

MONKSTOWN PARISH



Parish Secretary

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Deacon

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Mass Times: Weekdays (Mon – Fri) @ 10 AM Saturday, Vigil Mass @ 6 PM Sunday, 10 AM & 11:30 AM
Sacristan: Ciarán Ryan

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (4th / 5th October)

PARISH PARTNERSHIPS



In 2015 Towers Watson produced a report for the Archdiocese of Dublin which provided a sobering analysis of priest numbers and parish sustainability, with projections extending to 2030.

Projected Decline in Priest Number and Aging Clergy

By 2030, the number of priests in active ministry was projected to drop by 61–70% depending on whether religious orders continued their parish commitments. The Best-case scenario: the number of priests would drop from the 2014 number of 369 priests down to 144. This number included the number of non-diocesan priests, i.e. those from the various religious orders. If religious orders withdrew due their own aging and decline numbers, this would leave Dublin with only 111 diocesan priests who would be available for parish ministry across Dublin's 200 parishes. As of 2014, 57% of priests were over 60, and this was expected to rise to 75% by 2030.

Building Hope (Parish Partnerships)

This has led to the development of a pastoral renewal process called "Building Hope". The "Building Hope" initiative is the Dublin Archdiocese's bold and prayerful response to the pastoral challenges of our time—especially the decline in clergy numbers, shifting faith engagement, and the need for renewal. Launched by Archbishop Dermot Farrell in 2021, it's a pastoral renewal process aimed at reimagining parish life in light of current realities and encouraging partnerships between parishes to share resources and energy.

With an aging clergy and fewer vocations, the number of Sunday Masses may need to drop from 836 to around 331 to avoid overburdening priests. As part of the Archdiocese of Dublin's "Building Hope" initiative, all 200 parishes across the diocese are now grouped into 53 partnerships to foster collaboration, shared mission, and deeper community engagement.

Monkstown is part of a partnership of five parishes which comprise: Monkstown, Blackrock, Kill o the Grange, Newtownpark and Foxrock

Partnership Name

Each partnership is being asked to choose a name that reflects its identity. This helps build unity, deepen belonging, and affirm our shared journey of faith. If you have any suggestion for a name of our partnership email or text Deacon Eric. Contact details are: Email: Eric.G.Cooney@gmail.com and Mobile (087) 668 3499

MASS INTENTIONS

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

- James Collins (A)
- Jacqueline Baker (MM)

ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD

We are currently compiling the Altar List of the Dead for the year ahead. The names on the list are remembered at the First Friday Mass throughout the year and at all weekend masses in November. If you would like to have a loved one's name included on the list, please collect an envelope and sheet from the back of the church and return it to the parish office.

SVP COLLECTION

Our local conference of St. Vincent de Paul will hold their monthly collection after all masses next weekend.

GATHERING AT QUAKER MEETING HOUSE MONKSTOWN

October 18th from 12:45 to 4:15

Inner Development for Outward Change.

Sue Saunders will speak to the topic: "The development of inner growth to support the outward challenges of the 17 UN Sustainability Development Goals". There is no cost or registration involved but it would be good to have an idea of numbers. Bring your own lunch – tea & coffee will be provided. Please ask anybody planning to attend to email: monkstownpm@gmail.com

As part of the event we are holding a short silent Peace Witness at 12.45 outside the Meeting House. All are welcome to join us.

Full details available on our parish website (monkstownparish.ie)

DOMINICAN FAMILY DAY IN KNOCK Sunday 12th October 10.30am – 5.00pm

Join Dominicans and friends at the Knock Dominican Family Day, organised in association with Knock parents. Parent Mini-conference Knock House Hotel

Full details on www.Dominicans.ie

PARTNERSHIP PARISHES

KILL O' THE GRANGE (Holy Family)

Mon – Sat @ 10 am

Sat Vigil 5 pm Sun 10 & 12

Web: www.holyfamilyparish.ie

Parish Office Tel: (01) 284 5299

Email: admin@holyfamily.ie

BLACKROCK (St. John the Baptist)

Mon – Fri @ 1:05 pm

Sat Vigil 6:30 pm Sun 10 & 12

Web: www.sjb.ie

Parish Office Tel: (01) 288 2104

Email: office@sjb.ie

NEWTOWNPARK (Guardian Angels)

Mon – Sat @ 10 am

Sun 9:30 10:45 & 12 noon

www.newtownparkparish.com

Parish Office Tel: (01) 283 2988

E: parishoffice@newtownparkparish.com

FOXROCK

(Our Lady of Perpetual Succor)

Mon, Tue, Thurs & Fri @ 10 am

Sat Vigil 6 pm Sun 10 & 11:30

Web: www.foxrockparish.ie

Parish Office Tel: (01) 289 3492

Email: secretary@foxrockparish.ie

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Commentary on the readings
for the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time
carmelites.ie

Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4;

In our first reading from the Prophet Habakkuk we are told that the “upright man will live by his faithfulness.” At times we all struggle and wonder if God is present but the reading reminds us that God is always there even in the most difficult of moments.

Luke 17:5-10

In our gospel text from St Luke we see Jesus exhorting the disciples to unwavering faith in response to their quest for greater faith. They had asked him to increase their faith but his reply puts the onus back on them to increase their own faith. Faith is a free gift from God to all of his sons and daughters but it is also a gift which we must work at if it is to achieve its potential in our lives.

2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14;

In our second reading we see St Paul exhorting his readers to “fan into a flame the gift that God gave” them, a gift which was not a quiet thing but a thing of great power and love. This can be done with the assistance of the Holy Spirit if we but open our hearts to his power within us.

Memorials this week



Monday, Oct 6 St. Bruno, Priest

On October 6th, we honor St. Bruno, the founder of the Carthusian Order, known for his deep contemplative life and dedication to prayer. He left a legacy of spiritual discipline and devotion that continues to inspire us.

Tuesday, Oct 7 Our Lady of the Rosary

(Memorial) A beautiful Marian feast celebrating the power of prayer through the Rosary.

Saturday, Oct 11 St. John XXIII, Pope

On October 11th, we remember Pope John XXIII, beloved for convening the Second Vatican Council. He is beloved for his pastoral warmth and vision of a renewed Church.

Fr Kevin's Reflection



The Apostles said to Jesus
“Lord, increase our faith”

Were your faith the size of a mustard seed

The sixth-class student went to her mother with this homework question: "What's the difference between potential and actual?"

Mom thought for a moment, and then replied, "Go ask your dad, your brother and your sister what they would do if they found a million euro and no one knew they had. Would they turn it in or keep it?"

The student goes first to her older brother with the question. "Are you kidding? That would pay for college and set me up in business. It's probably drug money anyway. Of course I'd keep it."

She writes down his answer and then goes to her sister. "Of course I'd keep it, silly. It's probably a bribe or payoff that got lost anyway. I'd shop till I dropped and then I'd bank the rest. I'd be set for life."

The student writes down her answer and then goes to talk to Dad. "Well, anybody who loses a million euro can probably afford it. I'd do over the house, put you kids through school, and then have something left for my retirement."

The student goes back to Mom and shows her the answers. "Now do you see the difference between potential and actual?" she says. "Potentially, we are an honest family but actually you and I live with three conniving thieves."

In today's Gospel, Jesus chides our tendency to rationalize our self-centeredness, to congratulate ourselves on our "faithfulness" by acting in ways that are the direct opposite of that faith. As the sixth-class student learns, our potential is realized only if we actually live the principles and beliefs we utter in prayers and creeds.

Christ calls us to embrace "mustard seed" faith -to believe that even the slightest act of goodness, done in faith and trust in God's presence, has meaning in the reign of God. The mustard seed challenges us to grab hold of the opportunities we have for planting and reaping a harvest of justice, compassion and reconciliation in our own piece of the earth. Faith begins with the gratitude and humility of the servant in today's Gospel: to understand that the gift of faith requires justice, compassion and forgiveness; to realize, in the clarity of God's love, how blessed we have been; to see ourselves and others as brother and sister "servants" at the table of the Father.

October – Month of the Holy Rosary

As the leaves turn and the days grow shorter, the Church invites us into a deeper rhythm of prayer through the **Month of the Holy Rosary**. October is dedicated to this cherished devotion, reminding us that in every mystery of the Rosary, Mary walks with us—pondering, interceding, and drawing us closer to Christ.



The Feast of **Our Lady of the Rosary** on **October 7th** anchors this month, recalling the power of prayer in times of trial and triumph. Whether prayed alone, with family, or in community, the Rosary offers a gentle structure for reflection and peace. Each bead becomes a step in faith, each mystery a window into God's love.

Let us renew this devotion—not as a routine, but as a relationship. Consider setting aside time at home, or offering a decade for someone in need. In a time of change and challenge, Mary's presence through the Rosary is a quiet strength. May this October be a season of grace, where prayer blossoms and hope deepens.