



# *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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*Facebook Page: Mount Argus – The Shrine of Saint Charles*

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### **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

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### **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

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## **The Presentation of the Lord**

### **Our Simeons and Annas**

Recently I was doing a baptism here in the parish for two children from the one family – one a babe in arms, and the other slightly older. They clearly got on very well, and were not shy about laughing and giggling with each other – in fairness, generally very quietly and not loud enough to disturb my saying of the prayers, and anointings, and blessing of water, etc. No, the disturbance came from the fact that when I looked up from the book to check that everybody was following what I was at, not a single person was looking remotely in my direction – all were oohing and aahing at the two children having such a lovely relationship with one another. I might as well have been on another planet for all the notice that was being taken of what I was doing or saying! To be fair, had the circumstances and situation been different I myself would probably have joined in the oohing and aahing with everyone else – it was very cute after all.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple. We mustn't in any way confuse this with the baptism of Jesus. His baptism occurred many years later, when He was already long into His adulthood, and when He met John the Baptist in the Jordan. No, this feast is about Him at the time He was a little baby – and around whom I'm sure there was lots of oohing and aahing – why shouldn't we think He was the cutest baby ever? (I know – your baby was the cutest ever! Which one?) The rituals being observed on that particular occasion are no part of our world, so I won't dwell on them here, but they do bring us into the world of Anna and Simeon – individuals whose equivalents I think are still very much alive in our world.

Let's take Simeon first of all. We know very little about him apart from this particular story. He didn't live in the Temple – we know that because the Spirit had to summon him to be there on that day. The odds are that he was just an ordinary working man, greatly devoted to his faith, and who spent a lot of time in prayer. And it was presumably sometime in the course of that prayer that he received the promise from God that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. So his holding of

the baby in his arms might well be regarded as a kind of “good news/good news” situation. The good news? The Messiah has come. The good news (no, not the bad news!)? There’s nothing more to live for – “I’m going out on a high!”

Anna was a different story. A woman widowed early in life she had dedicated her life to serving God by fasting and prayer in the Temple. Other than that we really know nothing about her other than she now seemed to dedicate what was left of her life to speaking about the special Child she had just met. And her message, as well as that of Simeon, was that salvation was close at hand, not just for their own people, but for the whole world.

Isn’t it wonderful to think that two elderly people, whom many would have regarded as ‘past it’, were the first to begin spreading the message of the arrival of their Saviour into the world. It’s also wonderful, I think, that you can come into our church at any time on any day of the week, and so often find there are people there ahead of you – many, but not all, “well on in years” - people who are carrying on that tradition of “serving the Lord in prayer”. I thank them most sincerely for their service to our parish and to the world. In no way are they ‘past it’!

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**Bank Holiday Arrangements:** Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, is a Bank Holiday. That means there will be only one Mass here, which will be at 11.00am. The Church will remain open until about 5.00pm. The Reception office will not open on Monday.

**The Volunteer question is not going away!** I can’t really apologise for keeping this question to the forefront – “Your Parish needs You” as Kitchener might have said! I’m aware that sometimes people are nervous of volunteering because they’re afraid that if they get involve, more and more will be asked of them. I can’t deny it sometimes happens, but it’s less likely to do so if there are plenty of volunteers among whom to share out the tasks to be covered. In either case, as I mentioned last week, there is an opportunity shortly to, as it were, test the waters, without making any commitment, and also having an opportunity to informally chat with people already involved. On the **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> of February, at 7.30 pm**, in our **St. Charles Centre** across from the Church, there will a session organised by the Diocese on safeguarding awareness. It is open to all volunteers and all POTENTIAL volunteers. So as well as the formal session there will be opportunity to chat with those already involved in one way or another, and see if there’s anything that fits in with your skill/interests. Please, I beg you, give it a try!

**Mass for Beatification of Alfie Lambe:** There will be mass for the Beatification of the Servant of God Alfie Lambe on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm in St. Agnes’s Church, Crumlin. Celebrant and homilist will be Fr. Tony O’Shaughnessy PP.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock – April 26<sup>th</sup>:** The Knock pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, April 26, and will include workshops, outdoor walks, the Sacrament of the Sick and Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Farrell. Any queries about the pilgrimage, please email [knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie).

**Pilgrimage for 800th anniversary of canonisation of St Laurence O’Toole:** 3-day pilgrimage May 10 – 12, with Fr Ivan Tonge led by Archbishop Farrell. Details on Archdiocese website. Booking closes at the end of January. Contact Marian Pilgrimages, Dublin, at 01 8788159.

**Marriage Preparation Facilitators:** Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG is currently recruiting volunteer marriage preparation programme facilitators. Successful applicants will receive training in the Accord marriage preparation programme and be part of a team delivering programmes locally. Contact Aisling at 01 5053112 or [marriagepreparation@accord.ie](mailto:marriagepreparation@accord.ie), and for further information see [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie).

**Voices and Experiences of Biblical Women:** In a reflective day of input, discussion, and prayer, we will together recover/discover the voices of a number of Biblical women. You are invited to journey with these women to fresh understandings and insights, allowing them to speak to your own life story today. 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> February. Please book **before 11<sup>th</sup> February** by email: [regionaloffice@ssjg.ie](mailto:regionaloffice@ssjg.ie) or by contacting 0567722870.

**Financial Update – 2 February 2025:** Collection last Sunday, €1545. Standing orders for week, approx. €250. Donations via website, €96. Payments via credit card machines past week, €636.

#### **MOUNT ARGUS PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to be a living parish where all will feel welcome, everyone will be appreciated and encouraged to use their gifts and people and priests work together to develop a community of faith and compassion.