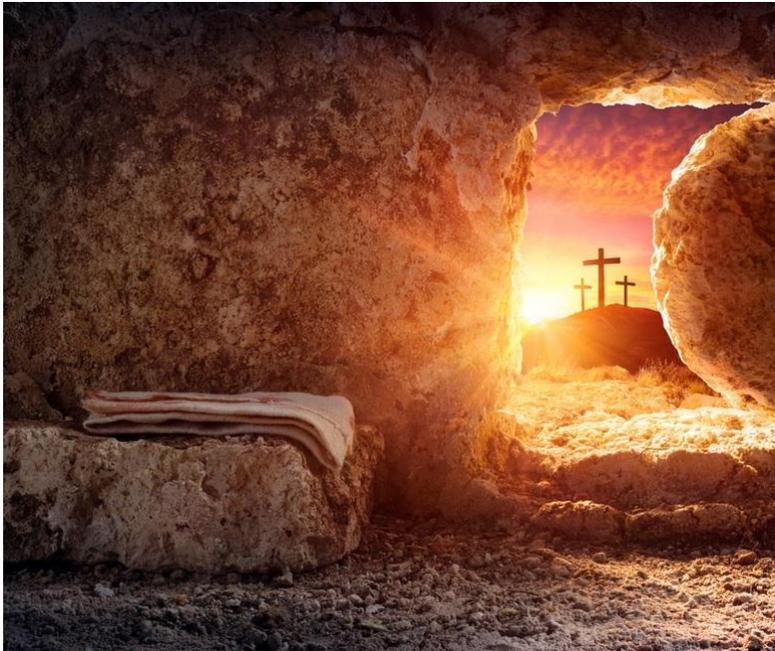


 **Parish of Firhouse**
CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

EASTER 2026

“Jesus of Nazareth was a man whose divine authority was clearly proven to you by all the miracles and wonders which God performed through him. You yourselves know this, for it happened here among you . . . and you killed him by letting sinful men crucify him. But God raised him from death, setting him free from its power, because it was impossible that death should hold him prisoner.” Acts 2:22-24.



OUR EASTER WISH FOR YOU!

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

***“Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 1:7)***

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TIMETABLE, 2026

PALM SUNDAY – 29th March

Palm blessed at the beginning of each Mass.
Please collect Palm on your way into the church.

Masses: Sat. (Vigil) 6.00.p.m. & Sun. 9.30.a.m. and 11.30.a.m.

HOLY THURSDAY – 2nd April

10.00.a.m: Morning Prayer of the Church

8.00.p.m: Mass of the Lord's Supper –

The principal Mass of Holy Thursday.

9.00.p.m. to 11.00.p.m: A time of prayer, song and silence, including “*Watch one Hour with Me*” (10.00.p.m. to 11.00.p.m.) at the Altar of Repose.

GOOD FRIDAY – 3rd April

10.00.a.m: Morning Prayer of the Church

12.00.p.m: Stations of the Cross

3.00.p.m: Celebration of the Lord's Passion

8.00.p.m: Stations of the Cross (including Taizé Chant)

HOLY SATURDAY – 4th April

10.00.a.m: Morning Prayer of the Church

10.30.a.m. to 12.00.p.m. *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
Rite 1 – in the Confessional

(No 6.00.p.m. Mass on Holy Saturday)

9.00.p.m: **EASTER VIGIL MASS –**

Celebration of the Resurrection of
Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ

EASTER SUNDAY – 5th April

9.30.a.m. & 11.30.a.m: Easter Masses



GOD LOVES YOU!
YES! YOU!

See page 8





Parish of Firhouse
CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

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

Phone: 01-4599855 Email: pjfirhouseparish@gmail.com

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

Opening Hours: Normally Monday – Friday 9.30.a.m. – 4.00.p.m.
(Closed for Easter from Good Friday to Easter Monday inclusive)

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

Easter 2026

Dear Parishioner,

May all the graces and blessings of the coming Easter Season be with you!

We are preparing to celebrate the events of Holy Week and Easter with a mixture of humility, knowing how little we deserve what Jesus has done for each of us through his dreadful passion and death, and excitement that, despite all that may have happened in our past lives, His sacrifice offers us the opportunity to put that behind us so we can join him in eternal life.

You are cordially invited and encouraged to join and participate, at any level you can manage, in our Easter liturgies and events – see timetable on page 2.

This was a busy year in our parish (see page 4) and we are very grateful to the many parishioners whose efforts helped enable these things to take place.

While our parish has had to be very prudent financially since the Covid pandemic, with income even falling short of expenditure twice, the commitment of our parishioners to maintain financial viability, as shown in the special collection last autumn and in increased regular contributions from many parishioners, gives us reason to be optimistic for the future. We know we must continue to be careful with your money so we can continue to provide all the services we do on your behalf. If you can help us further in this regard please do, using mechanisms on the parish website or in the church. We are very grateful for everything we receive and hope to put it to good use for you.

We continue to work with our Partner Parishes (see above), moving forward together on our pilgrim journey of faith within the “Building Hope” framework.

If you wish to have your name(s) added to our Parish Database, or indeed if you wish to have your details deleted, please contact the Parish Office.

God bless,

Yours sincerely,

Peter J Reilly

Fr. Peter Reilly P.P.



The Year That Was . . .

We have had a very interesting and busy year since last Easter with a lot going on in our parish. 2025 was a well publicised Holy Year of Hope with many extra graces and blessings available. Our diocese had designated "Holy Doors" for pilgrimage and there were other pilgrimages, both in and outside of Ireland as well as other kinds of spiritual exercises, which provided great opportunities for prayer and grace.

The death of Pope Francis last Easter cast a cloud over the whole church, which did not really lift until the election of Pope Leo XIV. Let us keep him in our prayers at this difficult time for the Church and for the World.

Closer to home, any local church operates as a parish, ideally with its own priest(s) with its own church building for prayer, communal worship and celebration of sacraments. More recently, as the number of priests decreases and to share workload, activities and resources, a local church operates more and more in groups of parishes. Our parish is grouped with St. Martin's, Aylesbury, Holy Rosary, Ballycragh and Bohernabreena parishes.

Ongoing activities in our parish:

The Bethany Bereavement Support Group continues its work and meets on the third Tuesday of every month in the Resource Room.

St. Vincent de Paul Society continues its work, enabling parishioners to share financially with those less well off, (through its regular monthly collection and especially its Christmas collections) as well as offering advice, support and accompaniment to those who need it.

Ministers of Eucharist assist at weekend and weekday Masses.

Ministers of Word read Sacred Scripture at weekend and weekday Masses as well as leading prayer services when no priest is available.



First Holy Communions for 119 children took place in the spring.

Confirmations for 115 children and one adult also took place in early summer.

In June we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Ordination of Fr. Mick Cullen T.A.

Funeral Liturgies, assisted by members of the parish funeral ministry team, took place as needed throughout the year.

Medjugorje Day took place on 15th August and was open to everyone but especially those who have never been able to go to Medjugorje on pilgrimage.

Our parish's 50th Anniversary Celebration took place in November.

Christmas was special, with large congregations, especially at the family Mass

The Alpha Course took place over 9 weeks in the autumn.

A Life in the Spirit Series took place over 6 weeks coming into the winter.

The "Life in Christ" video series began after Christmas and continues.

A once off collection for church maintenance was very well supported, enabling the painting the church exterior and providing necessary computer equipment.

The entrance garden of the church had a major clear-out and tidy-up, with vital assistance from the capable and willing local Men's Shed.

Our voluntary gardening team continued its work in the church gardens.

What do Many “Liberal Lefties” Fear in Sacred Scripture?

(For example Holy Mass Scripture Readings of 23rd February)

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the whole congregation of Israel and tell them . . . You must not steal. You must not lie or deceive one another. You must not swear falsely by My name . . . You must not defraud your neighbour or rob him. You must not withhold until morning the wages due a hired hand. You must not curse the deaf or place a stumbling block before the blind . . . You must not pervert justice; you must not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the rich; you are to judge your neighbour fairly. You must not go about spreading slander among your people. You must not endanger the life of your neighbour . . . You must not harbour hatred against your brother in your heart . . . Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against any of your people but love your neighbour as yourself.”

Those who break such rules not only damage those targeted but also others through a “ripple effect” (“collateral damage?”) and themselves. Maybe this is why the “law of the land” in so many countries, far from considering them oppressive, includes many of these rules among its laws. And in these countries the “liberal lefties,” while they may oppose Christianity and the Bible, avail of the protection afforded by these laws. Is this not a bit hypocritical?

The Old Testament psalmist and St. Paul seem more honest:

Psalm 19

*The Law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; . . .
The precepts of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart;
the commandments of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes
The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true, being altogether righteous.*



Matthew 25:31 – 40

And in Matthew's Gospel Jesus says “When the Son of Man comes in his glory . . . he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” (Mt. 25:31-40)

Dates for Your Calendar 2026



Sacrament of First Holy Communion
First Communions in Firhouse Parish this year take place on Saturdays, the 9th May, 16th May and 23rd May.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmations in Firhouse Parish this year take place on Wednesday 20th May, Thursday 21st May and Friday 22nd May.



Medjugorje Day – 15th August, 10.00.a.m. – 8.00.p.m.



For the last two years we had a “Medjugorje Day” in our parish on 15th August. We followed fairly closely the typical daily programme for pilgrims in Medjugorje, **where Our Blessed Lady has been appearing to visionaries every day for over 44 years and where countless miracles and healings have been and continue to occur.** This summer we hope to host a similar Medjugorje Day.

You may wish to mark this on your calendar today so you don't forget.

Alpha Course with Light Refreshments, a Video & Chat

What people said who previously took part in the Alpha Course:

“The Alpha course became the highlight of my week.”

“Previously a doubting Thomas, the Alpha course made discussion about God credible to me.”

“It has helped me to discover the Holy Spirit. Alleluia!”

“It taught me to be a happy Christian.”

“God is more present in my life.”

“The Alpha Course helped me into a real relationship with God.”

“I have gone from being dormant to being an awakening Christian.”



We hope to host an Alpha course again in the autumn for anyone interested in spiritual renewal or who wishes to explore the meaning of life in a confused world. If enough people apply this will be an 8 week course, on Tuesday evenings from 7.00.p.m. to 8.30.p.m. starting Tuesday 8th September, 2026, in a room at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Ballycullen Ave., Firhouse.

You can register by (a) texting your name and email address to 086 8496460 today or by (b) phoning the parish office at 014524702.

Distracted in Prayer on Your Own?

If you are easily distracted in prayer you can check out the Parish Website where, low down on the Home page, you can click on “Prayer Space,” then “Prayer Videos.” There you will find a selection of prayer videos for the *Stations of the Cross*, the *Divine Mercy Chaplet* and the *Holy Rosary* and you can pray along with whichever version of these suits you best. Check them out!



CHURCH "OPEN" ONLINE 24/7 FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

You can "visit" the Parish Church by live-stream, day or night

To access **live-streamed Mass** or just "visit" the church go to www.firhouseparish.ie and on the **Home** page click on:



Watch Mass Live

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

St. Carlo, Please Pray for Us!

Carlo Acutis was a modern "techie" teenager who died of leukaemia at the age of just 15 years but whose name is now known around the world. He was canonized St. Carlo by Pope Leo last year. St. Carlo is a great example for modern teenagers and a great intercessor for us all. St. Carlo, pray for us! Why was Carlo so special? Why not Google to find out . . .



The Dog in the Library

Many modern educated people believe that eventually, using the scientific method, all questions like "How did the world begin?" will be answered and that therefore the idea of believing in a creator God is ridiculous. However, the scientifically minded people who think this are making two serious mistakes. Firstly, they overlook their own scientific rule that everything that exists, even a "big bang," must have been caused by something outside itself. They do not know of anything beyond the physical universe and so conclude that there is nothing beyond it. That's poor logic. Secondly, just because you have no sensory experience and no understanding of something does not mean it's not there. A dog walking through a library has no sensory experience or understanding of what is within its many pages and may only see a lot of "piddling posts" but surely educated people can do better than that?

Prayer for the Bereaved

Heavenly Father, be with us in this sacred moment. We need your comfort amid the confusion of discovering that being human means losing those we love. Help us to bear the pain and loss we feel and renew our faith in the life to come. Console us, wipe away our tears and help us through another day.

We thank you Almighty God, for the treasured gift of love for those with whom we have shared our lives and for the memories we are blessed to hold in our hearts. Thank you that death is not the last word and that we have the promise and hope of life everlasting through your Son, our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

A Letter to You from Jesus

Dear Friend,

I just had to send you a note to tell you how much I love you and care about you. I saw you yesterday as you were talking to your friends. I waited all day hoping you would want to talk with me also. As evening drew near, I gave you a sunset to close your day and a breeze to rest you. Then I waited but you never came. Sure, it hurt me, but I still love you because I am your friend.

I saw you fall asleep last night and I longed to touch your brow so I spilled moonlight upon your pillow and your face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk. I have so many gifts for you.

You awakened late this morning and rushed off for the day. My tears were in the rain. Today you looked so sad - so all alone. It makes my heart ache because I understand. My friends let me down many times too, but I love you. If you would only listen to me! I try to tell you in the blue sky and in the quiet green grass. I whisper it in the leaves, in the trees, and breathe it in the odours of the flowers. I shout it to you in the mountain streams and give the birds' love songs to sing to you. I clothe you with warm sunshine and sweeten the air with nature's scents. My love for you is deeper than the ocean and bigger than the biggest want or need in your heart. If you would only know how much I want to walk and talk with you.

I know how hard it is on Earth. I really know! And I want to help you. I want you to meet my Father. He wants to help you too. My Father is that way you know. Just call me - ask me - talk with me! Please don't forget me! I have so much to share with you!

Alright, okay, I won't bother you anymore. You are free to choose me. It's your decision. I have chosen you, and because of this I will wait, and wait, and wait, because I love you.

Your Friend, Jesus

Author Unknown

