



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

Palm Sunday

HOLY WEEK – A TIME TO CELEBRATE!

I hope you have been able to take advantage to this beautiful weather that we've been having – not your typical Irish April, it has to be said! And we know it can't last for ever, as we hope at the same time that this is not our summer come early. However, let's be optimistic – after a prolonged cold and wet winter surely we must be in for an equally prolonged and warm summer? But, whatever may lie in the distant future, our immediate future has something much more important to grab our attention. Today we begin the final week of the season of Lent, and that's always something to lift the spirits. And not simply because our Lenten exercises are coming to an end, but more importantly because we focus again on the central mysteries of our faith.

In my experience people seem to be divided in their feelings towards the celebration of Holy Week, and particularly the Sacred Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Saturday Vigil. Some find it depressing to think that such evil could exist – and still does exist – that would cause Jesus to suffer so much on our behalf – as indeed He still suffers in our world. There was a dreadful film produced a number of years back that focussed on the inhumanity and suffering of the Passion. You can read the New Testament from start to finish and not find any basis for such an approach. In fact the gospels give scant attention to the details of Jesus' sufferings, for the very good reason that they are focussed entirely on His Love.

And that is the key to our entering into the spirit of the coming week – that we be focussed on the reality of God's love for each and every one of us. With that in mind, then the services during the week take on a much more personal, rather than simply historical, meaning. Holy Thursday sees Jesus reminding us that the true lover is there to serve rather than be served. The simple ceremony of the washing of the feet is but a dramatic illustration of that. The care of the poor – seen, maybe, in our generous support of the work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – or the commitment of parents to the welfare of their children; or the care of the elderly, are all practical demonstrations of such service in our own lives.

Good Friday reminds us that love doesn't necessarily remove suffering from our world, but true love transforms suffering in giving it a meaning and a purpose. We use St. John's gospel on Good Friday because it highlights that Jesus' love is faithful unto death – as all true love is. John's gospel also highlights that His crucifixion is not failure but success – “It has been achieved”. And it is John that reminds us that the immediate aftermath of His death was the flowing of water and blood from His side – symbols of the life offered to us through Baptism and the Eucharist.

And of course the week climaxes in the celebration of the Easter Vigil, rich in symbols of a new Life that must be constantly renewed in us. It's the coming together of thousands of years of history building up to and flowing out from the wonderful event of our Redemption.

Holy Week gives us so much to contemplate, that if we were to have one every month we would never exhaust the depths of meaning that are to be found in the events we celebrate! But we just have it once a year – so let's make the best of the opportunity afforded us in this coming week. I sincerely hope you will be able to join us for as many as possible of the celebrations, and if you can't be here with us that you will be able to join in elsewhere, wherever you are. Strange as it may sound – do have a happy Holy Week!

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Times of Services for Holy Week and Easter:

Leaflets with the times of services in Mount Argus are available on the tables at the back of the church. Please note that unlike in previous years there will be no Stations of the Cross around the streets of the Parish – we would like to encourage as many as possible to join in the Stations led by the Archbishop in the Phoenix Park.

A special mention of a very traditional Passionist celebration/reflection at 7.30 Friday evening – the Seven Last Words – 7 short reflections with music provided by the Garda Male Voice Choir. All are very welcome – especially if you haven't been able to get to the 3 pm service.

Pre-Easter Church Cleaning:

This will be taking place after the 4 pm mass this (Palm) Sunday. All cleaning materials etc. will be provided – just lend us your energy for whatever time you can – last chance to do something special for Lent?

St. Vincent de Paul Monthly Collection: This will take place this week-end as an outdoor collection after all masses. Your usual very generous support is always much appreciated, and put to good use.

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.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish.....; we remember those who have died recently – Bernie Kearns (Funeral Monday, 10am), Elizabeth Ann Connors (Funeral Tuesday, 11.30am), Alice Hendron (Funeral Wednesday 10 am); **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Peter Fletcher, Margaret & William O'Reilly, Patrick & Margaret Doyle, Jack Buckley, George Keogh, Mary & Paddy Bennett, Howard Versey, Michael Nolan (month's mind), Gary O'Shea, Michael Devereux, Olga Sharpe.

Financial Update – 13 April 2025: Collection last Sunday, €1730. Standing orders for week, approx. €250. Donations via website, €176. Payments via credit card machines past week, €842.

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.