

15 March 2020



Mount Argus Bulletin

The Parish of St Paul of the Cross

and Shrine of St Charles of Mount Argus

-- *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

Masses at Mount Argus

Sunday: 11.00 am, 4.00 pm (webcam only)

Monday to Friday: 10.00 am, 6.15 pm

Saturdays: 9.00 am, 11.00 am.

(The 6.15 Vigil Mass is on the webcam only)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:

10.30 - 11.30 am, 4.00 - 4.30 pm

Saturday: 9.00 am - 12.00 noon,

No Saturday afternoon
confessions at present

Eucharistic Adoration at the High Altar

Wednesdays and Fridays: 10.30 am to 6.00 pm

Novena Mass on Saturday at 11.00 am

General 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 on Webcam at 11.00 and 4.00 Mass

Today is the Third Sunday of Lent

Coronavirus - Mass Changes from Saturday 14 March 2020

Due to measures introduced by the Healthcare Authorities to discourage large gatherings of people in the present crisis, the public celebration of Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Masses is suspended at Mount Argus until further notice. This applies also to Masses for St Patrick's Day.

The bishops have dispensed everyone from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and on St Patrick's Day.

Sunday Masses (Saturday evening at 6.15; Sunday at 11.00 am and 4.00 pm) and Masses on St Patrick's Day (Monday evening at 6.15 and Tuesday morning at 11.00 am) will be available on the Mount Argus webcam which you can access at the parish website (www.mountargusparish.ie).

This week, the Church will be closed from Saturday at 1.00 pm until Monday at 7.30 am, and from Monday at 1.00 pm until Wednesday morning at 7.30 am.

Apart from this, the Church will remain open on weekdays as usual. Weekday Masses (including Saturday morning Masses) will continue to be celebrated at the usual times, and confessions will continue at the usual times, although this may change later if the advice from the Healthcare Authorities changes. However, the 7.00 am Mass for Lent is now suspended.

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays and Fridays will continue for the time being, with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament being at the High Altar.

All prayer groups and other parish meetings at Mount Argus are suspended until further notice.

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.

From Father Paul Francis C.P.

This time of what is being called “Social Distancing” is a very strange time for all of us. We are so used to being together for prayer, Mass, conversation and friendship. Now we have to practise “Social Distancing” and abstain from celebrating Sunday Mass together. It seems a very and odd and demanding Lenten Penance, but we know the intention is to slow down the spread of the Coronavirus and so help everyone to cope better. The good thing is that Jesus never distances himself from us, especially when we are feeling lonely. He is always reaching out in love to those who are in need of healing in body and soul. Here is a story told by Father Ignatius on the Third Sunday of Lent in 2017 to remind us of this:

BREAKING BREAD OVER THE LIFFEY WALL

(I heard this story from one of the Little Sisters next door who was working in the Oliver Bond flats at the time and she heard it from the woman herself. It predates the Euro!)

She was a deserted wife in Dublin and one Sunday night her flat was completely burned out. She lost everything she had except a few pieces of furniture but she and her children were immediately cared for by neighbours in the flats.

On Monday morning, she rang the Corporation many times but they seemed unwilling or unable to offer her any help. In her desperation, she decided to make one final determined effort to get them moving. She phoned from a kiosk along the quays and poured out all her anger, frustration and bitterness but could only get vague promises of assistance. As she left the phone box, a youngish, gentle looking man approached her.

Why he picked her out of the hundreds of people along the city streets, she'll never know.

Could she help him, he asked. Could she help him? She had nothing – her flat and all her belongings burned!

“Oh yes,” he said gently, “I know about that, I read about that in the paper.” There was something about him and the way he spoke that she liked. But she had only 50P. That was all she had till she got her allowance at the end of the week. But, stressed though she was by all her own troubles, she listened to his story.

He had been on the bus to Sr. Concilio's Home for Alcoholics in Athy, he said. But all he had was 25P. He told the Conductor that Sr. Concilio promised to pay the remainder on his arrival in Athy. But the Conductor didn't believe him and put him off the bus. The poor woman was doubtful too. “How do I know that you won't go round the corner and spend it in the nearest pub?” She didn't know; there was just something about him that she couldn't explain and she kept wondering about afterwards. So, she gave him the 50P, all she had, all she had for herself and her children for the rest of the week! Remember this was Monday!

Then she noticed a parcel under his arm. “What have you there?” she asked. “Just some bread,” he said.

“And you mean to say that while I've given you all I had, you won't break bread with me? (She didn't know why she said it and afterwards kept repeating, “Like, I'm not religious or anything but aren't there words like that somewhere in the Gospel?”)

He seemed surprised and said, “Would you like some bread?”

“Of course I would!” she said. So there they were, two people united by their need, two people breaking bread together as they leaned over the Liffey wall.

A chance meeting, you would say. He probably asked many more before her. But was it? In the midst of all her distress – nowhere to live, dependent on the kindness of neighbours for the roof over her head – he comes along asking her to give him her last penny. And that became a moment of pure joy, a moment when time stood still, a moment when all the anger and bitterness drained out of her, a moment she never forgot!

“Like, I'm not religious or anything,” she kept protesting, “but was that Jesus?”

It certainly sounds like the Jesus who came to the Samaritan women in the gospel today asking for a drink of water and she certainly sounds like the poor widow that Jesus praised, “She gave all she had to live on.” She sounds like one of those that Jesus loved and admired, who didn't think of themselves as being religious but who lived the gospel without knowing it.

Last Sunday's Collection €1,686 Parish Envelopes €228 Standing Orders (approx.) €250

Child Safeguarding: Mount Argus Parish is committed to ensuring the highest level of protection for all children who engage with our parish in any way. For information about the work of our Child Safeguarding Team or for the Dublin Diocese Statement, Procedures and Guidelines, see the posters on our Church notice boards or go to www.mountargusparish.ie/child-protection

To speak to a member of the Mount Argus Child Protection Safeguarding Team, please call 085 1325389.