



Mount Argus Bulletin

The Parish of St Paul of the Cross

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

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8th February 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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings encourage us to be bold in our actions.

We read in the first reading that when we share and welcome those in need, and protect that which builds loving community, we bring God's light into dark places, lifting the gloom of isolation. The Psalmist says that those who imitate God's light will be remembered and honoured forever.

In the second reading, for St Paul, knowledge of Christ crucified was everything – it was the light for his way, and revealed how the power of the Spirit was at work in the world.

The Gospel reminds us that, in service of the Kingdom, our good works cannot and should not be hidden. By our acts of loving service, we live as salt; by our faithful trust in God's love, we live as light. And all so that God might be glorified.

When Jesus uses the images of salt to drive home the significance of being a disciple, its vital role is readily understood. It was used as a spice and a preservative, and was present in every household. The Greeks called salt divine (*theion*), and the Romans said: 'There is nothing more useful than sun and salt' (*'Sole et sale nihil utilius'*). In the time of Jesus, salt was connected in people's minds with three special qualities: purity, preservation from corruption, and giving flavour to life.

The image of light is a universal one. Earlier in Matthew's gospel, (Mt 4:16) Jesus is likened to a light shining in the darkness. Jesus now uses this same image for his disciples. When Jesus instructed his followers to be the lights of the world, he was asking nothing less than they should be like himself. Jesus was using an expression quite familiar to the Jews, who themselves spoke of Jerusalem as 'a light to the Gentiles'. Similarly, a famous Rabbi would often be referred to as 'a lamp of Israel'.

Ash Wednesday and the Forty Hours Adoration

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday of next week, 18th February. As is usual at Mount Argus, the Forty Hours Adoration will take place on Ash Wednesday and the following day (18th and 19th February). Adoration will begin on each of these days after the 10.00am Mass and will continue throughout the day, ending with Prayer and Benediction from 7.30pm to 8.00 pm.

Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking

Today, **8th February**, is the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese nun, who as a child had the traumatic experience of being a victim of human trafficking, and is the International Day of Prayer and awareness against Human Trafficking. Here are some thoughts of Pope Leo:

Geopolitical instability and armed conflicts create fertile ground for traffickers to exploit the most vulnerable, especially displaced persons, migrants and refugees. Within this broken paradigm, women and children are the most impacted by this heinous trade. Furthermore, the widening gap between the rich and the poor forces many into precarious circumstances, leaving them susceptible to the deceptive promises of recruiters"

Particularly disturbing is the rise of so-called "cyber slavery," whereby individuals are lured into fraudulent schemes and criminal activities, such as online fraud and drug smuggling. In such cases, the victim is coerced into assuming the role of perpetrator, exacerbating their spiritual wounds. These forms of violence are not isolated incidents, but symptoms of a culture that has forgotten how to love as Christ loves.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Wednesday 11 February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is designated the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme for the 34th World Day of the Sick: *"The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing the pain of the other"*.

The theme of the World Day of the Sick focuses on the Good Samaritan who shows love by caring for the suffering man who fell into the hands of thieves, and highlights this aspect of love of neighbour: love needs concrete gestures of closeness, through which we enter into the suffering of others, those who are ill, especially those who at the same time experience poverty, isolation, and loneliness. It is a day when we are all called to recognize the face of Christ in our sick and vulnerable brothers and sisters.

Parish Review

Members of the Provincial Council and appointed facilitators propose to visit Mount Argus parish on **5th/6th March** to meet with parishioners.

Special Family Mass

This Sunday, **8th February** at the **11:00am Mass**, the liturgy will be led by the children of Scoil Mológa. Following the Mass, there will be tea/coffee in the St Charles Centre – everyone welcome.

Passionist Feast Day

On **Friday** of this week, **13th February**, we will celebrate the Solemn Commemoration of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is the titular feast of the Passionist Congregation instituted by St Paul of the Cross.

The feast day is kept each year on the Friday before Ash Wednesday. It gives us an opportunity to reflect on the Mystery of Christ's Passion and Death before we enter into the Season of Lent.

Volunteers

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

Young Adults (18 - 40 y.o.)

Young Adults Rathmines welcomes other young adults to 'get to know St Valentine beyond the love cards, chocolates and roses'. Come along to the Parish Centre, Rathmines Church D06 AK19, **Thursday 12th February at 7:00pm**

ACCORD Dublin

The annual Collection for **ACCORD Dublin**, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be taken up next weekend, **14th/15th February**. **ACCORD Dublin** throughout the Diocese offers: Marriage Preparation courses – online, small groups; counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships, currently online or by phone; a Relationship and Sexuality Programme for schools. **ACCORD Dublin** needs your support this year more than ever. Please give generously.

We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish....; we remember those who have **died recently**: Peter Canavan; and those whose **anniversary occurs at this time**: Eveline Fox and family members, John F Smyth, George Webb, Jean Bermingham, Patrick Swaine, Merci Conaghan, Batt and Siobhan Garvey, Thomas Leonard, Austin, Eileen, Raymond, Karl and Baby Sinead Jordan, Patrick and Ann Brennan, Noreen Byrne and Kathleen Collins.

Financial Update

Last week's collection	€1,600.00
Bank Standing Orders (approx.)	€250.00
Donations via website	€212.00
and card machines	€520.00