

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

Luke 4 18

Mount Merrion Parish Newsletter

23rd January 2022

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



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 **Brendan Considine** (13th January) and **Doreen Cleary, Kathleen Scanllan** (this week) whose funerals took place here.



XELDA QR CODE

A few words from Fr Joe.....Mass in the Cathedral

Last Sunday I sat in the pews for a change, attending the 11.00am Mass at the Cathedral in Porto. Walking oh so slowly up the steepest set of steps I've ever climbed I wondered if the option of watching Fr Brian on the live stream might not have been the better choice! However having reached the majestic church, with its twin towered facade, wide plaza and spectacular view back over the rich red tiled roofs all the way back down to the river Douro, I was glad to have made the effort.

I stepped in through the narrow door and in the cool interior my glasses immediately fogged up. It took a moment for my vision to return, my heart rate to calm down and then little by little I was able to take in the interior. Like many old buildings in Porto, the two characteristics of narrow and tall, were in evidence here too. A long aisle ahead and newly restored granite columns soaring towards heaven carrying the plain roof. The huge carved wooden altarpiece, was under restoration, the top third completed, covered in shimmering gold leaf, Mary at the centre, clutching flowers and gazing down on all who gathered.

I slipped into a pew, maintaining social distance, and noticed a clean cut young man in the seat in front of me. Like most people his age he was wearing jeans and sneakers, black jacket, close cut hair and face masked, totally unremarkable, except for the well worn English 'Daily Missal' on the seat beside him. I had a similar book, used frequently, when I was a seminarian and I jumped to the conclusion that he too was likely a student for the priesthood. During Mass he sat, like me, unable to understand a word of Portuguese, following the readings in English, he with his missal and me with my iPhone.

After the final blessing of the Mass, which ended just as the bells above pealed the Angelus, I spoke to him for a moment. I mentioned noticing his missal, told him I was a priest and asked if he was studying theology abroad. He answered in a soft American accent, that no he wasn't a seminarian, but in fact a soldier, stationed with the forces in Germany, and using some vacation time to explore Europe. The Missal he told me was a prized gift from his uncle, a priest back in Minnesota, and carrying it with him across the many countries of Europe, all with languages he didn't know, helped him be present and attentive at Mass, and reminded him of home. He knew that while he was at this Mass listening to the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana, his folks would be hearing the same scripture in their local church, and they'd be praying for him and his safe return.

We parted after a couple of minutes but his faith, fidelity to participation at the Sunday Eucharist and his love for his family stayed with me all through the day. It is a joyful mystery, but true, when a stranger gives witness to their faith they preach a powerful message of hope.

Sunday 23rd January 2022

The Sunday of the Word is celebrated on the third Sunday of Ordinary Time after Christmas.

"The Word that saves does not go looking for well-preserved, clean, safe places.

It comes into our complexities, into our darkness. Today, as then, God desires to visit those places where we think He doesn't go.

A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord." Pope Francis



Saturday 22nd

10.00:
Kevin Smith – A
Aisling Murphy – R.D

Monday 24th

10.00
For all who are ill

Tuesday 25th

6.00
Betty O'Connor – M.M
Laura Lombard – 1st A
Maura Lombard – 13th A
The Hilary Family - A

10.00
Liturgical Service

Saturday 29th

10.00
Tom and Peggy Duffy – A
Paddy and
Rose McDonald – A

Sunday 23rd

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

Sunday 30th

11.30:
Mary Varley – A
May Moran – A
Rose Mazzola – A
Joey Fagan – R.D
Peter Murphy – 1st A
Chris Liddy – 1st A
Louise Steenson – A

10.00
Michéal Gabriel
O'Cuinneagáin – A

11.30

Therese Murphy – 1st A

7.30

Maura Donnellan - A

7.30
Nora De Blacam – 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 final few days are:

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

'Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life'



On this 'Sunday of the Word of God', we are invited to deepen our relationship with the Lord through our devotion and dedication to reading and praying with scripture. In each reading, we hear how the Spirit of the Lord revives, liberates, sustains, unites and gives life.

The law of the Lord is read out by Ezra (**First Reading**), and the people are taught to celebrate it. The joy of the Lord is their stronghold.

The **Psalm** celebrates God's law of love: each line is a litany of the comfort, joy and strength that can be drawn from the Word of God.

Paul teaches that although the Christian community is very diverse, with different strengths and perspectives, we are all united in the Spirit of the Lord through our baptism (**Second Reading**).

Jesus, filled with the spirit of the Lord, reads from the word of God and proclaims that Isaiah's prophecy is embodied and fulfilled in him (**Gospel**). Jesus liberates, heals, transforms and brings good news.

As followers of Jesus who are united by the living Spirit of God, this is our calling too. With our lives centred on Scripture, the living word of God, we are not alone as we pray. We belong to a living, transforming community of believers united by our baptism. We share the same joy expressed by the Psalmist, and are guided by the word of God that the prophets proclaimed. Let us pray that our lives will be a testament to the liberating, healing teachings that Jesus embodied.

Catholic Schools Week 2022
Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full

Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full

23 JANUARY – 30 JANUARY 2022



MONDAY
Living Life to the Full with God

TUESDAY
Living Life to the Full Together

WEDNESDAY
(Grandparents' Day)
Celebrating Being Together Again

THURSDAY
Living Life in Wonder and Awe

FRIDAY
Living Life and Facing the Future