



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Like Father, Like Son. (If Only!)

Sport has always been a fairly major interest in my life. Since from my personal and active involvement in various sports has almost ceased, I have been a fairly regular spectator – on TV rather than by live attendance – of many different sports – nowadays mainly football, rugby, hurling (the greatest sport in the world!) and golf. All these sports, and their coverage, have changed hugely in my lifetime, and I'm generally OK with that. I don't know about you, but I'm always a little bemused by goal celebrations, which nowadays tend to be a little on the extreme side. Did you ever notice how the scorer so frequently is able to run half the length of the pitch, maybe even vaulting the advertising hoarding in the process, and all this with up to ten grown men hanging out of him, grabbing whatever they can of him, and one or two of them riding on his shoulders? And this is likely to be same man who a short time before has let out a scream of agony as he fell to the ground and rolled over a dozen times and required five minutes attention with magic sponges, just because one of the opposing team bumped into him! One's ability to stay on one's feet obviously depends on who it is who touches you.

Which you might say was one of the problems that the young man in our Gospel story this week was having to deal with. His father had given him every opportunity, by prematurely providing him with his inheritance, to be able to stand on his own two feet. But he allows himself to be touched by all the wrong kind of people – the kind he fell too easily for and who brought him down – people who were his supporters as long as there was something in it for them, but who clearly didn't want to know him once he ceased to be a soft touch and had nothing left to give. But he does eventually come to his senses, and decides that changes have to be made. I'm sure he put a lot of thought into whether or not he should risk returning home – after all he had rather insultingly walked out on them by seeking to have his inheritance given him before his parents had even died. How was he likely to be received? He might reasonably have expected many lectures of the 'I told you so' variety – "You didn't appreciate how well off you were with your family all around you to support you and provide

for you”, and so on. So when he risks all that and still returns, we get an idea of just how desperate he really was.

And what does he meet? It’s almost like he’s scored the winning goal – as his father rushes out to meet him with arms outstretched in welcome. There are no questions about how genuine is his sorrow, just the father’s joy at having his son back. A joy that unfortunately, and fairly understandably, was not shared by his brother. As far as he was concerned, this didn’t seem like fair play. He had put in all the hard honest endeavour in looking after the farm, and in doing so remained loyal and supportive of his parents – but no obvious recognition for him! What did he have to do to be on the winning side, as it were? But Jesus is not asking us, in this particular story, to examine the behaviour of the sons, but to focus rather on the behaviour and attitude of the father. He didn’t see the sons as rivals for his affection, but as the forever objects of his affection, no matter what. As we move ever closer to Easter, we are reminded that we worship a God who not only has given His very life for us, but who, even when we wander off is always there to welcome us home – no matter what. As far as the Father is concerned, once we have the sense to turn to Him in our time of need, then you might say we’re all winners!

-----00000OOO00000-----

Some Dates for your Diary:

Hard to believe that Easter is almost upon us – just three weeks away. Before you make other plans, it might be helpful to remind you of some of the events around Holy Week and Easter –

Our pre-Easter Penitential Service will be at 11.00 am Mass on 12th April (day before Palm Sunday.)

Church cleaning in preparation for Holy Week and Easter – after 4 pm Mass on Palm Sunday.

Outdoor Stations of the Cross in the Phoenix Park, on Good Friday, 18th March at 12 noon

Mothers’ Day:

A word of appreciation to all the mothers – and that obviously includes grandmothers! – of our parish. May Our Blessed Mother shower her blessings and protection down upon you all and reward you for all the love you bring into our world.

New Sacristan:

Last Monday our new sacristan, Cecilia, took up office in the Parish. On your behalf I am very happy to welcome her to Mount Argus. It may take a little time for her to get used to our peculiar ways, but I’m confident she will be a great asset to our liturgical celebrations. Do feel encouraged to give her a personal assurance of her welcome.

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 the 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.

-----00000OOO00000-----

We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish.....; we remember those who have died recently –Michael Keegan, Maura Walsh, Vincent O’Neill, Philomena Harte; **we remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time** – Ann Carroll, Tommy Winters, Austin Curley, Chris Gavigan (month’s mind), Patricia & Brian Furey, Paddy & Maggie Gregan, Jim Cunningham, Michael Burke, Louise Esmund.

Financial Update – 30 March 2025: Collection last Sunday, €1720. Standing orders for week, approx. €250. Donations via website, €96. Payments via credit card machines past week, €689.

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.