

# Our Lady Mother of the Church Castleknock.

32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
7<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## Remembering the Faithful Departed in November

We commemorate all of the faithful departed, who have “gone before us marked with the sign of faith and... who sleep in Christ” (*Eucharistic Prayer I*). It is very important that we Christians live a relationship of the truth of the faith with the deceased and that we view death and the afterlife in the light of Revelation. Already the Apostle Paul, writing to the first communities, exhorted the faithful to “not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since”, he wrote, “we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep” (1 Thessalonians 4: 13-14). Do men and women of our time still long for eternal life? Or has earthly existence perhaps become their only horizon? In reality, as St Augustine had already observed, all of us want a “blessed life”, happiness. We rarely know what it is like or how it will be, but we feel attracted to it. This is a universal hope, common to men and women of all times and all places. The expression "eternal life" aims to give a name to this irrepressible longing; it is not an unending succession of days, but an immersion of

oneself in the ocean of infinite love, in which time, before and after, no longer exists. A fullness of life and of joy: it is this that we hope and await from our being with Christ.

Today we renew the hope in eternal life, truly founded on Christ's death and Resurrection. “I am risen and I am with you always”, the Lord tells us, “and my hand supports you. Wherever you may fall, you will fall into my hands and I will be there even to the gates of death. Where no one can accompany you any longer and where you can take nothing with you, there I will wait for you to transform for you the darkness into light.” Christian hope, however, is not solely individual, it is also always a hope for others. Our lives are profoundly linked, one to the other, and the good and the bad that each of us does always affects others too. Hence, the prayer of a pilgrim soul in the world can help another soul that is being purified after death. This is why the Church invites us to pray for our beloved deceased and to pause at their tombs in the cemeteries. - **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**

## Altar List of the Dead

Many thanks to all those who have returned lists of names for inclusion in our Parish Altar List of the Dead for whom Mass is offered on the first Friday of every month all through the coming year. Envelopes to help you do this are still available at the back of the church and will be accepted all this month. Thanks to Fr Denis, we have our beautiful *Book of Life* in which our parish altar list is held safe. Its title reminds me of St Paul's letter to the Philippians where he wrote: “Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform our humble body that it may be conformed to the body of his glory...” [*Philippians 3:20-21*].

Paul goes on to mention those who have struggled beside him in the work of the gospel “whose names are in the book of life.”  
[*Philippians 4:3*].

## **A Family Does Not Disappear**

*The following reflection on what happens to our family when one of us dies was written by Fr Antonin Sertillanges OP:*

**A family doesn't disappear, it is transformed.**

**A part of it enters the invisible.**

**One thinks that death is an absence,  
when in fact it is a secret presence.**

**One thinks that it creates an infinite distance,  
when in fact it abolishes distance completely  
by raising to the spirit that which was flesh.**

**The more beings who have departed the family circle,  
the more heavenly connections for those left behind.**

**Heaven is no longer inhabited by angels,  
unfamiliar saints and a mysterious God;**

**it becomes familiar. It is now part of the family home -  
the home at its upper level, one could say,**

**and, from top to bottom,**

**memories, prayers and assistance respond to each other.**

## **Canon Diarmuid Connolly RIP**

A whole year has passed since our much loved Canon Diarmuid Connolly went to the Lord. Members of his family will attend Mass in our parish church for his first anniversary, please God, at

10am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November. In the Archdiocese of Dublin, that date is also the Solemnity of our Principal Patron, St Laurence O'Toole (d.1180).

## **Sacraments of Initiation**

Please continue to keep in your prayers the children who attend schools in our parish and are receiving during these days and weeks the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We pray that these will be joyful celebrations of faith, hope and love for them and their families. Sincere thanks to their school principals, teachers, SNAs, catechists and leaders for all their work in supporting them in these graced moments of meeting Christ. Our deep appreciation too goes to those members of our parish team who do all the extra required work in the sacristy and parish office, helping with stewarding and ministering. We have been blessed also by Fr Denis's lovely homilies.

## **Emergency Church Collection**

To help lift the terrible human suffering and prevent loss of life now unfolding in the hunger crisis raging across East Africa, the Irish Bishops' Conference have agreed for an Emergency Church Collection to take place Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th November across all Parishes in Ireland. This replaces our usual SHARE collection. If you missed that opportunity, you can donate online at [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

## Prayer for Young People (Taize).

- Open Hearts - Taize Prayer - for Young People.
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Time: 7.00pm to 8.00pm.
- Venue: Our Lady Mother of the Church, Castleknock.
- All are welcome.

## Holy Communion at Home.

Fr Damian would like to invite housebound people (or their representatives) who would like to receive Holy Communion at Home, to leave a note in the Sacristy to this effect, giving their **Name, Address and contact Number** and he will contact them in due course to make the necessary arrangements.

## Anam Cara.

**Anam Cara** North Dublin, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 17th November at 7:20pm in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, Co. Dublin. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please contact us on [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) or 085 2888 888 for any queries.

## The Bethany Bereavement Group - Mel Gilligan

The annual Bereavement Mass and Service of Light for those bereaved in the past twelve months and their families will be held on Tuesday 16th November at 7.30pm followed by tea/coffee in the Parish Centre. All are welcome to attend.

## Prayer for Those Suffering with Depression

*(Pope's Intentions for November)*

Lord, You know the darkness that envelops me. This cloud descends on me and, when it does, I seem to lose all perspective. It seems like it will never lift. I know I have pulled out of it before, but when it starts again, it clouds everything. Help me to trust in You in this difficult time. I know that after the rain, the sun shines again and that above the clouds, the sun is always shining. But please impress this conviction in my heart, so that Your gift of hope will carry me through. I believe that You can heal me and so I entrust myself to You. Give me the graces I need to 'hang in there' until Your healing Love, which I know is constantly working on me, finally penetrates and gives me the relief that I need. Amen'

## SVP – Castleknock.

St. Michael's conference, Castleknock, meets every Wednesday in the parish centre at 7.30pm. The conference provides support, including financial assistance where necessary, to people in need in the Ballymun and Castleknock areas. New members are always welcome and can come along any Wednesday night or contact Marie via the Parish Office at (01) 6409601. To seek help, please ring the SVP Head Office at (01) 855 0022 or apply online at

<https://www.svp.ie/get-help/request-help-online.aspx>

Your ongoing support for SVP is greatly appreciated.

## Church Services.

### The Eucharist

**Sunday: Saturday Vigil 6.00pm.**  
**Sunday 10.00am and 12.00pm**

**Weekday: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday**  
**10.00am.**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
**7.30pm.**

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

**After 10.00am & 6.00pm Mass on Saturday and on request.**

### Baptism

**Normally on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 1.15pm.**  
**Enquiries to the parish office.**

## Marriage

**By arrangement with one of the Priests.**

**A minimum notice of 3 months is required.**

## Contact Information.

**Fr. Damian McNeice – 6 Beechpark Lawn, Castleknock, Dublin 15**

**Phone: 089 445 3987**

**Fr. Denis O'Connor CSsR – 32 Auburn Drive, Castleknock, Dublin 15. Phone: 01-8214003**

**Parish Office – Monday to Thursday, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**

**Phone: 01-6409601 Email:**

**[parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie](mailto:parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie)**

**Church Sacristy – Phone: 01-8214652**

**Our Lady's Parish Centre – Phone: 01-8209907**

**Parish Website – [www.castleknockparish.ie](http://www.castleknockparish.ie)**

**Parish Newsletter – Notices may be sent by email to**

**[ourladysparish@gmail.com](mailto:ourladysparish@gmail.com) Written notices may be handed in to the Parish Office during office opening hours. Deadline for submissions is Thursday evening.**