Mount Argus Bulletin

The Parish of St Paul of the Cross

Saint Paul's Retreat, Mount Argus, Dublin D6W XR66

29th November 2026

Phone: 01 499 2000 Email: office@mountargusparish.ie
Website (including Bulletin online): www.mountargusparish.ie

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
St Charles Novena Mass: Saturday, 11.00 am

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
Wednesdays and Fridays: 4.00 to 6.00 pm

First Sunday of Advent

FAST ASLEEP?

I had occasion not so long ago to need to be in Belfast. At this stage in my life I'm much less inclined to drive longer journeys – it's generally easier to avail of the advantages of free travel, with the added bonus of arriving fresher. Instead of having to keep focussed on the road and traffic conditions etc., I can spend the journey reading or doing a crossword or some such. On this occasion, however, I needed to have a certain amount of independent mobility when I got there, so it was simpler all round to have the car. It's not a journey I like to make any more than I have to, especially having to get from here to past Dublin airport, which sometimes can take nearly half the total travel time! Once past there one tends to be able to relax a little, although one needs to be constantly alert to the unexpected behaviour of some other drivers.

On this particular occasion I was proceeding uneventfully enough along the motorway when I noticed that a truck some distance ahead of me appeared to be veering a little from side to side. As it was cold and a little foggy at the time, and being aware of the possibility that there might be ice on the road, I took it as an indication that I would need to be even more cautious. The line of traffic I was in eventually edged past the truck, and as I was passing the truck I glanced across, only to see to my horror that the driver appeared to be dozing at the wheel! As I was in the faster lane, and in a continuous stream of traffic, there was nothing I could realistically do that wouldn't have been even more hazardous for the drivers behind us. I said a quick prayer that the truck driver would realize the danger in his situation and pull in to the side as soon as he could safely do so.

It's a widely acknowledged fact that driving on motorways, especially if one is going along at a steady pace, where the sound of the engine is on the same steady note all the time, can be almost hypnotic, especially if one is on one's own. Our Gospel today reminds us that our journey through life can be a little like that sometimes – we can easily drift through it in a monotonous, humdrum way, mostly unaware of what is going on around us – barely awake, as it were. When I come to think of it, when last did I do something

different on a Monday to what I usually do on a Monday, or a Tuesday, or whatever? Our gospel today is very much a wake-up call for me and my likes!

As we enter on the season of Advent and prepare for the coming of Christmas, we're invited to live our lives with a little more awareness of what's going on around us - to be aware, for instance, that there is never a need for us to be travelling alone; to be aware that life need never be monotonous or humdrum. Falling asleep on the job, as it were, is not really an option. Last Sunday we were challenged to see Christ in the needy in our world – "when did I see you…..". Our gospel today is telling us that we certainly won't see Him is we're not awake! For many – maybe house-bound or less well-off – this can be a very lonely time of the year. Perhaps we could "see You …." and travel along with them – but not while sleeping at the wheel!

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It's that time of the year again!:

The Mount Argus Community Centre Senior **Christmas Party** will be held in the Centre (179 Lr Kimmage Road) on Sunday 13th December from 2pm to 5pm - admission is **by ticket only**. Tickets are available from Mary Kennedy, Derbhil Johnson, or please call the Centre 01 492 1225 and we will deliver them to you.

And to get your taste buds warmed up – there will be a **Tea & Coffee Morning** in the Centre on Friday 11th December from 10.30am till 12pm

Date for your Diary:

Everyone is welcome to our annual Carol Service on Sunday, the 20th of December at 6pm! Please spread the word! You can bring cushions to be comfy and your voice to enjoy singing with us to fill up with the Christmas spirit. There will be coffee, tea after. Looking forward to seeing you and to enjoying the evening together!

Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat:

Calling all young people aged 16–35! Join us at the Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat in Newbridge College, Co. Kildare, from 11th-13th December 2026. This is a donation-only event, with free buses available across the country and all meals included. Expect inspiring talks and workshops, Mass, music, prayer, and plenty of opportunities to chill out and meet other young Catholics. Whether you are new to the faith or looking to be refreshed, **all are welcome**. To register or find out more, visit youth2000.ie or follow @Youth2000Ireland.

Young Adult Ministry 2027:

Registration is now open for the next intake of the Diocesan Certificate in Young Adult Ministry. Running over 10 Saturdays, the aim of this course is to build up the capacity of Youth Ministry and Youth Ministry Leadership in the Archdiocese of Dublin. It is a highly practical course. Registration is open and can be accessed here: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/dyH3SLLVnZ

THEWAY.IE :

TheWay.ie is a digital platform set up by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference to share the Good News and the witness of the Catholic Church in Ireland. It is intended to help people discover, live and pass on the faith. It is for both seekers and followers. Visit www.theway.ie.

Online Bereavement Information:

Anam Cara's next Online Bereavement Information Evening takes place on Wednesday 9th December with guest speaker Bryan Nolan. This event is open to all parents whose child or children have died, regardless of the age of their child, circumstances of their death, or time since bereavement and will take place online on Wednesday 9th December at 7pm.

Advent & New Year Retreats at Manresa:

Make time for prayer, reflection and spiritual renewal - Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality (D03 FP52) this Advent and New Year.

- Advent Weekend: 4-6 Dec 2026 €270
- Advent Triduum: 14-18 Dec 2026 €480
- New Year Retreat: 29 Dec - 1 Jan €390

For details and bookings, visit manresa.ie, email reception@manresa.ie, or 01 5529 448.

We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish; we remember those who have **died recently:** Fr. Aidan O'Kane C.P., John Owens, Kathleen Barry, John Morgan, Patrick Walsh **…** and those whose **anniversaries occur at this time:** Paul Little, Rory McVey, Bridge and Tom Ennis, Mary Jordan, Brigid, May & John Begley, Tommy Nolan, Michael & Mary Gilr67, and in November we remember **all our faithful departed**.

Financial Update

Last week's Collection	€1,245.00
Standing Orders (average)	€250.00
Donations via website	€150.25
Card Machines	€1,067.00