

Clonskeagh Parish Newsletter

Let us remember those who are sick
and housebound in our Parish
today!



The churches are open for *private prayer* and those over 70 and those with underlying conditions are asked to limit their contacts, stay in place at home in so far as possible and to exercise a heightened sense of personal care.

The *Parish Office* is closed to the public and not available for in person visits to book masses or get Mass cards.
Please email parishofficeclonskeagh@eircom.net as the emails are checked remotely.

We all need to exercise caution in our interactions with the public and with each other. The norms of social distance, hand washing, and masks are to be strictly observed. Everyone who visits our church is to wear a face covering, to practice hand sanitising and social distancing, in order to protect everyone's health.

Fr Joe Mullan Adm.

We prayerfully remember all those who are **Recently Deceased** & all whose **Anniversaries** occur at this time.
“May they rest in peace. Amen.”



Few Words from Fr Joe –

Just outside my kitchen window a bare tree stands. I see it there each morning at my first prayers of each Lenten day. While it is in the deep slumber of winter, with not a single leaf showing, it welcomes birds and gives them a place to stand, rest and sing. It has been my Covid companion, always a little lift, just to see it there. Wind moves its branches, their gentle swaying soothes my spirits. Rain makes it glisten, shiny bark reflects the silver light of day. Recently snow settled briefly on its limbs, swelling tiny sticks.

Today seven pink buds opened, I named them after the days of the week, reserving “Sunday” for the most colourful of them. Beneath the surface sap is rising, another ring forming, leaves will soon burst into the warming spring like days.

Trees grow till they fall.

The winter tree is clearly defined, the trunk carries the outstretched branches firmly supported. When I go to the altar to pray, the rows of empty benches stretch from sanctuary to door and remind me of my tree. When I catch a glimpse of parishioners, slipping into pray during the day, sitting here and there, they give life like the buds which adorn those branches. For the tree spring will work its magic, it will surely unfold into leaf and the lovely skeleton of the tree will vanish. Without winter, it's hard to fully appreciate the way the tree holds itself in nature.

The greater challenge is to see how the empty pews carry the living church, which this Covid winter contains at home. My heart yearns for that time when our mid-summer comes and licit gatherings join us like the leaves on the tree into a sea of faces, a chorus of voices, a murmuring of responses.

Let the Lenten prayers carry you towards the God who lives in nature, dwells in each other and holds us all in being, till we fall.

Parish News & Announcements



‘Lent is a season of Fasting, Prayer, and Alms Giving in preparation for the joy of Easter’

• Fasting

Some ideas of fasting include: Fast from judging others, fast from harsh words, fast from discontent, fast from anger, fast from worry, fast from complaining & fast from idle gossip.

• Prayer

✚ Why not go online at <https://www.mountmerrionparish.ie/webcam/> to join 10am Mass

✚ Mount Merrion Parish Pastoral Council invites you to join our 2021 series of LENTEN “TALKS ON THURSDAYS” @ 8pm (via ZOOM)

- Thurs 4th March - Fr Paddy Moran CSSp Missionary and Director of Vocations for the Spiritans “Our Lenten journey through the desert that is Covid: Searching for God in the signs of the times”
- Thurs 11th March – Rev. Canon Gillian Wharton Rector of Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion “Lent 2021 - More Self-Care and Love of Others, and Less Sin”
- Thurs 18th March - Dr Jessie Rogers Lecturer in Sacred Scripture, St Patrick’s College Maynooth “Always the same, always new: becoming ourselves in the presence of an untamed God.”
- Thurs 25th March – Fr Columba McCann OSB Monk of Glenstal Abbey “What is God doing for Lent? Wisdom about Christian Transformation from St Thérèse of Lisieux and St Benedict of Nursia”

TO REGISTER: Please contact the Mount Merrion Parish Office by email on parishoffice@mountmerrionparish.ie.

You will be sent a ZOOM weblink to allow you to join the live talk each Thursday.

The talks are free and all are welcome.

✚ Embark on a Celtic Lenten journey as Vox Hiberniae (harpist Mary O'Donnell, violinist Sarah Lane and vocalists Kerrie O'Connor and Teresa O'Donnell) lead us in song from Galilee to Gethsemane. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bu8GDvSUZ_Y
Kerrie O Connor www.kerrieoconnor.iacat.ie

• Alms Giving



Trocaire once again invite us to join in with their Lenten Campaign. The Trocaire packs are available at the back of the church. All families in the parish are encouraged to take the pack from the back of the church and join in the Lenten Campaign.