



# *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](http://www.mountargusparish.ie)*

*Interim Administrator: Fr. Pat Fitzgerald C.P.*

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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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## **Second Sunday of Lent**

### **Seeing From a Different Point of View**

This 'long week-end' is dominated in terms of celebration here by the Feast of St. Patrick. Sometimes our politicians come in for a bit of stick at this time of the year, with so many of them on trips to all corners of the globe (OK, I know, but you get what I mean!), but I don't think too many of us envied the possibilities facing our Taoiseach as he headed for Washington – but wisely keeping his head down he seems to have survived relatively unscathed. That wasn't quite the case for Aengus, who features in one of my favourite stories about St. Patrick.

Apparently in the course of his travels around Ireland Saint Patrick met this prince called Aengus, who, having heard St. Patrick preaching, longed with all his heart to become a Christian. While Patrick fumbled a little, searching for the right spot in the book so that he could baptize Aengus, he absent-mindedly stuck his crosier into the ground beside him, and accidentally through the foot of Aengus! Patrick never noticed what he had done and proceeded with the baptism. The prince said nothing; he simply went very white! Patrick poured water over his bowed head at the simple words of the rite. Then it was completed - Aengus was a Christian. Patrick turned to take up his crosier and was horrified to find that he had driven it through the prince's foot! "But why didn't you say something," Patrick asked. Aengus said that he thought having a spike driven through his foot was part of the ceremony! He added: "Christ shed His blood for me, and I am glad to suffer a little pain at baptism to be like Our Lord". (Parents, don't panic! We tend to carry out pain-free baptisms nowadays!)

I can't vouch for the total accuracy of this or any other story of St. Patrick – you will appreciate that despite appearances I wasn't around at the time - but what is beyond dispute is that St. Patrick had a huge influence on the church in Ireland, and through future Irish missionaries, on the church throughout the world. At this point it hardly matters which stories are historical and which have a

share of myth attached to them. What matters is the fruit that has been borne by St. Patrick and his Christian successors down the years. And that's what still matters – in what way are we spreading the message, the love, the very life of Christ in our world today. We thank God for the faith, the life, that has been handed on to us, and pray that we in turn can hand it on to future generations.

Coincidentally, our gospel today is also, in a roundabout way, drawing our attention to the painful side of our faith. Jesus is taking his apostles up a hill, we might say, to help them extend their horizons. Naturally they were being dazzled by all that was going on around them – the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers being healed, even dead people being restored to life. And the inspiring words of Jesus were sounding so convincing and obvious – God's work is going on all around them – the Kingdom is at hand. The danger was that each day was filled with so many wonders that they were beginning to lose sight of the bigger picture – that this was not the end, but the beginning of a whole new age of salvation.

They needed reminding that His earthly part in the mission wasn't going to be all glory days, but was inevitably going to lead to suffering, even death. In bringing them up Thabor he was preparing them for going up another hill, where he wouldn't be accompanied by Moses and Elijah, but by two thieves; where they wouldn't hear the comforting voice of the Father, but the jeers of the crowd; where His clothes wouldn't be dazzling white, but His body covered in red wounds. Their horizons, like ours, were going to contain ups and downs, but we are being challenged not to let those horizons limit our sight, but to put on Christ Jesus, and see with His eyes – eyes of love.

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**Church Arrangements for St. Patrick's Day:** Monday, being a bank holiday, we will be having the usual arrangements. In other words, there will be just the one Mass – at 11.00 am. The church itself will remain open until 5.00 pm.

**The Family Mass at Mount Argus:** Our next 11.00 am Special Family Mass will be on Sunday, 23 March. At this Mass we welcome the participation of the children and families of our parish community, especially those who will be receiving First Communion and Confirmation during this school year. As usual, after the mass there will be refreshments available in the St. Charles Centre across the car-park. All are welcome.

**St Vincent de Paul Collection:** The monthly collection to support the work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will take place after all masses next weekend, 22/23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Trocaire Lenten Boxes:** Lenten Boxes for Trocaire are still available on the tables at the back of the Church.

**Sacraments to the Housebound:** Unfortunately, for a multiplicity of reasons, I haven't been able to get properly organised in relation to making regular visits to those who are housebound. For some, that has meant that they have had no access to Holy Communion and the sacraments of reconciliation and of the sick. I have some partial lists left by Fr. Paul Francis, but I would appreciate if those who would wish a visit could let me know afresh. ('Housebound' need not mean they can never get out, but rather that getting to, and being in church for extended periods, is not really feasible or advisable.)

**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).

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**We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish.....; we remember those who have died recently – John Gilligan; we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Joe Byrne, Mary Rose Brady, Mary Williams (month's mind), Pauline Murray, Pauline and Dermot O'Grady, Christina Brennan.**

**Financial Update – 16 March 2025:** Collection last Sunday, €1670. Standing orders for week, approx. €250. Donations via website, €101. Payments via credit card machines past week, €742.

#### **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.