

MOUNT MERRION PARISH

2nd January 2022 www.mountmerrionparish.ie

Parish Team

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Parish Office

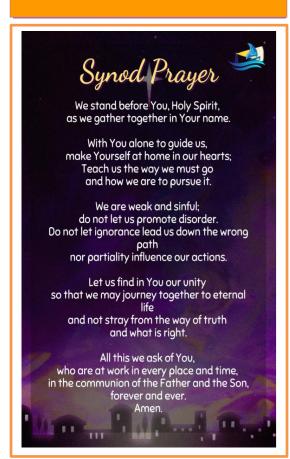
Monday - Friday 9am - 12pm

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check out our website 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 -1st January

10.00 Clare Deignan – 50th A

6.00 John Hayes – 4th A

Sunday 04th

10.00 Doris Lawlor - A

7.30 Donald Hickey – A

Monday 03rd

10.00 For all who are ill

Tuesday 04th

10.00 Liturgical Service

Sunday 09th

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 is works for you.

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

- 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
- Select or enter the amount you wish to donate
- 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



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.

Isaian 44:31