

 **Parish of Firhouse**  
CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

**CHRISTMAS 2025**

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16.



**OUR CHRISTMAS WISH FOR YOU!**

From Fr. Peter Reilly P.P., Fr. Mick Cullen, T. A.,  
the Firhouse Parish Pastoral Council & all our Parish Volunteer Teams

***“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” 2 Corinthians 13:13)***

**PREPARATION FOR CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS**

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Rite 1 (*in the confessional*)**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30. a.m. – 11.30 am**

**5.20. p.m. – 5.50. p.m.**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30. p.m. – 12.00 noon**

**The Tallaght Deanery Advent Penance Service**

*(Celebration of God's Forgiveness with Communal Service of Preparation followed by Individual Confession and Absolution – Rite 2 of the Sacrament of Reconciliation)*

**7.30. p.m. on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December in St Mary's Dominican Priory, Tallaght Village, with many priests available for individual Confession and Absolution.**

**All are welcome to receive God's forgiveness before Christmas.**

**CHRISTMAS WEEK HOLY MASS TIMETABLE 2025**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Mass 10.00.a.m. Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Prayer Service: 10.00.a.m.**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Mass 10.00.a.m.**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES will be LIVE-STREAMED**



**Christmas Eve**

**Family Mass: 6.00.p.m.**

**Night Mass: 9.00.p.m.**

**Christmas Day**

**Morning Mass: 9.30.a.m.**

**Morning Mass: 11.30.a.m.**



**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Mass: 10.00.a.m.**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Vigil Mass: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 6.00.p.m.**

**Morning Mass: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 9.30.a.m. & 11.30.a.m.**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Mass 10.00.a.m. Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Prayer Service: 10.00.a.m.**

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> Mass 10.00.a.m.**

**New Year's Day – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2026**

**Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God**

**World Day of Prayer for Peace – Mass: 10.00.a.m.**



# Parish of Firhouse

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

**Presbytery 1:** 1 Ballycullen Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin, D24 DH6N

Phone: 01-4599855 Email: [pjrfirhouseparish@gmail.com](mailto:pjrfirhouseparish@gmail.com)

**Parish Office:** Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Ballycullen Avenue, Dublin, D24 N5WC Ph. 01-4524702 Email: [olmcfirhouseparish@gmail.com](mailto:olmcfirhouseparish@gmail.com)

Opening Hours: Normally Monday – Friday 9.30.a.m. – 4.00.p.m.  
(Closed for Christmas from 4.00.p.m. 23<sup>rd</sup> December to 9.30.a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> January)

In partnership with parishes of St. Martin de Porres, Aylesbury/Old Bawn, St. Anne's, Bohernabreena and Holy Rosary, Ballycragh.

November 2025

Dear Parishioner,

As we approach Christmas, 2025, and prepare to celebrate the great Christmas Feast of the Birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the peace and joy of the Christmas Season be with you.

This year I am writing to you having celebrated our Golden Jubilee of the founding of our parish on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1975. Once again, this year despite the problems of the world, and there are many as I write, we are aware, as a Christian people, of the presence of the Lord God with us. As people of faith and hope, therefore, we look forward to the future with optimism.

We are continuing the Building Hope Process in the Diocese of Dublin. There is now the Building Hope Pastoral Strategic Planning Resource 2025 - 2027 to help the parish, our partnership and the diocese prepare for the future. As part of this, we in our Parish Partnership with the Parishes of Bohernabreena / Ballycullen and Aylesbury / Old Bawn are working together. As a people of hope we are looking at how we can be the People of God in this present time and into the future.

If you have recently moved into this parish and wish to have your name(s) added to our Parish Database, or if you wish to have your details deleted, please contact the Parish Office.

With every good wish, be careful, stay safe, and God Bless.

*Peter J Reilly*

Fr. Peter Reilly P.P.



## **Praying from the Heart on Our Own in Our Own Words**

In your name we pray, Lord God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen!

### **Our Father**

*Our Father, in Heaven, may **Your name** (meaning identity) be held holy. May **Your kingdom** come – (expressed as one of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-discipline) and may **Your will** (rather than ours) be done all over the earth as it is in Heaven. **Please**, give us this day the grace to discern and pursue **Your will**, **please** forgive **us** for our failures as we, with your help, forgive **others** who have failed us, and **please** do not let us fall into temptation but **deliver us from all evil**. Amen!*

### **Glory Be**

*Glory be to You, **God our Father**, and to You, **Jesus, His Son**, and to You, **Holy Spirit of God**, (the Blessed Trinity), as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, since you are outside of time and space and this world will never be without you. Amen!*

### **The Holy Rosary**

The Holy Rosary includes the normal wording of the above prayers and **the Apostles' Creed**. The Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary give a more detailed parallel account, of Jesus' early life, passion and death and the amazing aftermath of these events, than that referred to in this Creed. The Mysteries of Light, introduced by St. Pope John Paul II, give additional highlights of Jesus' amazing earthly ministry. These are all worth contemplating.

### **Hail Mary**

*Hail, **Mary**, you **are** full of grace, the Lord **is** with you, you **are** blessed among women and blessed **is** the "fruit of your womb," (your Son, **Jesus**).*

*You **are** holy, You **are** mother of God, (of Jesus) so **please** pray for us sinners, or **intercede with your son** for . . . , or **add your prayers to ours** for . . . now and at the hour of our death. Amen!*

### **Fatima Prayer**

*O my Jesus, **please** forgive **us** our sins, **please** save **us** from the "fires of hell," **please** lead **all souls** to Heaven, those on earth (including us) through conversion and those undergoing purification in purgatory through our intercession, and especially **those in most need** of your mercy. Amen!*



## Firhouse Parish Family Offering Collection

The familiar first and second collections at weekend Masses, which are Diocesan collections, do not contribute towards the everyday costs involved in the running of Firhouse parish, like wages, heating, lighting, Insurance etc. For these we rely on the Family Offering Collection as well as the Christmas Raffle, Fundraising Events and Chy 3 Tax Back. These stay in the parish.

As a parish we are presently finding it difficult keeping our head above water financially. The financial impact of the Covid pandemic has continued with the result that our overall income has dropped significantly – for the last two years our income has been less than our expenditure. Obviously, if this continues, we will not be financially viable so we urgently need to reverse this trend.

One can contribute to the Family Offering Collection either by a Standing Order, a Yearly Contribution, or the weekly/monthly Family Offering Envelope and any extra contributions or top-ups to these would be very much appreciated. Many people now prefer to make a monthly Standing Order Contribution, and in fact this is the most convenient way of supporting the parish financially. A contribution of €21 per month (€252 annually), or €5 a week (€260 annually), can qualify for the Chy 3 Tax Back, which is a great help to our parish fund for the day-to-day upkeep of the parish.

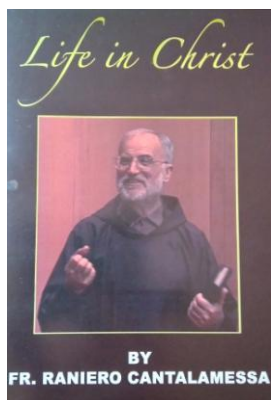
If you do not contribute to the Family Offering Collection presently but would like to, or if you would like to increase your current contribution in line with other rising costs, or to change from weekly envelope to more convenient Standing Order for contributions, please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements. If you would prefer to use the 'Donate' section on the Parish Website please do that.

In this context, may I thank sincerely all who contributed to the very necessary 'Special Upgrade Appeal' we made in the early summer, which enabled us to successfully complete all the urgent projects identified at that time. Thank you.

*Peter J Reilly*

Fr. Peter Reilly P.P.

## Coming this Spring – “Life in Christ”



In the spring we hope to offer the “Life in Christ” a video-based course, featuring the wonderful Italian Capuchin Franciscan priest and preacher to the papal household for three consecutive Popes, Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa. This series takes St. Paul’s letter to the Romans as a summary of the Gospel and examines some key themes from it, as they apply to us in the modern world. A mix of clear teaching, relevant stories and examples, humour, sincerity, deep insight and inspired faith, delivered always with joy, humility, gentleness and kindness makes this series a tremendous opportunity for those taking part. The likely start date is 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2026. at 7.00.p.m. The Parish Office will have details.



### Children's Rosary Groups

It is heartening at this difficult time in our church, when many adult nominal Catholics are lukewarm in their faith or have lapsed altogether and many have turned their back completely on the Catholic faith (or any religious faith), to hear of prayer groups and children's Rosary groups springing up all over Ireland. Parents who support these may well already have found in their own lives that, as St. Augustine said, *"Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in Thee."* After his own wayward young life he really knew what he was talking about. Maybe a mistake in Ireland in the past was the "handing over" of children's participation in prayer, in faith and related activities to schools, whereas the best people to bring children to Mass, lead them in prayer, sacraments and other faith activities are parents.

### Why Wait for a Funeral Eulogy?

It is amazing what you hear about some people at a funeral eulogy. A lot of people do a lot of good in their lives and either nobody seems to notice or appreciate it or wants to talk about it . . . until they die. Is this an issue of humility, privacy, apathy or even begrudgery? Or are we just too busy to notice these things? Sadly, what could be encouraging for other people to know (and nice for them to acknowledge if they know the person) is often kept quiet until it's too late. Why not say "Well done!" now?

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Mass

On 16<sup>th</sup> November we had a special Mass to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Firhouse parish. This Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Dermot Farrell and concelebrated by priests who served in this parish in recent years, Fr. Brian Reilly, Fr. Paddy Madden, Fr. Tony Finn O.S.A and current parish priest Fr. Peter Reilly and current Team Assistant, Fr. Mick Cullen. The Mass was greatly enhanced by the singing of the wonderful Firhouse Parish Choir. A packed church heard a very relevant, challenging but uplifting homily from Archbishop Dermot.

After Mass, refreshments were provided by the parish volunteer Hospitality Team in the adjacent Scoil Treasa where, in a very celebratory and informal atmosphere we were joined by the Archbishop who mingled freely with parishioners. Many people in attendance remembered when the parish was founded 50 years ago and reminisced over the growth of the population of the area since then, how things have changed since then and the memories they have of what life was like in Firhouse "back in the day."

In many respects this was not just a joyful celebration of a job well done over the last 50 years but also a looking forward in hope to the next 50 years for which you, the next generation of parishioners, will be responsible. The "Building Hope" diocesan initiative by Archbishop Farrell will play a significant role in this.





## Heaven is Open to Sinners like Us as well as to Saints – How?



No matter what bad, evil things we may have done in our lives, and we have all done things we are not proud of, the Catholic Church still offers us, by the grace of God, the option of putting these behind us as if they never happened and entering eternal life completely free of our past, to bask in the unconditional, overwhelming love of God forever. Whatever led us down the wrong path, and even if we have been involved in such things as murder, fraud, abortion, extortion, drug-pushing, exploitation or other equally bad or evil things, which the Catholic Church calls “sins,” we can be completely forgiven, and the resulting damage done can be left in God’s hands for remedy, if we fulfil 2 conditions.

The first condition is, if the bad things are ongoing to make a firm commitment, in sorrow before God to stop doing them (to repent) and if they were once-off things in our past, to renounce them as wrong and to make a commitment to never repeating them, and to do all this in and through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of Confession. (This applies to anything we have thought or said, done or failed to do, no matter how bad, which is damaging to others or to ourselves or both). If we do this honestly and with a firm purpose of amendment, and at the same time forgive everyone who has ever wronged us (without any lingering resentment, which can be very difficult but is necessary if we want God to forgive us) God, through the priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, will forgive us completely for all this.

The second condition arises because, though we are now completely forgiven, damage may have been done that still needs remedy. How could we expect to enter eternal life with God if we leave a trail of destruction behind us? There may have been victims who suffered and continue to suffer (even ourselves), and the damage done may have a negative impact not only on us or others now but even on the next generation (for example, if it involved death, drugs or large-scale fraud). Such negative “ripple effects” need to be remedied. The Catholic Church offers repentant sinners, as a special gift, a way to hand over to God remediation of all damage we have done, so that in effect we are freed of all connection with it, and therefore free to enjoy God’s love for eternity when we die. Indeed, in this context *“Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.* This amazing gift, an opportunity for us to get to Heaven despite a sinful past, is what we call a Plenary Indulgence.

To receive this gift there are certain requirements: (a) receive forgiveness/absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, (b) attend Holy Mass and worthily receive Holy Communion, (c) pray for the Pope’s intentions (as leader of the Catholic Church, which offers us this amazing indulgence) and (d) carry out a designated act of faith or mercy or “corporate work of mercy” (we can Google diocesan or other websites to see what these might include).

To receive this amazing grace, a great option together with (a), (b) and (c) above is (i) to pray a Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet (we can Google what this is) on nine days around Easter time, starting on Good Friday and ending on the Sunday after Easter Sunday (now called “Divine Mercy Sunday”). Then (ii) attend a Divine Mercy Mass on that Sunday, where a Divine Mercy image is blessed and publicly venerated, the priest’s homily is focused on God’s Mercy and we contemplate our Redemption. Then we truly are free!

**A Prayer for our Community (Taken from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet)**



Lord, we thank You for the gift of this parish and for every life touched through its ministry. May the next fifty years be filled with faith, hope and love as we continue to be Your hands and Your heart in our community. Amen.

***Whenever you are in prayer . . . . . remember, God is there!***

**Why do Volunteers Deliver this Booklet to All the Homes in Our Parish?**

For many years (apart from once during the Covid pandemic) our volunteers have distributed our free Christmas and Easter parish booklets to every home in the parish, over 2,400 homes. These booklets contain the timetable for the Christmas and Easter Catholic liturgies/ceremonies, a letter from Fr. Peter, our parish priest and other faith-related items, which may be relevant or of interest to parishioners. There is a significant printing and envelope cost for this (the only cost since distribution is by volunteers) so why do we bother?

Because you really are worth it! We want you to know that we as a parish welcome you and that we are here for you if you need us. We know that you lead very busy lives trying to manage the present and prepare for the future in this very troubled, secular, competitive, consumerist western world. We know that you are being bombarded every day with information (and mis-information) on a scale that our parents' generation never knew and that often truth is hidden or absent from what we hear. We know that despite new attractive modes of communication a generation of people in Ireland now suffers higher levels of isolation, loneliness and confusion than perhaps ever before. We think there is a close link between this and the fall-off in faith that has taken place in Ireland over the last 50 years. We like to remind you, therefore, in a small and hopefully unobtrusive way at Christmas and Easter, that there is more to life than this, that Jesus Christ is "the way, the truth and the life," that true peace of heart comes from knowing Him and His unconditional overwhelming love for you . . . and this is a free gift too.

**"The whole Bible, St. Augustine observes, does nothing but tell of God's love. If the written word of the Bible could be changed into a spoken word and become one single voice, this voice, more powerful than the roaring of the sea would cry out: *"The Father loves you!"*** Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Life in Christ (See P. 5).



**GOD THE FATHER LOVES YOU!**

**YES! YOU!**