



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

Parish Priest: Fr. Aidan O'Kane 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

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Time for Optimism

Don't you love an optimist – the kind of person who is always positively hopeful? And I venture to suggest that it's not the worst attitude to have towards life – as long, that is, as it is tinged with realism. For some reason the other day there came into my mind a memory of seeing a totally unrealistic optimist – you know the ones – you feel like saying to them “now you're really pushing your luck”. It was while I was in Paris, and I was on a very crowded metro at the time. She had just got on in front of me and so got the seat that I'm sure God really meant to be given to the elderly. But she showed no respect for my grey hairs! To be honest, I would have been both shocked and embarrassed if she had.

But then she did surprise me. I should explain that she was relatively young – certainly not more than seventy! (Only joking – I would guess she was somewhere around thirty of so – though you know how hazardous it is to guess a woman's age! By the way, that reminds me – did you know that ‘hazardous’ is one of only four commonly used words in the English language that end in ‘dous’? But I digress – back to the metro!) She rooted in her purse, and out comes an embroidery frame! (Don't get it confused with a needlepoint frame!) As people who engage in embroidery do, she had the needle enmeshed on the frame, ready for use.

With the frame balanced near her knee, she removed the needle and proceeded to attempt a stitch. I was quite fascinated – was she going to succeed? As the metro was bumping along between stations, she took multiple jabs – risky, as she hadn't got a thimble that I could see – without much success. At the station, so many people were knocking against her as they got on and off that she did no better. This proceeded for the duration of a few stations, and then she packed it away, and got off.

But in fairness to her she is not the only unrealistic optimist on our planet nowadays. Would it be unrealistic optimism on my part to hope that all the families whose children are involved in First Communion programs in their schools this year will be at mass every Sunday? I would like to think it's not unrealistic. It would be nice to think that in teaching them of the importance of sharing in the table of the Lord, that they would see that teaching re-enforced by their family's life-style.

Nor, I'm sure, would it be unrealistic to anticipate that our new Parish Priest, as he settles in, will receive the support and co-operation of the many people who give so much of themselves in enhancing the life of our parish, and the many more who have been waiting for the right moment to come forward and offer their services. As he begins with us a new chapter in his ministry, and a new chapter in the life of our parish, we pray that this will be a time of special grace for all of us.

One might be forgiven for thinking that the Jesus of today's gospel was a bit of an unrealistic optimist. Could He possibly have imagined that if He cured ten people of leprosy there was any chance that all ten of them would arrive back to thank Him? No doubt that's what He would greatly have loved to have happened, but when it comes to understanding human nature, there is no greater realist than Jesus. And isn't that one of our greatest comforts – that He doesn't allow our lack of gratitude, and indeed our many other lacks, to get in the way of His generosity? But that doesn't excuse us from saying "Thank you" regularly. God knows, we have good reason to!

Let's be honest - not to do so would be horrendous, especially to a God whose love is so tremendous, even stupendous. (Of course you knew these were the other three!)

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World Mission Sunday:

Next weekend, we will celebrate World Mission Sunday, the Holy Father's annual appeal to support overseas mission and missionaries. Call Missio Ireland on (01) 497 2035 or go to www.missio.ie for further information.

St. Clare's Primary School enrolment:

St. Clare's Primary School enrolment for 2026/27 opened on 1st October 2025 and will close on Friday 24th October 2025. The school opens from 8:20am and there is aftercare is available on site. Parents and guardians are warmly invited to submit applications. Application forms and further details are available from the school website, www.stclares.ie.

Prayer for the pre-Synodal Assembly:

You are invited to pray for a special gathering that will take place in Kilkenny on October 18, the Pre-Synodal Assembly of the Catholic Church in Ireland. This assembly is an important juncture on the journey towards a National Synodal Assembly to be held in 2026. Around 240 people will be in attendance. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the conversations at Kilkenny, and those flowing from it, as we walk together as sisters and brothers of Christ, united by our baptism and filled with hope.

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We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish.....; we remember those who have died recently –Cornelius (Con) Gregg, Phyllis Farrell; **and we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time –** Des & Rosaleen Clegg, Anita Fleming, Paddy Field, Helena Costello, Joseph Daly, Nan. O'Donoghue, Una Burke, Peg & Bob Fitzgerald, Carmel Hickey, Patrick Bennett, Brendan Crowe (month's mind).

Financial Update – 12 October 2025: Last week's collection was €1415; Standing orders, approx. €250. Donations via website €253. Payments via credit card machines, €882.

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 poster at 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 0851876203. A copy of the "Child Safeguarding in the Archdiocese of Dublin: Statement, Reporting Procedures and Good Practice Guidelines 2018" is available at the reception desk in the monastery.*