



Mount Argus Bulletin

The Parish of St Paul of the Cross

-- *Saint Paul's Retreat, Mount Argus, Dublin 6W (Eircode: D6W XR66) --*

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Website (including Bulletin online): www.mountargusparish.ie

Interim Administrator: Fr. Pat Fitzgerald C.P.

Masses at Mount Argus

Sunday: 8.00 am, 11.00 am, 4.00 pm

Monday to Friday: 10.00 am, 6.15 pm

Saturdays: 11.00 am, 6.15 (Vigil Mass)

Working Holydays 6.15 pm Vigil, 10.00 am, 6.15 pm

Church Opening Hours

Sunday: 7.30 am to 5.00 pm

Monday to Friday: 9.30 am to 6.45 pm

Saturday: 10.30 am to 7.00 pm

Blessing with the Relic of St Charles

Monday to Friday after 10.00 am Mass

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 4.00 pm

Saturday after 11.00 am Mass

Sunday after 11.00 am and 4.00 pm Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:

11.00 - 11.30 am, 4.00 - 4.30 pm

Saturday: 4.00 to 5.30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

St Charles Novena Mass: Saturday, 11.00 am

Wednesdays and Fridays: 4.00 to 6.00 pm

The Ascension of the Lord

“Why Are You Standing There?”

I've been very fortunate in my life as a priest to have experienced a wide range of ministries, ranging from second-level school teaching, to youth work, to parish ministry in a variety of countries, to retreat-house work, to hospice chaplaincy. I can honestly say that I have always felt enlightened and enriched in each of those situations, and generally in ways I would never have anticipated.

In one of the parishes in which I worked there was a primary school attached to the parish – unlike here in Mount Argus. In my capacity as Parish Priest I was obliged to be much involved in all aspects of school life. Oddly, being chaplain to the school was optional, rather than an expectation/obligation. But I loved it. It was often a refuge of sanity away from some of the other tasks in the Parish.

In one of my latter years there a proposal was made that the school to set should up a chaplaincy team. I was instantly fascinated, because the difference in this suggestion was that it should consist of pupils in the school. I was part of the process in which we interviewed applicants for the posts, and eventually appointed nine pupils as chaplains. They were given very few and broad guidelines – they were to assist in developing the religious ambience in the school and sensitively help everyone appreciate the importance of religion not just in school, but in their lives. They were asked to meet together and use their imaginations and creativity to develop ways to best do this.

The group chosen were very enthusiastic and really couldn't wait to take on the role. To identify them, rather than having a Roman collar, they were given a special tie. To be honest, I wasn't entirely sure how long their enthusiasm might last. I needn't have worried! Having given them a few months to get themselves organised and to experience the role, I met with them as a group to hear from themselves how they were getting on. They couldn't contain themselves in their eagerness to tell me. If anything they were even more keen and enthusiastic than ever. It wouldn't be fair to them here to try to summarise all the initiatives undertaken, and the

wonderful ideas they had. Sufficient to say that I was hugely impressed by their energy, level-headedness, sensitivity to others and serious-mindedness. And they were clearly having great fun and loved the role! God works in the most amazing ways. “Unless you become as little children ...” took on an altogether richer and deeper meaning for me.

I was thinking of them as I was reading the account of the Ascension from the Acts of the Apostles in today’s Mass. Especially at that point where Jesus has just disappeared behind the clouds and the disciples are left there looking up into the heavens, not knowing what to do next. And the two angels appear and basically say “you can’t stay there forever. Get on with life. Remember all He taught you and live like He said.” They might very well have added – to the disciples and to us – “be like those pupil-chaplains – use your imagination and initiative to live in a really Christian way, and spread that message to others. And do it with energy and enthusiasm, and love!”

Ascension Day is not about Jesus leaving our world – it’s more about Him letting go of our hands and letting us grow as independent individuals, who know that the Spirit is always there to help us along the way. Unless we rise to the challenge, we’ll never know what we could achieve. And it might even be fun!

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Bank Holiday Monday: We remind you that this Monday is a Bank holiday. There will be just the one Mass here – and that’s at 11.00 am. The church will remain open until about 4.30 pm.

Join over 10,000 Pilgrims | All Ireland Rosary Rally | Knock | Saturday, 7th June

Over 10,000 pilgrims are expected at the 40th All-Ireland Rosary Rally on Saturday, June 7th at Knock Shrine. Events begin at 9:30am with a Marian Conference and conclude with a Pentecost Vigil and Healing Service from 8–10pm. Highlights include a Rosary making workshop, a 250-person Rosary formation for filming. Keynote at 1 PM by Msgr Steve Rossetti, USA. Rosary Procession led by children follows the Stations of the Cross at 2:30pm, with Holy Mass at 3pm celebrated by Bishop Donal McKeown. Music by Dana. A youth conference runs 6–7:30 PM. Rosary Rally ends with a Croagh Patrick climb and Mass on Sunday at noon. Full schedule and bus info: www.allirelandrosaryrally.com.

PRAYER AND FASTING FOR THE HOLY LAND

The Irish Bishops, meeting on Monday, offered prayers for peace in the Holy Land, for Ukraine, Sudan and in other troubled parts of the world. They discussed the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, stating: “From all over Ireland, parishioners are reporting their horror and helplessness on seeing images of death and communal destruction in Gaza. Mothers can no longer nourish their young, who are dying of malnutrition, while aid lorries are being refused entry into the territory. “We in Ireland must pray for a change of heart. Throughout June – the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – we call on all to pray for an outpouring of the compassion of God on a heartless world.

We call on all Catholics to make the first Friday, June 6, a day of prayer and fasting in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are suffering at this time in the Holy Land. “We echo Pope Leo XIV’s recent appeal to allow into Gaza ‘the entry of dignified humanitarian aid and to put an end to the hostilities, whose heartbreaking price is paid by the children, elderly, and the sick.’”

DARE TO HOPE: On Saturday, June 14, the Irish Bishops’ Conference will host “**Dare to Hope**” – a dynamic and prayerful gathering for young adults aged 18 to 30. The event will take place in the Youth Village at the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine in Knock. A €20 attendance charge will enable participants to hear guest speakers, to attend workshops and related events. Dare to Hope will conclude with the celebration of Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady, with Bishop Fintan Gavin of Cork and Ross as the chief celebrant. For more information, visit <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/>.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish.....; we remember those who have died recently –Thomas Nolan, Don Harrington, Ann Kane; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Eva Kennedy, Thomas & Maire Butler, Susan Micheau, Kevin & Maura Keegan, John Clohessy, Patrick & Doris Dolan, Joan & Michael Breslin.

Financial Update – 1 June 2025: Collection last Sunday, €1730. Standing orders for week, approx. €250. Donations via website, €406. Payments via credit card machines past week, €854.50.