

*Behold*  
*The Lamb of God*  
*who takes away the*  
*sins of the world.*  
- John 1:29

## MOUNT MERRION PARISH

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

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

### Parish Team

Fr. Joe Mullan administrator  
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### Parish Office

Monday – Friday 9am – 12pm

Vivienne Dempsey tel. 2881271  
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check out our website  
[www.mountmerrionparish.ie](http://www.mountmerrionparish.ie)

A few words from Fr Joe.....

Capodanno, is the word you might see in Italy on posters advertising the New Year celebrations. Until I spent one end of year holiday in Amalfi I had no idea what an exuberant and joyful celebrations the Italians enjoy.

I well remember that New Year's Eve in 1990, dinner in every restaurant was a set meal, one price, expensive, and many courses. As mid night drew near everyone moved out onto the streets to mingle, packing the promenade. Local children tossed harmless firecrackers in among the feet of the crowd, each little explosion causing a reveller to jump with fright. My inner child, being formed in Northern Ireland, found this all very uncomfortable indeed, explosions, however small, were not joyful and heart lifting.

In fact, I found it so unsettling that I insisted we go back to the hotel and sit on the balcony to enjoy seeing the sky lit up by the explosions of colour as the fireworks marked midnight. As my friend and I sat there saying farewell to one year, and welcoming a new one, we reflected on how much the environment we grew up in had formed our attitudes and behaviours. As single Irish men, both priests and from Northern Ireland, this way of passionate, joyful, boisterous, fun filled community celebrations were totally unfamiliar to us. We made a sort of New Year's Resolution to cast off the restrictions of our impoverished way of celebrating and to embrace the lightness and laughter of the Italian way.

Like most resolutions we make in the moment of the bells ringing in the New Year, they don't actually change us very much. Firecrackers still make me jump, but I hope something of that Italian outlook on life is there for all of us. The New Year brings the hope of life being a bit better, and particularly for our young people that they can get to enjoy the full potential of life, while for all of us, we might regain the lost freedoms of this past 18 months.

Wishing you and all you love a very Happy and Joyful New Year. Buon Anno



**Mass Time for the Feast of the Epiphany**  
**Mount Merrion Church Vigil Mass at 6.30pm**  
**Feastday Mass 10am in both Churches, Kilmacud & Mount Merrion**  
**then 7pm in Kilmacud**

### MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday -1<sup>st</sup> January  
10.00 Clare Deignan – 50<sup>th</sup> A  
6.00 John Hayes – 4<sup>th</sup> A  
Sunday 04<sup>th</sup>  
10.00 Doris Lawlor – A  
7.30 Donald Hickey – A  
Monday 03<sup>rd</sup>  
10.00 For all who are ill  
Tuesday 04<sup>th</sup>  
10.00 Liturgical Service  
Sunday 09<sup>th</sup>  
10.00 Alyce and Josh Regan - A

### 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.

### Standing at the Beginning of a New Year

Sacred Mystery,  
waiting on the  
threshold of his new  
year,  
you open the gates  
and beckon to me:  
"Come! Come!"

Be not fearful of what  
awaits you as you enter the  
unknown terrain, be not  
doubtful of your ability to  
grow from its joys and  
sorrows.

For I am with you.  
I will be your Guide.  
I will be your  
Protector. You will  
never be alone."

Guardian of this new  
year, I set aside my  
fears, worries and  
concerns,  
I open my life to mystery, to  
beauty, to hospitality, to  
questions,  
to endless opportunity  
of discovering in my relationships,  
and to all the silent wisps of  
wonder that will draw me to your  
heart.

I welcome your unfailing Presence  
and walk with hope into this new  
year.

--Joyce Rupp



### Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong  
path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal  
life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.



those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31