

# Love

## Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

19th December 2021

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



Harold's Cross  
& Blackrock  
Respite Rehabilitation Reassurance

Blackrock Hospice will temporarily relocate its services during the extensive building works. This work is important to ensure that we can meet the needs of the community now and for future generations. Blackrock Hospice will close to the public from **Monday 20th December at 5pm** and will reopen in late 2022. Please continue to support us by phone 01 2064000, online at [www.olh.ie](http://www.olh.ie) or email [fundraising@olh.ie](mailto:fundraising@olh.ie) if you would like further information. We look forward to welcoming you back to our new and improved facility in late 2022.

### A few words from Fr Alan Hilliard

Thank you for the invitation to lead the Advent Reflection and Reconciliation Service this year. I've been asked to speak about migration during this reflection – in truth all I can share with you is what I have learnt from migrants about God. They have inspired me to trust more, to pray more and to focus on God's grace at difficult points in life's journey. The journey of a migrant is often one of transition to other places – we transition, not necessarily to other shores but to other ways of being.

We will gather to pray for God's grace to help us on our way and for his great compassionate understanding as we acknowledge our weaknesses and shortcomings which make us depend on him all the more. There are many points in scripture where people felt overcome, they even felt like giving up but in those moments, God spoke and those who were once overcome were uplifted and they journeyed on. Scripture tells us that when God's grace intervenes in our lives, we find new hope and a new energy for life. This is sometimes an added bonus for us but for the migrant on a difficult journey it becomes the mainstay of their support.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is first and foremost a Sacrament of Grace. Many put so much effort into their own preparation that they leave little space for God's loving action in the Sacrament. On Monday the 20th of December we will be taking time to ponder God's desire to speak to us and to be with us during these times. In summary we pause and make space for the God who loves us. Please join us in person if that is permitted, safe and comfortable, or via the webcam.



**ADVENT REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION SERVICE**  
Monday 20th December @ 7.30pm  
Church of St. Thérèse Mount Merrion



### "BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB!"

Christ is coming! The readings this weekend are full of an expectation. God's promise through Micah is fulfilled in the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, and their faith.



In the **First Reading**, Micah proclaims that the Messiah will come from Bethlehem and lead his flock back to their land in peace.

The **Psalms** is a plea to the Shepherd of Israel for this return, and for the sending of the Messiah, the chosen one.

The **Second Reading** from the Letter to the Hebrews emphasizes the fact that the Christ who redeemed us took on a human body, like ours.

The **Gospel** helps us gather all these themes: obedience to God's will; faith in his promises; and especially faith in the Incarnation – Jesus our Saviour, already becoming flesh in Mary's womb.

May we journey through these last days of Advent in Mary's company, so that Christ may be born in us.



Saturday 18th

10.00 Paula Kerin – Special Intention  
6.00 Mary Aylward – A  
Denis Brady – A  
Rosie Smyth – A  
Bridget Smith – A  
Tom and Paul Carroll - A

Sunday 19th

10.00 Laurence Moran – A  
Harry McEvoy – A  
Con Murphy and his Son Conn – A  
Emily Kirwan – A  
Edward Pilkington - R

11.30 Paddy and Delia Beirne – A  
Dermod, Anita and  
Dara Breathnach – R  
Nuala and Fred Richardson and their  
daughter Ruth – R  
Brian McCarthy - A  
Evelyn Deighan - A

7.30 Michael Gordon – A  
Seamus Casey – 3rd A

Monday 20th

10.00 For all who are ill  
Frank Geary – A

Tuesday 21st

10.00 Liturgical Service

Thursday 23rd

10.00 Paddy Curran – A  
Catherine O'Shea – M.M  
Noel and Josephine Kennedy -R

### INTRODUCING A NOVEL WAY OF MAKING DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH.

During the pandemic many parishioners, young and old, have contributed to the church, priests and parish, using cards alongside the normal cash. The move to standing orders, tap and pay, online donations have all been an invaluable support, thank you. For a long time, I have been dreaming of a simple way that parishioners could use their phones to make contributions in a very simple and convenient way. It felt like an answer to my prayers when a young woman, graduate of Mount Anville, and accomplished in finance, called in to chat to us about Xelda.

Xelda is an Irish and female-founded cashless payments app that provides a simple solution for contactless donations, payments and tips. I think Xelda has great potential for parish contributions, and if used well, could greatly increase the donations eligible for the tax refund. I am so pleased that our parish has been given the opportunity to be the first to pilot this system. It would be brilliant if you could give it a go and see if it works for you.

If you wish to donate to Mount Merrion Church or contribute the Mass collections, please follow the below steps:

1. Look for the QR code, it is a box with dots!
2. Open the camera on your phone
3. Point the camera at the QR code
4. Click on the Xelda link that pops up on your screen
5. Select or enter the amount you wish to donate
6. Pay with Apple/Google Pay or card. If paying by card, please enter your email address if you wish to receive a receipt.



### CHRISTMAS EVE: FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER

10am Morning Mass  
4.00pm "Happy Birthday Jesus"  
6pm Vigil Mass for Christmas  
8pm Youth Mass for Christmas  
10pm Mass for Christmas Night

### CHRISTMAS DAY: SATURDAY 25TH DECEMBER

10am Mass - Senior Choir  
11.30am Family Mass

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER

11.30am One Mass for all parishioners

### RECONCILIATION

Service of Reflection and Reconciliation  
Monday 20th December 7.30pm:  
with Fr Alan Hilliard, writer and  
broadcaster with special concern for  
Migrants in the Church of St. Therese,  
Mount Merrion, for all three parishes.

### Individual Confessions: Christmas Eve

Sacrament of Reconciliation will follow  
morning Mass until 11.30am

### 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent



19 Dec – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Be like a lit  
candle and burn  
brightly for  
Jesus today.

20 Dec - Monday

Say 'I'm sorry'  
for the times I  
wasn't kind or  
loving like Jesus.

**Reconciliation Service 7.30pm  
this evening in Mount  
Merrion Church**

21 Dec – Tuesday

Let's say a little prayer as we  
make our last few  
preparations  
before we  
welcome Jesus anew this  
week.

22 Dec - Wednesday

Forgive someone  
who hurt you Jesus  
will help you.

23 Dec – Thursday

"I encourage all of you to live  
the joy of your mission by  
witnessing to the Gospel  
wherever you are called to live  
and work" -Pope Francis

24 Dec Friday - Christmas Eve

Make a birthday  
card and bring it  
along to our 4pm  
"Happy Birthday,  
Jesus!" Family Celebration  
Liturgy

25 Dec –Saturday

**Christmas Day**  
Thank you,  
Lord Jesus, for  
coming to me!

26 Dec Sunday – Feast of the  
Holy Family. Mass at 11.30am

We thank God for  
our families,  
friends and all the  
love & blessings in  
our lives