

CHURCH SERVICES

THE EUCHARIST

Sunday:	Saturday	6.00pm
	Sunday	10.00am and 12.00 noon
Weekdays:	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday	10.00am
	Tuesday, Thursday	7.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: After 10.00am and before 6.00pm Mass on Saturdays and on request.

Baptism: Normally on 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 1.00pm. Enquiries to the parish office.

Marriage: By arrangement with one of the Priests.

Evening Weekday Mass availability in our Deanery:

- St Brigid's, Blanchardstown, 7.30pm Mass on Mondays
- St Luke's, Mulhuddart, 7.30pm Mass on Wednesdays
- St Patrick's, Corduff, 7.30pm Mass on Fridays

CONTACT INFORMATION

Note: We try to include as much Parish information as possible.

Fr. Damian McNeice -Phone: 089 445 3987

Fr. Denis O'Connor CSsR -Phone: 01-8214003

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

Phone: 01-6409601 Email: parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie

Church Sacristy - Phone: 01-8214652

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

Parish Website - www.castleknockparish.ie

Parish Newsletter - Notices may be emailed to ourladysparish@gmail.com Written notices may be handed in to the Parish Office during office opening hours. The deadline for submissions is Thursday evening.

THE DONATE BUTTON ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE This button, which can be found on the website homepage, is a convenient and easy way to donate to our parish, contribute to Christmas, Easter or Summer Dues. You can also contribute to the usual weekend first and/or second collections, towards our parish running costs and also to donate to our Third World Partnership (TWP) project.

DAILY PRAYER ONLINE: www.sacredspace.ie - in over 20 languages and also available as an app for your phone.



OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

26th February 2023

THE SEASON OF LENT

LENT IS THE "FAVOURABLE TIME" to return to what is essential, to divest ourselves of all that weighs us down, to be reconciled with God, and to rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit hidden beneath the ashes of our frail humanity. Return to what is essential. It is the season of grace when we put into practice what the Lord asks of us at the beginning of Ash Wednesday's first reading: "Return to me with all your heart" (Jl 2:12). Return to what is essential: it is the Lord... The Lord alone is God and we are the work of his hands. That is the truth of who we are. We *have* life, whereas God *is* life. He is the Creator, while we are the fragile clay fashioned by his hands. We come from the earth and we need heaven; we need him. With God, we will rise from our ashes, but without him, we are dust... drop the pretence of being self-sufficient and the need to put ourselves at the centre of things... Now is the favourable time to be converted, to stop looking at ourselves and to start looking into ourselves. How many distractions and trifles distract us from the things that really count... Lent is the favourable time when we can break the chains of our individualism and isolation, and rediscover, through encounter and listening, our companions along the journey of each day. And to learn once more to love them as brothers and sisters... outward displays, human judgments and the world's approval count for nothing; the only thing that truly

matters is the truth and love that God himself sees. If we stand humbly before his gaze, then almsgiving, prayer and fasting will not simply remain outward displays, but will express what we truly are: children of God, brothers and sisters of one another. We have been given forty days, a “favourable time” to remind ourselves that the world is bigger than our narrow personal needs, and to rediscover the joy, not of accumulating material goods, but of caring for those who are poor and afflicted. Let us set out, then, on the path of prayer and use these forty days to restore God’s primacy in our lives and to dialogue with him from the heart, and not only in spare moments. Let us set out on the path of fasting and use these forty days to take stock of ourselves, to free ourselves from the dictatorship of full schedules, crowded agendas and superficial needs, and choose the things that truly matter. Brothers and sisters, let us not neglect the grace of this holy season, but fix our gaze on the cross and set out, responding generously to the powerful promptings of Lent. At the end of the journey, we will encounter with greater joy the Lord of life, we will meet him, who alone can raise us up from our ashes.

- Pope Francis – Ash Wednesday 2023.

TURKEY AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKE COLLECTION.

Our Archbishop, Dr Dermot Farrell has given approval for a Diocesan Collection to be taken up this weekend in support of the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the devastating earthquakes of Monday 5th February last. It will replace the usual SHARE collection. All the monies donated at this collection will be channeled through Trócaire, who are working with their partners in the affected areas. They have the capability to ensure that any funds raised in Ireland will be managed appropriately to meet the needs of those most badly affected. You can also donate online at trocaire.org

THANK YOU!

Heartfelt thanks to all who made last week’s party for Fr Denis so uplifting and welcoming, both the celebration at the 10am Family Mass and the wonderful spread afterwards in our Parish Centre thanks to the generosity and talents of Parish Hospitality Group. May the Lord reward all your goodness.

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK

There will be a Mass with the conferral of the Sacrament of the Sick at 11.30am on Saturday 4th March in the Church of St Thomas the Apostle, Laurel Lodge. All are welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS.

Every Tuesday of Lent after the 10am Mass in St Thomas’, Laurel Lodge, Fr Brendan Quinlan leads the Stations of the Cross from Mary’s perspective. All are welcome.

SPRING GATHERING – CONTINUING DURING LENT

Following on from the success of our Autumn Gathering, we started our weekly Spring Gathering in Our Lady’s Parish Centre beside our Church, after 10.30am Mass last Wednesday. We are continuing this get-together every Wednesday during Lent. Would you like to Volunteer for this initiative? Please contact the Parish Office.

ROTA FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD

The new rota for Ministers of the Word, covering March to May, is on the Parish website and is available in the Sacristy.

A LENTEN REFLECTION WITH VOX HIBERNIAE

The very talented VOX HIBERNIAE quartet of female voices and musicians featuring Teresa O'Donnell, Mary Louise O'Donnell, Sarah Lane and Kerrie O'Connor will lead a *Lenten Journey in Song from Jerusalem to Calvary* over two Sundays in St Patrick's Church, Corduff, Blackcourt Road, Dublin 15. This will be well worth attending. Part 1 takes place next Sunday 5th March, 4-5pm, Part 2: Sunday 26th March, 4-5pm

THE RITE OF ELECTION

This first Sunday of Lent, 32 adult 'catechumens' will be presented to Archbishop Farrell in the Pro-Cathedral at a ceremony called the 'Rite of Election'. They have been journeying with teams from various parishes and chaplaincies around our Diocese for a prolonged period of time - in some cases, years - seeking to become Roman Catholic Christians. They have been introduced to the Word of God, our worship and prayer life and works of kindness in the community. Their parish teams will have discerned that they are now ready to receive Full Christian Initiation through Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist at the forthcoming Easter Vigil. Lent for them is a time of intense spiritual preparation. At this ceremony the Archbishop recognizes their request, hears the testimony of the parishes concerning their sincerity and he deems them 'elect', ready for the Easter sacraments. Please hold them in prayer. At the same ceremony, 15 people who belong to other Christian denominations who want to become Roman Catholics will also be presented by their communities. It's heartwarming that in a culture when many seem to be turning away from our Church, that others are finding the Lord in our faith communities.

THE THREE GREAT LENTEN GOSPELS OF JOHN: In this Liturgical Year A, the liturgy of the Sundays of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent present us with three epic and lengthy passages from the Gospel of John: the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well [John 4:5-42], the Healing of the Man born blind [John 9:1-38], and The Raising of Lazarus [John 11:3-45]. These powerful passages deserve our Lenten attention. Fr Damian will lead a form of *Lectio Divina* on these three Gospels on Thursdays 9th, 16th and 23rd March after the 10am Mass in St Thomas', Laurel Lodge, in preparation for hearing them anew on the following Sundays.

HOLY COMMUNION ON THE TONGUE

In order to gradually reintroduce the possibility of Holy Communion being received on the tongue in as safe a manner as possible for all attending our liturgies, may I ask those who wish to receive on the tongue if they would be so good as to approach the priest at the end of the procession of those coming forward for Holy Communion so as to minimise the risk of infection for others. I very much appreciate your patience and thoughtful consideration of others expressed in this way. *Fr Damian*

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of Eddie Commins, Margaret (Madge) Garland and Kathleen Carroll whose funerals took place in our church during the past week. May the Lord grant them eternal rest and console all those who mourn them.

DUBLIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK 2023.

A date for your diary: the 2023 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock, which will be led by Archbishop Farrell, will take place on Saturday, April 29.

Please email knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie if you have any queries.

THE PARISH CHOIR (12 MASS CHOIR) ARE CALLING OUT FOR SOPRANOS!

If you are a soprano (you have a high singing voice), you enjoy singing and can hold a tune, we would love to hear from you!! We would also welcome tenors and basses, however the alto line is full. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 8pm -9:30pm, and on Sunday mornings from 11:20 until we sing at 12 noon mass in Castleknock. If interested, please email Fran at frances.stokerphelan@gmail.com

Achoimriú - Summary

- **Stations of the Cross**, every Tuesday of Lent, after 10.00am Mass in Laurel Lodge Church. All are welcome.
- **Tai Chi Classes** starting Tuesday 28th February. Information at: www.taichiclassesdublin.com
- The new rota for **Ministers of the Word**, covering March to May, is now on the Parish website and is available in the Sacristy.
- **Lenten Reflection through Music**. A Journey in Song from Jerusalem to Calvary. Part 1: The final Discourses of Jesus. Part 2: The Passion of Jesus. Venue: St Patrick's Church, Blackcourt Road, Corduff, Dublin 15. D15WC90. Date and Time: Part 1 Sunday March 5th 4-5pm. Part 2 Sunday March 26th 4-5pm. Musicians: Sarah Lane, Teresa O Donnell, Kerrie O Connor, Mary Louise O Donnell.

- **Early Morning Mass for Lent** at 7.00am in St Philip the Apostle Church in Mountview: Monday to Friday mornings.
- Date for your diary: **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock**, which will be led by Archbishop Farrell, will take place on Saturday, April 29th. For further information please email: knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie
- **Artz for Kids** (info@artzforkids.ie) is being run now in Our Lady's Parish Centre. "We work on building illustration, imagination and confidence skills." Our classes are 1.5 hours on a Wednesday 3.45 - 5.15pm. Classes are for children 6 to 12 year olds. To book you can email info@artzforkids.ie or text 085 1438844.

