

## Mass Times & Masses for the dead as follows:

Sat 23rd June	8.00pm	Maai & Mar Lar Skelly & their son Bernard, Caltramore.
Sun 24th June	10.30am	Bridget Killian, (nee Murtogh) Cornaguillagh, (7th Anniv).
Sun 25th June	10.30am	Mass for the people of the Parish.
Mon 26th June	8.00pm	Special Intention.
Tues 27th June	8.00pm	Special Intention.
Wed 28th June	No Mass	Adoration as usual.
Thurs 29th June	8.00pm	Special Intention.
Fri 30th June	8.00pm	Philip Ginty Carrowmore (2nd Anniv).
Sat 1st July	8.00pm	Frank, Rose and Oliver Burke & DFM, Derrahaun.
Sun 2nd July	10.30am	Teresa, William and Harry Costello & Johnny and Kitty Costello, Cleraune.

Annual One Day Retreat to Lough Derg - Sunday 19th August: Bookings - Mary Doyle 0433321969.

**Eucharistic Roster:** 8.00pm Sun 30th June Monica Farn & Kathleen Clarke.

10.30am Sun 1st July Bridget Bannion & Margaret Boyce.

**Readers' Roster:** 8.00pm Sat 30th June Michelle Donnelly.

10.30am Sun 1st July Brid Bannion.

**A bus to knock for the Pope's visit** will be organised if there are enough people willing to travel. Please put your name on the list in the Children's room at the back of the Church if you would like to go. We will have to reschedule Mass on Sunday morning in that case. You have to book online on all the events in Dublin and Knock. [www.diaconet2018.ie](http://www.diaconet2018.ie). Booking for Knock begins on Monday 25th of June.

Who Carlo Acutus died at the age of 13 of a galloping leukaemia, leaving in the memory of all those who knew him a great admiration for his brief but intense testimony of authentic Christian witness.



Carlo Acutus was born in London on May 3, 1991. His parents, Andrea and Antonia, were there on business. They returned home in September to Milan. "Madame, your son is special!" Carlo's mother often heard this remark from the parish priest, teachers, classmates, and even the porter of their building on Via Ariosto, where they moved in 1994. The boy's exceptional qualities were due to a very special friendship - out of nowhere it seemed, as Carlo's family did not attend church very much. Carlo's mother, Antonia, recalls how little Carlo could not pass in front of a church without asking to go in and greet Jesus. She was surprised to discover her son reading saints' biographies and the Bible, and even more surprised when her son began asking questions of such depth and profundity that she was unable to answer: "I was perplexed by his devotion ... He was so small ... and so sure in his faith! I understood that it was his thing, but that he was also calling me. So I began my journey of rapprochement with faith ... I followed him."

At the age of seven and quite on his own, Carlos asked to receive First Holy Communion. After questioning the precocious boy, Monsignor Pasquale Marchi guaranteed his maturity and level of Christian formation. "As a little boy, especially after his First Communion, he never missed his daily appointment with the Holy Mass."

"The Eucharist," he said, "is my highway to Heaven." He also frequently received the Sacrament of Confession. As an adolescent, he added to his spiritual regimen ... a Daily Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration. He spoke thus of Eucharistic Adoration: "If we get in front of the sun - we get a suntan ... if we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist - we become a saint." Carlo was convinced that he would not grow old: "I will die young," he often repeated. "This is perhaps why he filled his days with such a whirlwind of activity, teaching the boys from the catechism, feeding the poor at the Caritas cafeteria, and spending time with the children of the oratory ... while still achieving excellent grades in high school and between all his charity work. Carlo still found time to play the saxophone, football, design computer programs, and, like any other red-blooded teenager, play video games. He was naturally inclined toward computer science and was even considered brilliant by practising engineers who encountered his technical intuition and savvy. Carlo's interests ranged from computer programming to editing films, from creating websites to writing periodicals.

His classmates looked to him, not only for advice or help, but also because of his way of putting people at ease. Carlo seemed to have a way with people from all backgrounds. He befriended everybody, including the gatekeepers, janitors, and other domestic servants that worked in his neighbourhood. These workers were often non-Europeans with Muslim and Hindu backgrounds. One such domestic worker was Rajesh, a Hindu and Brahmin (a Hindu priest). A friendship developed between Rajesh and Carlo. The friendship was of such a profound nature that Rajesh converted to Catholicism. This is what he had to say about his friend, Carlo:

"I was baptized Christian because it was he who asked me with his profound faith, his charity, and his purity. I have always considered it out of the ordinary because a boy so young, so handsome, and so rich, normally prefers to have a different life. He was known to donate sleeping bags to the homeless on his way to Mass in Santa Maria Segreta. He also donated to the Capuchins of Viale Piave for the service of people to the homeless."

Carlo was always inviting his friends to go with him to Mass. For his friends to become reconciled to God, this was the source of his joy. Carlo wrote the following journal: "Sadness is the gaze turned towards oneself ... happiness is the gaze turned towards God. Conversion is nothing but moving the gaze from the bottom to the top - from me ... to Jesus! A simple movement of the eyes is enough."

Those who met the young man were left with an indelible impression that Jesus is, as ever was, the only one who can satisfy the heart of man.

It is impossible to talk about Carlo without mentioning his strong devotion to the Blessed Mother. He was fascinated by the apparitions in Lourdes and Fatima, and often spoke about Saint Bernadette and the Little Shepherds of Fatima. Our Lady's messages of conversion, penance and prayer - all this was lived concretely in his daily life. In a world hardened against the great truths of the Faith, Carlo shook consciences and invited us to look toward Heaven. In the family, in the school, in the midst of society, Carlo was a witness to eternity.

To quote Carlo: "Our aim has to be the infinite and not the finite. The infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in Heaven."

Carlo wanted people to understand that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist by showing the moments throughout history when the Eucharist *visibly* became flesh and blood. He began dragging his parents across Europe to gather photographs of the miracles, themselves. After two and a half years, the exhibition was ready. He had catalogued all the Eucharistic miracles in world history. Immediately, dioceses across the world began requesting the exhibit ([www.miracoleeucaristiche.org](http://www.miracoleeucaristiche.org)).

Carlo had researched over 136 Eucharistic miracles that occurred over the centuries in different countries around the world, and have been acknowledged by the Church and collected them into a virtual museum. He created not only a website to house this virtual museum, but panel presentations, as well, that have travelled around the world.

It has been hosted in thousands of parishes and more than 100 universities. Carlo's exhibit soon criss-crossed the globe. It would reach all the places that he would never get to visit in life.

In early October 2006, Carlo fell ill. A few days later, he was being wheeled into the hospital of San Gerardo in Monza, Italy, a hospital founded by Saint Gerard, himself.

Carlo's son received his diagnosis ...

Crossing the threshold of the hospital, Carlo said to his mother: "From here I do not go out anymore!"

The diagnosis was acute promyelocytic leukemia. A few days earlier, Carlo told his parents: "I offer what I will have to suffer to the Lord to skip Purgatory and go straight to Heaven."

Shortly after receiving his diagnosis, Carlo died on October 12, 2006. He died with a radiant smile on his face and offering his life for the Pope John Paul and for the Church.

He was buried in Assisi, the city of Saint Francis. On the day of his funeral, the church was flooded with his many friends and admirers. People filled the grieving mother's ears with stories about what Carlo had done ... stories she had never heard.

Having already reached so many through his international exhibit and internet ministry, Carlo's death had an immediate impact. Thousands of letters and emails reached the family.

Carlo's exhibit of Eucharistic miracles has reached the ends of the earth many times over, presented in Russia, Latin America, and even China. In the United States. What was so special about Carlo?

He lived as a Christian, while still living deeply immersed in the world of today, mastering computer programming, film editing, website creation, and even editing comics by the age of 15. Despite being immersed in the media so fraught with temptation, the Gospel thrived in him ... and to such an extent that he may very well become "Patron saint of the Internet."

He survived the Xerox machine of modernity and the internet and actually thrived within it. In doing so, he showed each of us the path forward, giving us a means to navigate: How about this for wisdom from a 15 year old modern teenager? ...

1) "Our Goal must be the Infinite, ... not the Finite. The Infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in Heaven"

2) "I am happy to die because I lived my life without wasting even a minute of it on anything unpleasing to God."

3) "All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies."

4) "The Eucharist," he said, "is my highway to Heaven."

5) "Sadness is the gaze turned towards oneself ... Happiness is the gaze turned towards me."

6) "Conversion is nothing but moving the gaze from the bottom to the top (from God ... to Jesus). A simple movement of the eyes is enough."

7) "If we get in front of the sun - we get a suntan ... if we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist - we can become a saint."

Moral:

We say it is impossible to be a Christian in the modern world ... Carlo - a 15 year old teenager proves otherwise!

"What will this child turn out to be?" asks Today's Gospel. We know the answer in Carlo's case ... now I must address this question to myself!

Three days ago, I received the news of the death of my friend, Carlo. He started the process of beatification. A proven miracle is required due to Carlo's intercession. Why not pray to Carlo to protect your loved ones from the well known dangers of the online world? After all he may indeed one day be known as ... "The patron saint of the Internet!"