



Mount Argus Bulletin

The Parish of St Paul of the Cross

Saint Paul's Retreat, Mount Argus, Dublin D6W XR66

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25th January 2026

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
St Charles Novena Mass: Saturday, 11.00 am

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

Wednesdays and Fridays: 4.00 to 6.00 pm

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today is the annual Sunday of the Word of God, instituted by Pope Francis as “*a Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people*” (Misericordia et misera, 7).

We are now in Ordinary Time, which does not mean that nothing important is happening, nor does it mean boring. It is structured time, coming from the Latin *ordo* (meaning to order or number). It is the season when the church walks us through the public ministry of Jesus, in order. Week by week, the Gospel readings follow Jesus' teaching, his miracles, his calling of the disciples, as in today's gospel, and his gradual revelation of who he is.

In Ordinary Time, there is no single dominant mystery (e.g. Christmas or Easter), or no penitential focus such as Lent. Ordinary Time forms us in something much quieter, viz daily fidelity. It is the season which teaches us how to live the faith, when nothing feels dramatic, and when there are no major feasts nor obvious spiritual highs.

This is why the liturgical colour is green; it is a period of growth, maturity, steady-life and hope. Ordinary Time is when the Christian life is actually built, not in extraordinary moments, but in consistent faithfulness and long-term formation. Ordinary Time reminds us that holiness is usually formed slowly, quietly and faithfully, reading and assimilating the Word of God.

In today's Gospel, Matthew recounts the beginning of Jesus's ministry. By naming Zebulun and Naphtali, Matthew prepares the reader for a prophetic fulfilment. These northern tribes were historically marginalized and among the first to suffer exile - symbolic of spiritual darkness.

Matthew also picks up the themes of Isaiah: darkness - oppression, ignorance, separation from God; light - God's saving presence, truth, and hope; and Galilee of the Gentiles - the inclusion of outsiders. Jesus' mission is to everyone.

We also have the appointment of the first disciples. We witness the simplicity of Jesus' methods. He meets them where they are at, sees and values them for who they really are, and invites them to abandon their old habits and ways, which weigh them down, so that they can truly follow him. Similarly, Jesus approaches and reaches out to each of us to ‘*repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand*’ – for Jesus' reign is here and now.

Parish Review

During 2024/25 the Passionists undertook a Province Review (in Ireland, Scotland, England and Paris). The Review delivered a number of recommendations, one of which is to review our commitment to the parishes for which we care.

Members of the Provincial Council and appointed facilitators propose to visit Mount Argus parish in early March (date to be announced) to meet with parishioners to ensure that the process of deliberation is informative, engaging and participative. In advance of the visitation, the Provincial Superior has made available the excerpt of the Province Review report pertaining to Mount Argus, copies of which are available at the back of the church, at the Monastery Reception, or via email: office@mountargusparish.ie

Mount Argus Parish Centre (179 Lower Kimmage Road) will host a Coffee Morning on **Friday 6th February** from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon. Please come along - everyone welcome.

Parish Collection Envelopes

Parish Envelopes for 2026 are available for collection from the sacristy today, and from the Monastery Reception during the week.

Bank Standing Orders

To financially support the parish, we recommend a regular direct payment into our bank account. To this end, at the back of the church are **Standing Order Forms** to set up a regular payment directly from your account into the Parish account.

As we start a new year, we would kindly ask people who have a direct payment in place, to review and renew their standing order.

Tax Relief on Donations

Tax relief on donations to a charity is available under the Government's Charitable Donation Scheme (CHY). Donations of €250.00 or more, made in a calendar year to an approved charity could qualify for tax relief. It is calculated at a blended rate of 31% and would in effect mean that €250.00 could bring in around an extra €110.00 payable by the Government (realising just over €360.00 in total).

We are drawing together the records we have, and in due course we would hope to ask individuals, who have made contributions in excess of €250.00 to the Parish and the

Passionists in the calendar year 2025, to complete the relevant CHY forms to enable us to process a tax relief claim. We will focus on those who make regular payments via standing order directly into our bank and via the weekly parish collection envelopes, and those who make one-off donations.

Cash payments and payments made via the card machine do not count as they are not traceable to the donor.

For tax relief purposes, again, we recommend you make your parish contributions via bank standing order or via the parish weekly envelop.

Please note that a contribution of €21.00/month (or €5.00/week) paid consistently over the year will become eligible for tax relief.

We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish....; we remember those who have **died recently**: Ann Early; and those whose **anniversary occurs at this time**: David Gormley, Margaret Marshall, Margaret Thompson, Jaden Black, Lillian Collins, Des and Elieen Mulvey.

Financial Update

Last week's collection	€1,310.00
Bank Standing Orders (approx.)	€250.00
Donations via website	€96.00
and card machines	€634.50

Volunteers

The Parish Pastoral Council and I aim to identify the many areas, in which your help and support would be greatly valued, and where a lending hand will be greatly welcomed and appreciated.

We thank all who have come forward to date. We will begin to meet the **NEW** volunteers, beginning with **Readers** (only) on **Tuesday 12th February** at **7:30pm** in the St Charles Centre, to complete the diocesan paperwork and for initial induction.

In the meantime, if you think you would like to volunteer in any capacity, offering your skills, talents, ability, or time to the parish community, please do not hesitate to approach me.

Jr. Aidan