

MONKSTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

21st Sunday Ordinary Time
24th August 2025

CONTACT DETAILS

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

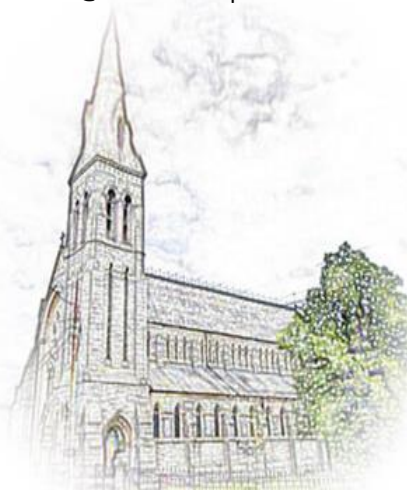
Ann Acres (Secretary)
T: (01) 538 2542
E: secretary@monkstownparish.ie

Fr Kevin Rowan (Parish Priest)
Mobile: 087 224 2230
E: revkevmonkstown1@gmail.com

Deacon Eric Cooney
Mobile: 087 668 3499
E: eric.g.cooney@gmail.com

SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

Alice O'Connell & Denise Beardmore
Parish Office Number: 01 538 2542
Email: CP@monkstownparish.ie



Mass Times

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

Baptism

Normally on 2nd and 4th Sundays
of the month at 12.30pm.
Enquiries to the parish office.

For a full list of parish
notices visit
monkstownparish.ie
Or scan the QR Code



PARISH NOTICES

Mass Intentions

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

- **Frances Thompson (Month's Mind)**
- **Derek Law (A)**
- **Teresa & Christopher Ledwidge (A)**
- **Margaret Robinson (Month's Mind)**
- **Richard Maher (Month's Mind)**

Archdiocese of Dublin

Summer Dues

All priests in the diocese, i.e. those
active and those who are sick and
retired are supported through the
Diocesan Common Fund which is built
through the contributions from the first
collection and the Christmas, Easter
and Summer Dues appeals. Please
continue to support your priests through
the Summer Dues appeal. The
generosity that you have towards your
priests is indispensable.

The Summer Dues envelopes can be
placed in the boxes at the back of the
church or returned to the parish office.
Many thanks in advance for your



Tax Relief on
Contributions

Revenue
Cáin agus Custaim na hÉireann
Irish Tax and Customs

Whilst your contributions to the
Common Fund through the first
collection and the summer dues appeal
go to the diocese, the parish can also
benefit from the tax relief available to
charitable donations. With your help
and without any cost to you, the parish
can claim up to the value of 45% of your
identifiable contributions amounting to
€250 or more in any given year.

Please provide your contact details on
the envelope so that the parish can
contact you, to help process the tax
rebate from the Revenue.

Day of Prayer for Gaza

Sunday 24th August

4 pm to 5 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

5 pm to 6 pm

Holy Hour with Benediction
Guided Holy Hour with Scripture, Sacred Music and
Reflection

In response to the ongoing
humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the Irish
Catholic Bishops have designated
Sunday, 24 August as a **National
Day of Prayer and Reflection.**

Archbishop Farrell is encouraging
parishes to pray to unite in prayerful
solidarity with the people of Gaza and
for a peace and an end to this
humanitarian tragedy.

Here in St. Patrick's Monkstown, we
will have **Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament from 4 to 5 pm** for those
who wish to visit the church for a
short period of silent prayer.

From 5 to 6 pm Deacon Eric will lead
a guided **Holy Hour** of scripture,
reflection and sacred music, which
will **conclude with Benediction.**



**"Let us disarm
words and we will
help to disarm the
world. "**
Pope Leo XIV



Art & Craft Exhibition

29th - 31st August 2025

The Schoolhouse

In the grounds of Monkstown Church

OPENING HOURS:

Friday 29th August 7.30 – 9.30pm
Saturday 30th August 10.30 – 5.30pm
Sunday 31st August 12.30 – 5.00pm

MONKSTOWN PARISH

Commentary on the readings for the
21st Sunday of Ordinary Time
carmelites.ie

Isaiah 66:18-21;

In our first reading we see that the Lord is going to gather all of his Chosen People from wherever they have been scattered and return them to Jerusalem. They will come in chariots, on horse back, on stretchers, but they will come to Jerusalem.

Luke 13:22-30

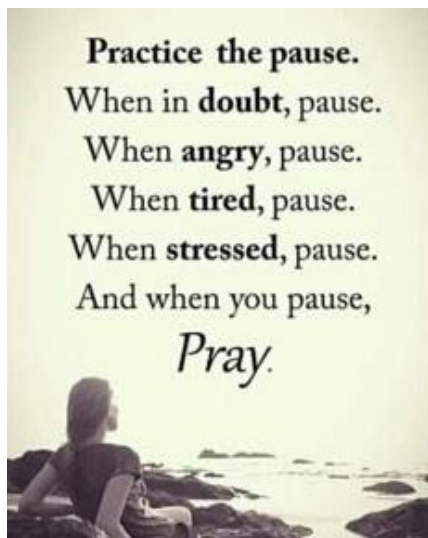
In the gospel, Jesus tells us that there will be a gathering of the nations in the kingdom of heaven. But he also warns us that not everyone will be saved because there will be those who will not believe in him or in his message until it is too late and these people will be left out in the cold while the faithful will enter paradise to take their places along with the prophets of old.

It is a reminder to us that we must live up to our responsibilities as baptised Christians sooner rather than later and to take an active part in the spread of the Gospel.

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13;

In our second reading from the letter to the Hebrews, the author tells us that some of us will be punished by the Lord, but this should not be a cause of worry for – in punishing us – the Lord acknowledges us as his sons and daughters. His punishment, therefore, is intended to make better people of us.

Of course, we can avoid such action by living according to the gospel precepts, beginning today.



Luke 13: 22-30

**Fr Kevn's Reflection
for the 21st Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

**“Strive to
enter by the
narrow door”**



In the Gospel this week, someone asks Jesus: “Lord, will only a few people be saved?” His reply is both challenging and liberating: “Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.”

The narrow door is not about numbers—who gets in and who doesn’t. It is about the way of life that leads us into God’s Kingdom. Jesus is saying: it is not enough to know Him from a distance or to say “We ate and drank in your company.” What matters is that His words and His mercy shape our hearts and our lives.

And here is where it becomes difficult for many of us: forgiveness. Forgiveness is perhaps one of the most difficult “narrow doors” of discipleship. To forgive someone who has hurt us—deeply, unfairly, even repeatedly—feels impossible. The wound lingers. The anger resurfaces. We might say, “I can’t forget what they did.” But Jesus calls us not to forget, but to forgive.

Pope Francis has often reminded us that forgiveness is not weakness, but strength. He said: “Forgiveness is the caress of God”—it heals, it liberates, it makes us new. He insists that if we close our hearts to mercy, we also close the door to receiving God’s mercy. The narrow door, then, is the door of mercy—difficult to enter, because it requires us to let go of pride, resentment, and the desire for revenge.

Think of the Our Father, which we pray during every mass: “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Those are not just words—they are the measure of our discipleship. To walk through the narrow door is to allow God’s mercy to pass through us, not only to us.

Perhaps some of us carry a grudge. Maybe it is within our families, friendships, or even within the parish. The narrow door is open—but we cannot pass through it if we are carrying the heavy baggage of resentment. Only when we lay it down can we fit through.

Jesus is not trying to frighten us with the words of today’s Gospel but to free us. He wants us to know the joy of His Kingdom—where people will come from east and west, north and south, and recline at the table of God’s mercy. But to enter, we must let mercy guide us. Pope Francis often spoke about this. He said that forgiveness is the very oxygen of the Christian life. Without forgiveness, our souls suffocate. He once remarked: “If we do not learn to forgive one another, we will always be slaves of our own resentments.” In other words, forgiveness is not just a gift we give to others—it is liberation for our own hearts.

So let us pray for the courage to forgive. Forgiveness does not mean pretending nothing happened, but it means entrusting justice to God, and allowing His mercy to heal us. Pope Francis said it beautifully: “God never tires of forgiving; it is we who tire of asking.”

May we never tire of forgiving, never tire of trying; never tire of walking through that narrow door that leads to life.

Feast days and Memorials This Week

On Wednesday, 27 August, we celebrate the feast of **St. Monica**, a model of unwavering faith and perseverance. As the mother of St. Augustine, she prayed tirelessly for his conversion, embodying the power of hope and love. Her life reminds us to trust in God’s timing and remain steadfast in prayer for our loved ones. May St. Monica inspire us to nurture faith within our families and community.



On Thursday, 28 August, we honour **St. Augustine**, one of the Church’s greatest theologians and a powerful witness to God’s grace. Once a restless seeker, his dramatic conversion—thanks in part to his mother St. Monica’s prayers—led him to become Bishop of Hippo and a profound voice for truth. His writings continue to inspire hearts and minds. May we, like Augustine, open ourselves to God’s transforming love and wisdom.



On Friday, 29 August, we commemorate the **Beheading of St. John the Baptist**, a prophet of truth and courage. His fearless witness to God’s word led to his martyrdom, reminding us of the cost of discipleship. John’s life calls us to speak truth with love, even in the face of adversity. May his example inspire us to live with integrity and prepare the way for Christ in our own lives.

