



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

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jesus Doesn't Keep His Distance!

It's probably reasonably fair to say that life in Mount Argus parish tends to potter on in a very steady manner – not too many variations from one week to the next. While it's true that around Christmas and Easter we have a little variety to the norm, by and large our mid-week activities could almost be recorded once and played back each week. (OK, I appreciate that's a little bit exaggerated, but I think you gather my meaning!)

So it was nice this week that we had a little variation - the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for the children from Scoil Mológa. (You will appreciate if I sometimes view these events with one eye on potential for a bulletin article, but I assure you that they are always given the full attention required.) What would have been immediately obvious to an outside observer was how compact the congregation was – there were probably 3 to 4 hundred people there, all seated in the front central section of the church. This was understandable, as so much of the focus was on the children being confirmed, and everybody wanted to be as close to the 'action' as possible. And I have to say that from my point of view it gave me a very strong feeling of 'community' – of us all being united, in our various roles, in our desire for the whole ceremony to be an expression of encouragement and support for the young people being Confirmed.

But you can't blame me for wondering why this isn't always the case in our celebrations – why so often it is very hard to have any real sense of 'community' – why so many insist on being as far away from the altar as possible and hidden behind pillars. Don't worry, I'm not going on a rant – no disrespect, but I wonder if even God knows the answer to that one!

But Jesus certainly did know the answer to the issue thrown at him in today's Gospel. He knew very well that it wasn't the woman in today's passage who was the problem; it was the stubborn resistance to change and 'hardness of heart' of those 'religious men' who were faithful to a past that maintained their own positions of power. No way was Jesus approving adultery. Instead, he was

challenging these people to look at other possible ways of dealing with weakness and sinfulness in our world. When Jesus says that those who have not sinned may cast the first stone, he is eventually left alone with the woman. Jesus is the only non-sinner and it is only he who is in a position to condemn; but he chooses to forgive instead.

And the order in which things happen at this point is quite important. First Jesus lets the woman know that he is not going to condemn her. Then he encourages her to 'go away, and don't sin any more'. In other words, it's not the other way around – 'promise you won't sin any more, and then I'll forgive you'! God's mercy and forgiveness are not dependent on us, but on His gracious good will and freely given love. Jesus' forgiveness is not dependent on a guarantee of 'improved behaviour', his mercy is absolute. The Pharisees and the woman are held hostage by their past. Jesus offers a future and it is the woman who accepts.

Of course there are many other questions raised by that same gospel passage – no sign, for instance, of her 'partner in crime'. But to go off wildly speculating on such questions might risk us avoiding the questions it raises for ourselves personally. What are the attitudes from my past that are hindering me from committing to a future that allows the will of God more fully into my life? Could I do better at looking past the failures of others, and myself, to see the possibilities of a more fruitful future? (Insert your own question here!)

And of course you are always very welcome here, even if you are half way down the avenue behind a pillar!

-----00000OOO00000-----

Some Dates for your Diary:

Hard to believe that Easter is almost upon us – just two weeks away. Before you make other plans, it might be helpful to remind you of some of the events around Holy Week and Easter –

We expect that we will be celebrating all the usual services during Holy Week, and will hopefully have a leaflet with all the details available next week-end.

Our pre-Easter Penitential Service will be celebrated at 11.00 am Mass on 12th April (that's this coming Saturday.)

Church cleaning in preparation for Holy Week and Easter – after 4 pm Mass on Palm Sunday.

Outdoor Stations of the Cross in the Phoenix Park, on Good Friday, 18th March at 12 noon

St. Vincent de Paul Monthly Collection

This will take place next week-end, 12/13th April, after all masses.

Young Catholics (18-40 yrs)

Evangelium Ireland invites Young Catholics (18-40 yrs) to its annual Apologetics Conference at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, on Saturday, 26 April 2025. The event features talks and workshops on topics such as discipleship in the Gospel of St. John, doctrinal development, and the making of modern culture. Holy Mass will be celebrated. Cost: €45, which includes lunch, refreshments, and an evening social. For full programme and registration, visit www.evangelium.ie or search 'Evangelium Ireland' on Eventbrite.

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.

-----00000OOO00000-----

We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish.....; we remember those who have died recently – Fr. Theophane Cooney, C.P.; Patrick Keevins, (brother of Fr. Frank Keevins); and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time – Frank McCarthy, John McDonagh, Tareqwan, Emer, Gelath Ní Chonail, Laura Newman (month's mind), Paul Carey, Jim & Jim Redmond, Patrick & Ann Brennan, Leo Murphy.

Financial Update – 6 April 2025: Collection last Sunday, €1810. Standing orders for week, approx. €250. Donations via website, €276. Payments via credit card machines past week, €731.

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.