

MONKSTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

22nd Sunday Ordinary Time
31st August 2025

CONTACT DETAILS

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SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

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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:

- Sarah Lowe (A)
- Brendan Lawlor (1st A)
- Kathleen Marah (A)
- Bridget Treacy (A)
- Ted Downey (1st A)



Baptism

We welcome into the Christian community
Sam Nesbitt and Sacha Teyssier Coyle who
were baptised by Deacon Eric last Sunday
24th August.

Parish Lotto

Sandra Quinn is the winner of this week's
lotto draw. The jackpot has still to be won.

Summer Dues

Thank you to all who have returned the
summer dues offering which goes to
support the priests of the Diocese.

Choir Resumes

We welcome back our parish choir who
will resume this Sunday, August 31st at the
11:30 am mass.



Café Conversations

Our place in God's Creation

Join Fr Tony Horgan MSC and Sr Anna
Byrne DC for Café Conversations in the
context of "Our place in God's Creation"
(as suggested by Pope Francis in Laudato
Si')

Dates: September 1st, 8th and 15th
Time: 10.30 - 12 noon
Venue: Newtownpark Pastoral Centre

For further information and registration
please Sr Anna Byrne email:
annabyrne@daughtersofcharity.ie



HARVEST FESTIVAL STREET FEAST & DOG SHOW



Monkstown Village Tidy District (MVTD)
is pleased to announce their 4th Harvest
Festival, Street Feast and Dog Show
which will take place on Sunday 31st
August from 2.00pm until 5.30pm.

There will be

- **live music performances** including
Traditional, Classical, Folk, Blues
and Jazz.
- **Magic shows, Puppet Theatre, Face
Painting and Balloon Modelling for
the little ones.**
- **A Dog Show** with a prize for every
dog.

There will be advice on:

- caring for your pet,
biodiversity
and protecting our environment.

As always, there will be the Street Feast
with the restaurants of Monkstown
providing free food from 2.00pm until
5.30pm.

Finally, there will be a **Monster Raffle
with over 30 prizes** worth more than
€2,000 It's all free, so come along and
enjoy the fun.

Pet Blessing



Pet Blessing

Monkstown Parish Church
Sunday 31st August @ 3 pm

The annual pet blessing service will take
place in Monkstown Parish Church. The
Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind and the
Blue Cross Animal charity will join
parishioners. All are welcome to come
along with their pets and join in this
celebration with all its associated chaos
and fun.

MONKSTOWN PARISH

Commentary on the readings for the 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time carmelites.ie

Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20, 28-29;

Our Old Testament reading today warns us to be a humble people. Humility is far better than pride and the humble are loved more than a generous giver because many people will take what they want from a philanthropist without thinking too much about him, so long as they can get what they can.

Psalms 67;

The Psalm reminds us that the Lord is the one who protects the widow and orphan and those who are powerless.

Luke 14:1, 7-14

The theme of humility is taken up in the gospel passage from St Luke where Jesus is the guest of a Pharisee. He also tells the people that those who give parties for the poor and the destitute are the truly generous ones for they are giving to people who cannot give to them in return. By giving to those who can give to us we do nothing but fool ourselves into false humility. The Lord knows the inmost heart and he knows whether we are really humble or not.

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24;

In our final excerpt from the letter to the Hebrews, the author reminds the Hebrews that they have come to the true God and with him everyone is regarded as a first-born son and therefore a citizen of heaven. As citizens of heaven, then, we should act like we truly believe and so show the way for others that they too may become citizens.

Strong people
don't put others down.
They lift them up.❤️



Fr Kevin's Reflection for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 31st August

I want you to imagine this for a moment. You're at a wedding reception. The music is playing, the tables are set, and everyone is trying to figure out where to sit. You know how it goes: people glance around the room, wondering who they'll sit next to—maybe near the head table if they're lucky or maybe in the corner by the kitchen doors. Seating charts can make people anxious because they reveal something about who's considered "important."



It was no different in Jesus' time. At meals, where you sat said everything about your status. And so, at this dinner in today's Gospel, people were scrambling for the best places. Jesus notices this and tells a parable that flips the whole system upside down: "Take the lowest place... for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

But Jesus goes even further: "When you give a banquet, don't just invite your friends and rich neighbours. Invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind." In other words, don't make relationships into transactions. Don't love only those who can repay you. Instead, create space for those who have no seat at the table.

This brings to mind the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber. He said there are two ways of relating to people: "I-It" and "I-Thou." An "I-It" relationship is when we treat someone as an object—something to be used, or someone who exists to make me look good. But an "I-Thou" relationship is when we meet the other person as a sacred "Thou"—a child of God, someone with dignity, someone in whom God is present. Buber reminds us that God is not found in things but in relationships. And in every genuine encounter of "I-Thou," we meet God Himself.

That's exactly what Jesus is asking us to do: to resist "I-It" relationships—where we climb the social ladder or look for what others can do for us—and instead to embrace "I-Thou" relationships, where we honour the other person simply because they are beloved of God. That's what Jesus is talking about. The table becomes a holy place when we make room for those who cannot repay us.

The rabbi and writer Harold Kushner, in his book *A Life That Matters*, writes "God is filling the space between us so that we are connected, not separated. Both love and true friendship are more than a way of knowing that we matter to someone else: they are a way of mattering to the world; it is bringing God into a world that otherwise would be a vale of selfishness and loneliness." In other words he says that when we look back at our lives, what will matter is not how much we owned or how many achievements we racked up. What matters is whether our being here made the world better for someone else—whether someone else's life was lifted because we were part of it. A life that matters is a life that blesses others.

Isn't that exactly what Jesus is calling us to? To live not for status or self-gain, but for relationships that reveal God's love. To live in such a way that others are better, freer, more hopeful because we were here.

As we come to the Lord's Table this week—the Eucharist, God's great banquet—let's ask for the grace of humility and generosity. Humility, to take the lower place and not worry about honour. To ask for the generosity, to set a bigger table in our homes, in our parish, and in our daily lives. Because when we welcome others—especially those who cannot repay us—we encounter Christ Himself. And in the end, that is what will make our lives matter.

Feast days and Memorials This Week

On Wednesday, 3rd September, we celebrate the Memorial of **Saint Gregory the Great**, pope, pastor, and Doctor of the Church. Renowned for his humility, wisdom, and tireless service, Gregory shaped the Church with reforms that still echo today. His writings and example call us to deeper prayer, generous leadership, and love for the poor. As we honour his legacy, may we be inspired to live with the same courage and faithfulness in our own time.



On Friday 5th September, we honour the Memorial of **Saint Teresa of Calcutta**, a beacon of compassion and tireless service to the poorest of the poor. Her life reminds us that holiness is found in small acts of love done with great faith. As we reflect on her legacy, may we be inspired to serve with humility, courage, and joy—bringing Christ's light to those most in need, just as she did so faithfully.

