

## Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

16th January 2022

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

### PARISH TEAM

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### PARISH OFFICE

Monday – Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm

Parish Secretary: Vivienne Dempsey  
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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.mountmerrionparish.ie](http://www.mountmerrionparish.ie)



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

Rest in  
Peace

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

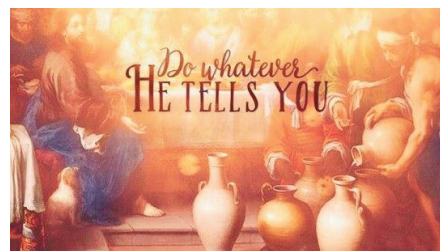
### A few words from Fr Joe.....

I bumped into three mums outside the school one day during the week. They were chatting, keeping an eye on their kids playing nearby and waiting for the others to finish school. I've often found this to be a fantastic time to have an impromptu meeting with parents, a sort of in between moment, they are relaxed and available, with time for a chat.

So, three things were memorable for me in that encounter. Firstly, how friendly and affable they were, that's no surprise, but after such a long time of not engaging with each other in this way, it was lovely that they were interested. Secondly, they were up for the chat about how much the parish and the wider church needs their involvement if we are to have a happy and effective future. They were very aware of the way their parents and older parishioners have built up the parish over the years. They know that as one generation ages the next generation has to step up to the plate, and participate. Thirdly each of them had deep and moving insights into the effect of the pandemic on their faith and participation in Church. This was so good for me to hear, that their absence from Mass and not being able to bring their children, with the wider family, even at Christmas, was a real loss for them.

One mum was strong when speaking about the negative way some of her friends, who aren't interested in church, criticise her for staying in touch with her faith, and involving her children in the choir and activities here. I felt that if we had more time to talk, we could build up this positive feeling she had, and help her to build confidence in the face of that criticism.

Maybe that is our common task as hopefully the effects of Covid on our church life begins to wane. We need to be positive, to renew our activity levels, reengage with ministries, with Mass and wider parish activities. As we believe so fervently that this spiritual dimension of life is invaluable, we will do all we can to secure the future of the parish to the best of our ability.



In the **First Reading** this week, Isaiah uses the beautiful imagery of a wedding to describe the ways in which the deep love of God for his people will transform our lives. God delights in us: 'As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride so will your God rejoice in you'.

Another wedding scene is described in today's **Gospel**. At the beginning of his public life, Jesus's love and care transform a wedding feast from disaster to joyous celebration by turning water into wine.

St Paul teaches the church in Corinth about how God works through the many different people in the church so that they (and we) can use their gifts in a variety of ways in his service, united by the one Spirit working through them all to transform the lives of others. (**Second Reading**)

The **Psalms** invites us to praise God and to proclaim the good news of God's transforming love to all peoples.

In what ways do we need the Lord to transform our lives this week?



### Saturday 15th

10.00:  
Anne Hoyer – 1st A  
Evelyn Cassidy – M.M

### Monday 17th

10.00  
For all who are ill

### Tuesday 18th

10.00  
Liturgical Service

### Saturday 22nd

10.00  
Kevin Smith – A  
6.00  
Betty O'Connor – M.M  
Laura Lombard – 1st A  
Maura Lombard – 13th A

### Sunday 23rd

10.00  
Bill Lawlor - A  
Paddy Duffy – A  
Elizabeth Duffy – R. D  
Michael O'Maoileoin – R.D

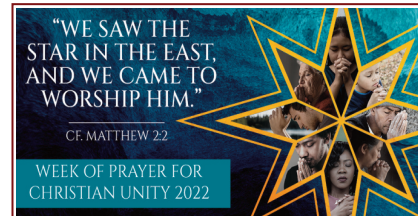
11.30  
Peter Murphy – 1st A  
Mary Varley – A  
May Moran – A  
Rose Mazzola – A  
Joey Fagan – R.D

### Sunday 16th

10.00:  
Fr. Ambrose Farrington – 1st A  
James Gibson – 10th A  
Don and Marie Cockburn – R  
The Scully Family – R  
Jim Dillon – 1st A

11.30:  
Ann Lawler – 2nd A  
Anne Gray – 1st A  
Margaret Patricia  
McGuinness – A  
Fr. John O'Brien – R

7.30  
Mary and Eddie Cummins  
Mary Doheny – 1st A



### 18TH-25TH JANUARY WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

It was the great desire of Jesus, the night before his Passion and Death, that all his disciples be united as one, and each year from 18-25th January, the Church prays in particular for this desire of Jesus. This year the theme and texts for the Week of Prayer has been prepared by an ecumenical group in the Middle East. The theme is: **"We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him." (Mt 2:2)**

Evening Prayer will be offered at 4.30pm each day at the Carmelite Monastery, Upper Kilmacud Road. Due to the ongoing high levels of COVID-19 cases, the chapel will unfortunately not be open to the public. However, the Sisters invite all to join live with them via Zoom (**Zoom Meeting ID: 890 5282 1805 , Passcode: unity22**) or to view the Prayer later on each evening on their YouTube channel (KilmacudCarmel)

### Speakers for the week are:

**Tuesday 18th:** Rev. Ian Gallagher, St. Brigid's Church of Ireland,  
**Wednesday 19th:** Dr Jessie Rogers, Dean of Theology, Maynooth  
**Thursday 20th:** Carmelite Sister  
**Friday 21st:** Dr Paul Manook, (Dishchekean) The Armenian Apostolic Church in Ireland  
**Saturday 22nd:** Dr Ruth Patterson, Restoration Ministries,  
**Sunday 23rd:** Carmelite Sister  
**Monday 24th:** Carmelite Sister  
**Tuesday 25th:** Rev. Joe Mullan, Adm., Mount Merrion, Kilmacud, Clonskeagh

### 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.*



Synods are a time to dream and "spend time with the future": We are encouraged to create a local process that inspires people, with no one excluded to create a vision of the future filled with the joy of the Gospel. The following dispositions will help participants (cf. Christus Vivit):

- An innovative outlook: To develop new approaches, with creativity and a certain audacity.
- Being inclusive: A participatory and co-responsible Church, capable of appreciating its own rich variety, embraces all those we often forget or ignore.
- An open mind: Let us avoid ideological labels and make use of all methodologies that have borne fruit.
- Listening to each and every one: By learning from one another, we can better reflect the wonderful multi-faceted reality that Christ's Church is meant to be.
- An understanding of "journeying together": To walk the path that God calls the Church to undertake for the third millennium.
- Understanding the concept of a co-responsible Church: To value and involve the unique role and vocation of each member of the Body of Christ, for the renewal and building up of the whole Church.
- Reaching out through ecumenical and interreligious dialogue: To dream together and journey with one another throughout the entire human family.