



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

Temporary 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

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Special Time of the Year

Below is an extract from Pope Francis' message for this Lent – the full message is available online.

First of all, *to journey*. The Jubilee motto, “Pilgrims of Hope”, evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land, as recounted in the Book of Exodus. This arduous path from slavery to freedom was willed and guided by the Lord, who loves his people and remains ever faithful to them. It is hard to think of the biblical exodus without also thinking of those of our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones. A first call to conversion thus comes from the realisation that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity? It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father. This would be a good “examination of conscience” for all of us wayfarers.

Second, *to journey together*. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal. Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters. Journeying together means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God (cf. *Gal* 3:26-28). It means walking side-by-side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded. Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards the same goal, attentive to one another in love and patience.

This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting

the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs.

Lent is almost here! The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday of this week, 5th March. Ashes will be distributed during the 10 o'clock and 6.15 Masses. As is usual at Mount Argus, the **Forty Hours Adoration** begins on Ash Wednesday. Adoration will begin after the 10.00 am Mass and will continue throughout the day, ending with Prayer and Benediction from 7.00 to 7.30 pm. On Thursday, 6th March, the Adoration will resume after the 10.00 am Mass and continue until Prayer and Benediction from 7.00 to 7.30 pm. Do try to join us (in person or online) for this evening time of meditative Prayer and Benediction, as a way of beginning Lent in a reflective spirit. During the Forty Hours, there will be the usual evening Masses at 6.15.

And of course, Ash Wednesday is also a day of fast and abstinence. And, before you ask, this applies to those between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive – health permitting. Outside that age range there is no obligation, but one is encouraged to do something to mark Lent, but please don't do anything that could potentially have a negative effect on your health.

Forty Hours Adoration "Chart": To try to ensure that there is always someone praying before the Blessed Sacrament during the Forty Hours Adoration, a chart has been placed at the back of the Church this weekend. You are invited to sign up for a half hour of prayer during the Forty Hours Adoration.

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

Temperance Sunday – today, March 2nd : Our Holy Father encourages us – as he always does – to move out of our comfort zones and to engage with others. This is all the more essential in “a world which seems to have lost its heart”. Abstaining from alcohol is one way of offering hope and support to those who are living under the shadow of addiction.

This year's **Worldwide Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse** will take place on March 7, the first Friday of Lent. The Day of Prayer is an initiative of Pope Francis and was first marked in Irish dioceses in 2017. Blessed candles will be lit in parishes across the country as a reminder of the need for atonement and to symbolise repentance; light in the darkness and hope.

Arrangements for distribution of Holy Communion in Church: With the restoration of the seating in the church to its normal format, this would necessarily affect the distribution of Holy Communion. By and large it has seemed to go pretty smoothly. For the benefit of those who may not have picked up on last week's notice *For the present, for the distribution of Holy Communion if there are two people distributing, they will both be at the top of the centre aisle; if there are three ministers there will be one each at the tops of the centre and two side aisles.*

Prayers for sick and housebound, and for the deceased Since I mentioned including the above in the bulletin there has been an extensive and positive response. Just to get it moving, I am going to include below funerals that have been celebrated here in the last week plus any already scheduled for next week, in the 'died' category; and those mass intentions asked for in this coming week for the 'anniversaries' category. People need to submit names for 'the sick and the housebound' – and again I stress it must always be with the agreement of the person named. If you have names that you would wish included in any of those categories – sick, housebound, recently deceased or anniversaries – then please either phone or email them to us by Thursday evening.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish.....; we remember those who have died recently –Noeleen Murray, Anna Maria Power, Deirdre Lawlor, Marie Lee, Christine Gavin; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – John & Carmel Crowley, Teresa Greene, Frances McGrath, Eileen Mulvey, Mary Byrne Dolley, Katherine Wise, Michael & Ann Kennedy, P.B. Slattery, Angela & Thomas O'Brien.

Financial Update – 2 March 2025: Collection last Sunday, €1370. Standing orders for week, approx. €250. Donations via website, €146. Payments via credit card machines past week, €685.

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.