



MONKSTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

7TH September 2025



LUMEN
DOMINICAN CENTRE

Adult Faith Formation in Spirituality, Theology and Scripture

The Lumen Dominican Centre nestled on the Sion Hill Campus in the heart of Blackrock, Co. Dublin is a hive of educational activity for adults of all ages. Lumen advocates for lifelong learning and human flourishing in a spirit of community through the ethos of the Dominican sisters. It is committed to the dialogue between faith and culture.

Classes return in a couple of weeks and run in the daytime (Tuesday to Friday) and one evening a week. Subjects range from ballet, yoga, sacred dance, languages to art history, philosophy and the Bible. In the coming Autumn term Lumen is launching a new choir 'Cantus Lumen' (Song of Light). No auditions or experience are necessary, and it will be an opportunity for new and old students to enjoy the benefits and fun of choral singing.

To book visit the website lumenop.ie or call the centre at 01-2882075. All are welcome.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Our local St. Vincent de Paul conference will take up their monthly church collection next weekend after all masses. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month takes place October 1st-31st. For further information, please visit www.breastcancerireland.com.

World Alzheimer's Day 2025

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland **Memory Walk** will take place in Deer Park, Mount Merrion on Sunday the 21st of September at 12 Noon. Participation is simple and the walk is just one loop of the park. All Are Welcome
Further Details: www.memorywalk.ie

Mass Intentions

We remember in our prayer at mass this weekend the following whose anniversaries and month's mind occur at this time:

- Kathleen Algar (Month's Mind)
- Joanne Sheehan (1st Anniversary)
- George Ennis (Recently Deceased)
- Peter Prenderville (Anniversary)
- Ógie Mehigan (Month's Mind)

Baptism

We welcome into the Christian community **Noah Twomey** and **Archie Twomey** who will be baptised by Deacon Eric on Sunday 7th September.

PARISH LOTTO

Elizabeth Goggin in the winner of this week's weekly draw.

SUMMER DUES

We thank all our parishioners who have returned the Summer Dues offerings.



We welcome back our Family Mass Group who sing at the 10 am Mass on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and at the 6 pm Vigil mass on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

DLCS

OPEN EVENING

Each year the Dun Loaghair Choral Society (**DLCS**) hold an "open evening" for people who would like to participate in one of their rehearsals to see if they would like to apply to join.

This year the open evening will be held @ 7:30 pm on Thursday 11th September 2025 in the Quaker Hall in Monkstown. For further information email: membershipdlcs@gmail.com

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Office T: (01) 538 2542
(Mon - Fri 9am – 12:30 pm)

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T: (01) 538 2542
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Fr Kevin Rowan (Parish Priest)
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Deacon Eric Cooney
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SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

Alice O'Connell & Denise Beardmore
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Mass Times

Weekdays (Mon – Fri) @ 10 AM
Saturday Vigil Mass @ 6 PM
Sunday: 10 AM & 11:30 AM

Partnership Parishes

KILL O' THE GRANGE PARISH (Holy Family)

Web: www.holyfamilyparish.ie
Parish Office Tel: (01) 284 5299
Email: admin@holyfamily.ie

BLACKROCK PARISH (St. John the Baptist)

Web: www.sjb.ie
Parish Office Tel: (01) 288 2104
Email: office@sjb.ie

NEWTOWNPARK PARISH (Guardian Angels)

Web: www.newtownparkparish.com
Parish Office Tel: (01) 283 2988
E: parishoffice@newtownparkparish.com

FOXROCK PARISH (Our Lady of Perpetual Succor)

Web: www.foxrockparish.ie
Parish Office Tel: (01) 289 3492
Email: secretary@foxrockparish.ie

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MONKSTOWN PARISH

Commentary on the readings for the 23rd
Sunday of Ordinary Time
carmelites.ie

Wisdom 9:13-18;

The first reading from the Old Testament reminds us that without the Wisdom of God it would be impossible for us to know what lies in the heavens. We know that the Wisdom of God is Christ and that he died for us so that we might enter the heavenly kingdom. To help us reach that goal he left us the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

Luke 14:25-33

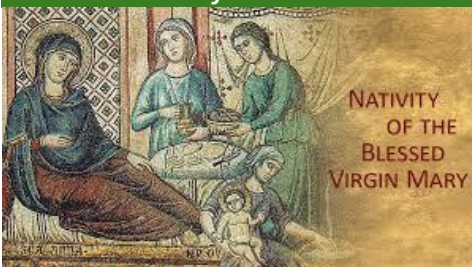
In the gospel passage from St Luke, Jesus tells us that we must give up all we possess if we are to be his disciples. While we do need some possessions in order to live or for the world to develop, we must not put our trust in these possessions alone but must treasure God above all else. If we do this then we will come to know the Wisdom of God and will inherit the kingdom of heaven which is worth more than any earthly possession we could ever wish for.

Philemon 9-10, 12-17;

In our second reading from St Paul's brief letter to Philemon, we read that Paul is sending Onesimus back to Philemon. Onesimus is a slave who has run away from his master. In sending him back, Paul is complying with the law but he is also doing so in the hope that Onesimus will be treated as a free man as his master is a Christian. Onesimus is returning because even though he does not know for sure what lies in store, as a Christian he has already been freed from oppression through the power of Christ.

This is the spirit which we too must have and must place our trust in God rather than in the things and people of this life. Only then will we inherit eternal life.

Feast days this week



On **Monday September 8th**, the Church joyfully celebrates the **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**—a moment of grace and hope for all humanity.

Born to Saints Joachim and Anne, Mary's arrival marks the dawn of salvation history, preparing the way for Christ. Her birth is a reminder of God's providence and the beauty of a life wholly dedicated to Him. Let us honor her with gratitude and devotion on this special feast.

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Take up your cross . .
follow me . .

Fr Kevin's Reflection for the
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



It was the iconic photograph of the Vietnamese War: A nine-year old girl with outstretched arms, running through her village screaming, her naked skin burning from a Napalm explosion. The haunting photo was taken by Nick Ut on June 8, 1972. The photo was picked up immediately by news media around the world and would go on to win the Pulitzer Prize.

The little girl in the photo, Kim Phuc Phan Thi, is now a 59-year-old wife and mother living in Ontario. She remembers that day 53 years ago:

"Nick changed my life forever with that remarkable photograph. But he also saved my life. After he took the photo, he put his camera down, wrapped me in a blanket and whisked me off to get medical attention. I am forever thankful. "Yet I also remember hating him at times. I grew up detesting that photo. I thought to myself, "I am a little girl. I am naked. Why did he take that picture? Why didn't my parents protect me? Why did he print that photo? Why was I the only kid naked while my brothers and cousins in the photo had their clothes on?" I felt ugly and ashamed."

In the wake of the photo's *publication*, Kim became a propaganda tool for the Communist government, paraded before the world as a symbol of the horrors of the war being inflicted on the Vietnamese people. Kim has struggled to make people understand that she and other survivors in such photographs *"are not symbols. We are human. We must find work, people to love, communities to embrace, places to learn and to be nurtured."*

Kim eventually resettled in Canada where, with the help of her husband, friends and a newfound Christian faith, she realized her mission. She founded the [Kim Foundation International](http://KimFoundationInternational.org), which provides medical and psychological assistance to children who are victimized by war.

"I know what it is like to have your village bombed, your home devastated, to see family members die and bodies of innocent civilians lying in the street. These are the horrors of war from Vietnam memorialized in countless photographs and newsreels. Sadly, they are also the images of wars everywhere, of precious human lives being damaged and destroyed today in Ukraine."

"I have carried the results of war on my body. You don't grow out of the scars, physically or mentally. I am grateful now for the power of that photograph of me as a nine-year-old, as I am of the journey I have taken as a person. My horror — which I barely remember — became universal. I'm proud that, in time, I have become a symbol of peace. It took me a long time to embrace that as a person. I can say, 50 years later, that I'm glad Nick captured that moment, even with all the difficulties that image created for me."

To follow Jesus is to take up our own "crosses." Our crosses may be traumatic pain or immeasurable loss that we have managed to survive that enable us to become the means of hope and healing for those bearing similar crosses. Or our "crosses" may be opportunities we have or abilities, skills, resources we possess that can lead to changing a difficult set of circumstances or healing a broken situation into something whole and holy.

Kim Phuc Phan Thi takes up the "cross" of the photograph of that horrible day in her life and uses it as a means for obtaining help for children caught in the horrors of war. Christ calls us to transform our lives and the world we live in by embracing the vision of his cross: to courageously and soberly take on the difficult and demanding "Good Fridays" that confront us in order to bring forth the lasting transformation of the Easter promise.