



Mount Argus Bulletin

The Parish of St Paul of the Cross

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

Phone: 01 4992000 Email: office@mountargusparish.ie

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

Facebook Page: Mount Argus – The Shrine of Saint Charles

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Simeons and Annas

Some of you will be aware that for many years I worked in our Passionist Parish in London. There was a Primary school attached to the Parish, who were very proud of the fact that they were Passionist, and the school uniform featured very prominently a version of our Passion Sign – a heart surmounted by a cross. I'm not being biased when I say this, but they were genuinely the best school for a long way around, and while other schools were struggling for numbers, they were filled every year. So it was most unusual for me to arrive down there one February morning to hear that ten new arrivals had been admitted mid-year.

Usually new arrivals, who come after the beginning of term, try to slip quietly, unnoticed, into their classes – they tend not to like a lot of attention being focussed on them. But these new arrivals were in the spotlight from the word go. They were given no opportunity to hide away in the background, or to be shy. One might fairly say that they came out of their shells right away – some more quickly than others. (I'm going to apologise now, to save me from having to apologise later!) And their pecking order was instantly established – the first one to arrive straight away started pecking at the others to come out and keep him company. And – I hope this is the last one! – the whole experience of suddenly becoming the centre of everyone's attention didn't seem to knock a feather out of any of them. That's because they actually didn't have any feathers yet! Of course I'm referring to the hatching of 10 little chickens that were the centre of a project the school running on some theme or other. As you can easily imagine, the children – and not a few members of staff – were totally enthralled by the whole event, and I think it's true to say that the new arrivals had an uplifting effect on the whole atmosphere of the school – new life does that!

As it happens I was saying some class-masses in the school during the same week, and as usual I was trying to keep it as light as possible, while at the same time challenging the children to think

around the general themes of mass in general, and the readings in particular. We were discussing practical love as illustrated in respect and kindness towards one another, especially those maybe smaller and less powerful than ourselves. Trying to be topical, and provocative, I asked how many of them had kicked the little chickens that day! Nobody answered – there was an audible gasp and a look of shock in their faces, that the thought could ever have even crossed my mind. Of course they wouldn't dream of doing such a thing – they just wanted to admire and cuddle and feed the new young lives – all supervised, of course.

But it isn't just newly-hatched chickens that need to be appreciated and nurtured. The theme running through all our readings this week is that of being called by God to achieve beyond our own human abilities. Isaiah was too overwhelmed by his own sinfulness to think that God could call him to be his messenger, until he felt the purifying touch of the Lord, after which he couldn't wait to be called – "Here I am, Lord. Send me!" Paul, a persecutor of the early followers of Christ felt his life being turned around by the grace of God, as one born again when nobody expected it. And the early apostles in our Gospel are suddenly called by Jesus at the time they might have least appreciated it – when they'd just had the largest catch of fish they'd ever seen in their lives, a catch that inspired Peter to acknowledge his sinfulness and unworthiness.

The truth is that very often we don't appreciate our own worth, and what the Lord can achieve through us. But that's a mistake that the Lord Himself never makes in our regard. He can see behind the weak and chicken-hearted appearance that we often present, to the genuine goodness and desire to be loving and caring of others that is the true us. It's time for us to come out of our shells (sorry) and really grow as faith-filled followers of Christ.

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Fr. Justinian McGread, C.P., R.I.P.

Our Passionist Community ask you to pray for the repose of the soul Fr. Justinian, a member of our community in Glasgow, who after 72 years serving the Lord as a Passionist was called home to his heavenly reward last week-end

Safeguarding Awareness and Parish Volunteers

On this coming Wednesday evening **12th 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. All who do voluntary work in the church are expected to attend. It's also open to all POTENTIAL volunteers. 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 skills/interests. This is your opportunity to take that first step to being a volunteer helper in your parish. You know you want to!

A Suggestion: I would like to suggest that we introduce into the Bulletin in future weeks a feature something along the lines of **We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish - nn; we remember those who have died recently – nn; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – nn**. Please let me know how you would feel about such a feature.

Accord Collection Next Week: The annual Collection for **ACCORD** Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made after all Masses on the weekend of 15 & 16 February 2025.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock – April 26th: 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.

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. 14th or 15th February. Please book **before 11th February** by email: regionaloffice@ssjg.ie or by contacting 0567722870.

Financial Update – 9 February 2025: Collection last Sunday, €1780. Standing orders for week, approx. €250. Donations via website, €148. Payments via credit card machines past week, €558.

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.