockets and was extraordinarily generous. The Gospel chosen for his requiem was The Last Judgement, appropriate for a man who sat on the bench and administered justice, surely he will be found among the sheep, among those he helped, fed, clothed, visited and gave shelter to.

All of this affirms the place of faith and religious practice in our lives, hearing the Word and actively seeking to love God and our neighbour, can and does lead to a full and active life. We are all so grateful for the witness and example of his generation and all they have taught us.

Safeguarding Sunday 2021

We are all indebted to the safe guarding representatives in the parish and to each other for following the diocesan policies and making our parish as safe as possible for children and vulnerable adults. As we come back together again for Mass and parish activities please renew your commitment to these standards and encourage others to do the same. The Archbishop's letter on Safeguarding is available at the church and on the diocesan website and is well worth reading.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 25th

10.00 Frank Cormican – A

6.00 Maureen and Paul Cremins – A
Michael Burns – A

Sunday 26th

11.30 Joseph Lannin – M.M

Stephen Doorly – M.M

Tony O'Donnell – 6th A

Dr. Desmond McCarthy - A

Oona Linehan – A

Mary McCarthy Sandez and

Maishreid McCarthy - A

7.30 Jan Uys – M.M

Monday 27th

10.00 For all who are ill

Nora and Thomas Timlin - A

Tuesday 28th

10.00 Liturgical Service

Saturday 02nd October

10.00 Cicely and John Gallagher – A

6.00 Margaret Burns - A

Special Intention

Sunday 03rd October

10.00 Pauline Moriarty – A

Eithne Manley Johnston – A

Aoife O'Donnell – A

11.30 Betty King - A

Angela Caslin - A

Our sympathies to the families,
relatives and friends of **Ursula
Caffrey, Sharon Lee and Dr. Kibon
Aboud** whose funerals took place
here this week.



SEASON OF CREATION

Breeding Curlew and their current conservation
status - BirdWatch Ireland



The Curlew is one of the most iconic birds of the Irish countryside. Many still recall a time when the summer sky was full of its evocative bubbling call. Sadly, Curlew, along with other breeding wader species have suffered drastic declines in recent years and have almost disappeared from the Irish countryside.

Watch our CREATION HOUR 19/09/21 on
www.mountmerrionparish.ie/webcam
and press 'recordings'



Following the inspiration of our 'Creation Hour' last Sunday, parishioners can find a selection of books on minding our Earth and the Christian response to climate change issues.

The Lord gave his Spirit to them all!

Today's readings sound a note of warning against the small-heartedness that seeks to limit God's love, or reject the action of God's Spirit in the world. They proclaim the indwelling of the Spirit in the lives of all.

Moses rejoices that two elders absent from the Tent for the official 'enrolment' could still receive the Spirit, and he reprimands those who oppose this. Like Jesus in today's Gospel, Moses upholds God's freedom to communicate freely where he wills. **(First Reading)**

In this collection of sayings about Christian discipleship (**Gospel**), Jesus challenges his followers to pay attention to their attitude and inner motivation. The true disciple will be the one who knows how to rejoice in good, whatever its source. Jesus also gives powerful warnings to 'anyone who is an obstacle ... to the little ones who have faith'.

The **Psalm** meditates on the qualities of God's law, which reflect the characteristics of God himself. This is a 'model prayer' that helps safeguard the one who prays from both conscious and unconscious sin.

The **Second Reading** emphasises that those who are attached to riches at the expense of the poor are utterly un-Godly. They will be held accountable for their selfish actions in the next life.

This week, I may bring to prayer our local and national leaders, that they may allow service and humility to inform their inner attitude and motivation. I ask too that I may grow in awareness of my own God-given potential to influence life around me, in little ways and maybe even greater ones, as God wills.

October 1st: Feastday of St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Listen to my prayer; bring before
God my special intention...
Pray for me that I may have
something of your confidence
in the loving promises of our God.
Pray that I may live my life
in union with God's plan for me,
and one day see the Face of God
who you so ardently loved.



107th world day of MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Sunday 26th September 2021

"Toward an ever wider 'WE' - an ever more inclusive
world"

From Pope Francis' message

www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-05/pope-francis-migrants-refugees-wider-we-world-day-message.html