



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

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

Third Sunday of Lent

Who's a Waste of Space, Then?

I don't know what was the predominant image of God that I had while growing up, but there certainly were a few quirky angles to it at times. Growing up in the north-eastern side of Dublin city meant that I lived directly under one of the most commonly used flight-paths between Dublin and London. In those days there were no jet engines, just the propeller kind – the Vickers Viscount was one I remember – and these took off and landed on a much less steep plain than modern aircraft. With the result that it seemed you could almost reach up and touch the under-carriage as they prepared to land. While they may not have been as noisy as the modern jet engine, they did actually make quite a din, but living with it from birth one hardly noticed it until maybe we had visitors and they would ask how we could possibly put up with the noise! What noise?

But very occasionally I would become quite conscious of the sound of plane engines. It would generally be after a day that hadn't gone too well. Maybe I had had a row with someone, or had behaved in a way that I knew I shouldn't have – possibly told a lie to avoid getting into trouble or helped myself to a forbidden biscuit – you know, some major felony of that sort! And as I would be lying in bed, tossing and turning in torments of guilt – OK, sometimes I exaggerate a little! – I would hear the sound of an aircraft engine revving up at the airport, and I knew that shortly it would be passing over the roof of my home – or should I say, I hoped it would pass over the roof of my home – rather than come down on it! Because I knew God would not have been pleased with what I had done, and He had been probably just waiting for this opportunity to catch me red-handed and consign me to hell for all eternity, or at the very least purgatory for a very long time! But all was not lost – I probably still had time to make an act of 'perfect' contrition! Except that it wouldn't be perfect – because I knew it was more out of fear than sorrow! And then there was the promise that I would be off to confession at the first opportunity! (I know – weird! How did I ever turn out as sane as I am now? –

No need to reply!)

The Lord must have heard my prayers, because none of those planes landed on the roof! Or alternatively, and more accurately, I had got it all wrong. Of course God was never like that – rather than waiting for the opportunity to catch out the sinner, He was waiting patiently for the opportunity to forgive him. But that we should have such weird notions of God is not too surprising – after all we are very limited intellectually. Every day, for instance, scientists are discovering ‘new’ things that in fact have been there from the start of the world. And misunderstanding the nature of God is as old as history itself.

In our gospel today Jesus addresses some of these misunderstandings. Particularly the issue of a possible link between people suffering and people sinning – and He makes it very clear that there is no such link – sometimes good people suffer; sometimes bad people prosper. It is quite common to meet people who believe that negative events are acts of punishment by God, or at least trials that He sends to test us. And often people will ask why a loving God does not prevent disasters happening. It’s as if we have this image of God as the great puppet-master, pulling all the strings. Jesus puts a different challenge before us today – the fig tree. Are we, or are we not, bearing fruit – or simply taking up space? Whatever the answer He’s always willing to give us another chance. The roof’s not likely to fall in on us at this stage.

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The Family Mass at Mount Argus:

Our March Special Family Mass is taking place this Sunday, 23 March at 11.00 am. We specially 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 this weekend, 22/23rd March.

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

Marriage Encounter: Restore, Renew, Rekindle. We welcome you to our next Marriage Enrichment Weekend, March 28 to 30, 2025. Venue: Knock, Co. Mayo. Visit www.marriageencounter.ie.

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 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.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish.....; we remember those who have died recently – John Gilligan, Michael Keegan (Funeral, Monday 10.00 am), Maura Walsh (Funeral Monday 11.30 am), Vincent O’Neill (Funeral Tuesday 11.30 am); **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Teresa Lonergan, Pamela Nolan, Nuala Cadwell, Deirdre Lawlor, Olive Manning, Deirdre McKeon, John Hester, Maureen Farrell, Dorothy Kearney, Sean Ryan.

Financial Update – 23 March 2025: Collection last Sunday, €1875. Standing orders for week, approx. €250. Donations via website, €172. Payments via credit card machines past week, €797.

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.