



Mount Argus Bulletin

The Parish of St Paul of the Cross

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

15th February 2026

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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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our readings this Sunday invite us to consider God's laws and true wisdom.

In the First Reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus (which means the book of the Church), Jesus Ben Sirach underlines how God has given us loving guidelines, but it is entirely up to us as to how we respond. God has also given us the gift of free will. The Psalmist praises God's law: we will experience happiness as we seek God and follow in his ways.

In the Second Reading, St Paul points out that true wisdom comes from God. Only the Spirit of God can reach the depths of all things.

St Matthew, in the Gospel, describes the relationship between the Law of Moses and the more radical vision of Jesus. Jesus has not come to abolish the Law but to complete it.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of **Lent**, the 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving leading up to Easter.

In the Bible, ashes are a traditional sign of sorrow for sin. People in the Old Testament would put on sackcloth and ashes as a visible expression of repentance. When we receive ashes, we are publicly acknowledging, "I am a sinner. I need God's mercy."

When ashes are placed on the forehead, we hear either "**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**" (Gen 3:19) or "**Repent, and believe in the Gospel.**" (Mk 1:15). This isn't meant to depress us; it is meant to put life in perspective. When we contemplate that we are dust and that life on earth is temporary, we are reminded that what truly matters is our relationship with God.

Ashes are placed in the shape of a cross on the forehead, to be seen, because:

- our faith is not meant to be hidden
- we belong to Christ
- the Cross is the sign of salvation.

Ash Wednesday is not just about sin or death - it is about hope, and a call to renewed hope. The ashes we receive are made from the burned palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday. This connects Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem with His suffering and Resurrection. Ashes mark the beginning of a spiritual journey from repentance, calling to mind that we are mortal, to the joy of resurrection in the light of Easter.

Ash Wednesday and the Forty Hours Adoration

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday of this week, 18th February. Masses will be at 10.00am and 6.15pm and ashes will be blessed and distributed during Mass. **Ash Wednesday** is a day of Fast and Abstinence. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

As is usual at Mount Argus, the **Forty Hours Adoration** will begin on **Ash Wednesday**. Adoration will begin after the 10.00am Mass and will continue throughout the day, ending with Prayer and Benediction from 7.30pm to 8.00pm. On **Thursday, 19th February**, the Adoration will again resume after the 10.00am Mass and continue until Prayer and Benediction from 7.30pm to 8.00pm. Do try to join us (in person or online) for this evening time of meditative Prayer and Benediction on 18th and 19th February, as a way of beginning Lent in a reflective spirit.

During the Forty Hours, there will be the usual evening Mass at 6.15pm.

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.

Suggested Lenten Exercises

- Mass during the week (10am and 6:15pm)
- Praying the Rosary (after 10am Mass daily)
- Adoration (Exposition on Thursdays and Fridays 4 – 6pm)
- Stations of the Cross (after 10am Mass on Fridays)
- *Lectio Divina**
- Spiritual Reading (The Practice of the Presence of God)**

* 2nd – 5th Wednesdays of Lent at 7:30pm in St Charles Centre

** by Brother Lawrence as recommended by Pope Leo

Trocaire Lenten Boxes

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

Parish Review

Members of the Provincial Council and appointed facilitators will visit Mount Argus parish on Thursday evening **12th March** – note date change.

Volunteers

We thank all who have come forward to date to offer their time and talents. We met the new volunteers, (Readers) last week, and we will next arrange to meet the New Eucharistic Ministers.

Legion of Mary

The Mount Argus Legion of Mary group meets **every Monday** at 7.15pm in the Legion of Mary centre at 60 Sundrive Road, Kimmage. New members are welcome.

Divine Mercy Conference

The Divine Mercy Conference will take place from 27th February to 1st March, in the RDS - see poster at the back of the church

Day of Prayer for Survivors

Friday 20th February is a day for prayer for survivors of victims of abuse. It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetrated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable. To bring healing, pray forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others.

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.

ACCORD Dublin

The annual Collection for **ACCORD Dublin**, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be taken up this weekend, **14th/15th February**.

St Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection for St Vincent de Paul will take place after the Masses next weekend, **21st/22nd February**.

We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish; we remember those who have **died recently**: Tony Donnelly, Cora Morris (whose funeral will take place on Tuesday 17th Feb. at 10:00am); and those whose **anniversary occurs at this time**: Willie Corrigan, John and Frances Saunders, May Murphy, Doris and Patrick Dolan, Josephine Ryan, Maeve McDonald, Vinnie O'Brien, Mary Williams, and Patricia Neville (BR).

Financial Update

Last week's collection

Bank Standing Orders (approx.)

€1,365.00

€250.00

Donations via website
and card machines

€187.00

€675.00