



# *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 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **Listening to Jesus**

Many of us will acknowledge that as human beings we tend to be creatures of habit. Maybe as children we have been told that this or that is the correct way to do things, or later in life we just get into the habit of doing things in a certain way, but whatever the origin we tend to take the line that 'the way we've always done it' is probably the best way to continue doing it. And we rarely question these habits. Sometimes people don't fully appreciate that the Vatican Council, for instance, was for many priests a far great upset of their routines than it was for the laity. Suddenly the habitual ways of doing things were being questioned. For instance, from being the sole celebrants at mass – which the laity "went to", as the phrase was – priests now found that they were sharing the sanctuary with concelebrants and readers and Eucharistic ministers, and even female servers!

But once it became clear that the often 'experimental' changes were going to last, and we were never going back to the old ways of doing things, most people, clergy and lay, adapted to the new ways. And, as human nature has it, these now became our new habits. And we might ask the same questions – for instance, how much of what we do at mass is simply out of habit. I say this because as I was reading the gospel for this Sunday I was distracted by the thought – what if we introduced the practice of Jesus' time into our Sunday liturgy? Our gospel reading this Sunday is about the occasion when Jesus attends the synagogue in Nazareth for the Sabbath service. We're told He stood up when it came to the time of the reading, which was a signal that He was volunteering to do the reading. So they handed Him the scroll, and He read the passage from Isaiah describing the effect the expected Messiah would have on the world when He arrived. And then He shared His thoughts on the reading.

Can you imagine what might happen on a Sunday if we introduced that practice? I mean, at gospel time for someone to just stand up in the middle of the church and volunteer to read it, and then to stay on and share their thoughts on the passage? I appreciate there have probably been times when you've thought to yourself 'that mightn't be the worst idea in the world – we're sick and tired of

listening to the same few guys every Sunday' – and I can't say I blame you! But can you imagine the results? To be honest, I'd rather not imagine them! But it does raise the question of what our expectations are when we come to celebrate on a Sunday. Can we see ourselves present in that synagogue with Jesus? Can we see ourselves as the poor who are being offered the Good News? Can we see ourselves as the captives of our habits who are being offered liberty? Can we see ourselves as the blind who need to have a new sight of the world around us? Can we see ourselves as the easily led who need to feel free to tread new paths? Do we realise we are specially favoured by the Lord?

That's what Jesus offered the people of His time – a total new outlook on life - and that's what He's offering us. He's drawing to our attention that He provides the answers to all our deepest questions – that He's not simply an 'optional extra'. Wouldn't it be a pity if we got distracted by who's doing the reading, and missed the point that ultimately it is truly God's Word that we're listening to, and need to listen to?

### **Response to last week:**

First of all I want to express thanks to those who contacted me since last week in relation to my invitation to all of you to give consideration to offering some of your time as a volunteer minister to your fellow parishioners. I would like to say "all problems solved", but that would be an exaggeration! But a good start has been made. If I were the kind of person who would be looking for signs of divine intervention and approval, then I would not have been surprised when I got word from the Diocese during the week that a special session for the training of volunteers, new and experienced, had been agreed with Fr. Paul Francis, to take place in our own St. Charles Centre on the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> February – but more about that next week.

In the meantime you still have the opportunity to offer your services – simply contact me, Fr. Pat. or any of the priests here, or members of the Parish Council. Probably our most urgent need is for part-time sacristan(s) – either male or female, either paid or voluntary. So please, don't be shy!

**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 provide us with an opportunity to gather as Diocesan community of faith to celebrate the Jubilee year. It will take place on Saturday, April 26, and will include workshops, outdoor walks, the Sacrament of the Sick and Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Farrell. We hope to welcome more young people this year. It's a good time to consider booking your Partnership bus. 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).

**St. Brigid's Day:** To celebrate St Brigid's Day (February 1) University Church are having a party after Taizé on January 28. Come for our prayer service at 6pm and stay afterwards to make a St Brigid's cross, listen to live music, and hang out with friends. **All are welcome.**

### **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 – 26 January 2025:** Collection last Sunday, €1515. Standing orders for week, approx. €250. Donations via website, €131. Payments via credit card machines past week, €514.

### **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.