

Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

31st October 2021

www.mountmerrionparish.ie

PARISH TEAM

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PARISH OFFICE

Monday – Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm

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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



Our sympathies to the families,
relatives and friends of **Noel Goulding**
whose funeral took place here this week.

NOTICE

Envelopes and blank pages for the Altar List of the Dead are available in the church. Masses are offered by all the priests of the parish during the month of November and on First Fridays during the year for those who's names are recorded on the Altar List.

A few words from Fr Joe.....

I walked up to the front door of a house during the week, I was about to knock when, out of the corner of my eye I noticed, half hidden by the hedge, a skeleton on the grass and gasped. Still startled I noticed it was sort of half buried, but smiling, as if it were breaking free from the ground, coming out of the grave. Halloween has become 'scary', with witches and ghouls dangling by doors and from limbs of trees, pumpkins displayed with gnashing teeth, and manic grins, hedges draped in cobwebs, signs suggesting that you'd better 'stay out'.

People my age tend to reminisce about the Halloweens of our youth, recalling the way we bobbed for apples, were treated to a toffee apple, spent hours carving faces in turnips and squeezed a candle inside and if we were really bold, took the gates off a neighbour's house, as a sign that the restless spirits weren't always well behaved. Now it's 'trick and treating' like our American cousins, dressing up in truly frightening costumes and for the little people gathering a lot, far too many, sweets and bars from kindly folks, brave enough to answer a knock. The children of today have a ball finding their costumes and perfecting their makeup, the more blood the better!

One way or another Halloween is a night like no other, in fun and jest the darker side of the spiritual life comes alive and all sorts roam around to disrupt the calm of everyday and suggest another dimension to life. The magical, mysterious movement of witches on brooms and ghostly figures with grotesque features keep our spine tingling and heart in mouth.

To be honest I'm sort of glad when it's over, the orange wreaths are taken off doors and packed away with plastic bones and conical hats and we get ready for All Saints Day and then All Souls. When the faith community gathers to recall the lives of those who've lived among us and are now departed we have an altogether more consoling tale to tell. Our dead are at peace, they live in heavenly light, paradise is their final destination and one generation is reunited with those who went before. God is there with his angels and saints; St Peter guards the gate and the Blessed Mother is waiting to bring the dead to join the heavenly chorus. Jesus, radiant and risen is at the Father's side and all is well. We are left to celebrate their lives, remember our dead and to pray for all the faithful departed in the month ahead.



UN CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT
31.10.'21-12.11.'21

PRAYER VIGIL

Sunday October 31st, 2-5pm

Church of St. Thérèse,
Mt. Merrion, Co. Dublin

*'All of us can cooperate as instruments of God
for the care of Creation' – Pope Francis*

All are invited to drop into the Vigil and simply add your prayers/light a candle for Our Common Home on this opening day of the COP26 summit.
<https://ukcop26.org/cop26-goals/>

Still time to sign the petition ... <https://thecatholicpetition.org/>

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 30th
6.00 Mary and Archie Aylward - A
Sunday 31st
10.00 Bonnie O'Reilly – A
Monday 01st November
10.00 For all who are ill
Tuesday 02nd
10.00 Feast of All Souls Day Mass
Thursday 04th
10.00 Brian Traynor – A
Saturday 06th
6.00 Tommy Blake – A
Sunday 07th
11.30 Maisie and Jack Walsh and
their son Laurence – A
7.30 Mass for the Deceased

FEAST OF ALL SOULS DAY
Tuesday 2nd November

MASS @ 10 am

Prayer for Halloween

God of Laughter and Joy,

We turn to you in the way of our ancient ancestors,
grateful for the abundance of food and festivity
that surrounds us at this time of year.

Keep all children safe as they embark on
their Halloween revels.

Light their way through the dark night
and enfold them in your love.

May the real treat in their lives be grace
that multiplies in depth and breadth as
they grow older.

We pray this with all the saints in heaven
Amen.

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE!



Volunteers needed!

We, the Youth Group, would love to see you, no matter
what your talent is: **singing, reading, playing an
instrument or setting up for the mass.**

For TY Students, the Youth Group will qualify for your
Gaisce Award.

Please speak to a member of the Youth Group after the
7.30pm Sunday Mass or email
parishoffice@mountmerrionparish.ie

Think of the love that the Father has lavished upon us!

On this feast day we are reminded not only of those Saints who have gone before us, but also of the many inspirational people living saintly lives here on earth. The example of their lives of love and service inspire us on our own journey to the promise of eternal life.

In the **First Reading** we see John's vision of heaven and the multitude rejoicing there. In the presence of God the Father and Jesus (here in the guise of the sacrificial Lamb of God), praise and glory and thanksgiving are offered.

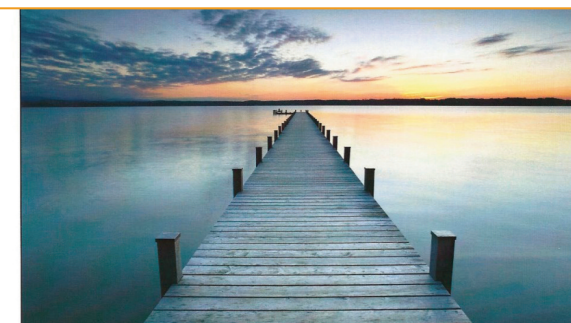
The **Psalm** speaks to us of God's gift of creation, the earth and everything in it. The psalmist reminds us of the blessings that will come to those who seek the Lord through living life with clean hands and pure heart.

In the **Second Reading**, St John's letter speaks of the love lavished upon us by God the Father. As children of God, we may at times find ourselves at odds with the values of the world, but we are promised a future in which the mystery of God will be revealed to us.

Jesus's teaching in the **Gospel** outlines the wealth of blessings that come from living our lives well, and serving others. We are again reminded that although being true to his example may lead to persecution and rejection, we will be rewarded in heaven.

This week, we ask the Lord's help to be generous with our prayers, our time, and our possessions in responding to the plight of those in our world who experience the harsh realities of persecution, loss and injustice on a daily basis.

Love is a fruit in season at all
times, and within reach of
every hand.
Mother Teresa



MASS FOR THE DECEASED SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 7th AT 7:30pm

Families of parishioners from Mount Merrion who have been bereaved from October 2020 to date have been invited to attend this special Mass. All parishioners who wish to attend are also most welcome to do so.

The Mass for the bereaved will be preceded by a Candle of Light Ceremony to commemorate all parishioners and friends who have died. A large candle in a storm lantern will be lit before morning Masses on Sunday the 7th. At the end of Mass, the celebrant will take the candle to the Garden of Remembrance in the Church grounds. Members of the Funeral Ministry team will bring containers of flowers. Short prayers will be said around the commemorative stone. Parishioners attending Mass are invited to follow the celebrant outdoors and participate in this prayerful remembrance.

During these days of commemoration parishioners are invited to light candles at any of the shrines in the church and to visit the Sacred Space in memory of family and friends who have died.

GOD WILL BE YOUR EVERLASTING LIGHT (ISAIAH 60:60)