

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

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.

HALLOW APP: pray during Lent as we journey to Easter with this Catholic Prayer app for both Iphone and Android which is proving to be a huge hit around the world. Simply visit hallow.com



OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PARISHES OF
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, LAUREL LODGE
AND ST MOCHTA'S PORTERSTOWN.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

12th March 2023

JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN Today's Gospel presents Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman in Sychar, near an old well where the woman went to draw water daily. That day, she found Jesus seated, "weary as he was with his journey" (Jn 4:6). He immediately says to her: "Give me a drink" (v. 7). In this way he overcomes the barriers of hostility that existed between Jews and Samaritans and breaks the mould of prejudice against women. This simple request from Jesus is the start of a frank dialogue, through which he enters with great delicacy into the interior world of a person to whom, according to social norms, he should not have spoken. But Jesus is not afraid. When Jesus sees a person he goes ahead, because he loves. He loves us all. He never hesitates before a person out of prejudice. Jesus sets her own situation before her, not by judging her but by making her feel worthy, acknowledged, and thus arousing in her the desire to go beyond the daily routine.

Jesus' thirst was not so much for water, but for the encounter with a parched soul. Jesus needed to encounter the Samaritan woman in order to open her heart: he asks for a drink so as to bring to light her own thirst. The woman is moved by this encounter: she asks Jesus several profound questions that we all carry within but often ignore. We, too, have many questions to ask, but we don't have the courage to ask Jesus! Lent, dear brothers and sisters, is the opportune time to look within ourselves, to understand our truest spiritual needs, and to ask the Lord's help in prayer. The example of the Samaritan woman invites us to exclaim: "Jesus, give me a drink that will quench my thirst forever".

The Gospel says that the disciples marvelled that their Master was speaking to this woman. But the Lord is greater than prejudice, which is why he was not afraid to address the Samaritan woman: mercy is greater

than prejudice. The outcome of that encounter by the well was the woman's transformation: "the woman left her water jar" (v. 28), with which she had come to draw water, and ran to the city to tell people about her extraordinary experience. "I found a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" She was excited. She had gone to draw water from the well, but she found another kind of water, the living water of mercy from which gushes forth eternal life. She found the water she had always sought! She runs to the village, that village which had judged her, condemned her and rejected her, and she announces that she has met the Messiah: the one who has changed her life. Because every encounter with Jesus changes our lives, always. It is a step forward, a step closer to God. And thus every encounter with Jesus changes our life. *Pope Francis*

TURKEY AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKE COLLECTION. Thank you for your great generosity to the special collection on the weekend of 25th and 26th of February for the support of the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the devastating earthquakes of Monday 5th February last. A very impressive €7,925 was collected from our parish.

THANKS FOLLOWING THE SALE OF WORK IN AID OF ST FRANCIS HOSPICE. The Sale of Work in aid of St. Francis Hospice in the Parish Centre last Sunday raised an amazing €3,337.82. Many thanks to all who supported this very worthy cause and well done to all those whose hard work made it all possible.

THE GREAT LENTEN GOSPELS OF JOHN Nearly fifty people stayed on to prayerfully encounter the Gospel of the Samaritan Woman at the Well in Laurel Lodge Church after 10am Mass last Thursday with Fr Damian. Next Thursday, 16th March, we will do a similar, simple *Lectio Divina* on the passage of the Healing of the Man born blind [John 9:1-38], and on 23rd March, the Raising of Lazarus [John 11:3-45]. All are welcome.

EARLY MORNING MASS FOR LENT at 7.00am in St Philip the Apostle Church, Mountview Road, Clonsilla, D15 VK59, from Monday to Friday.

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.

SPRING GATHERING Following on from the success of our Autumn Gathering, we have a weekly Spring Gathering in Our Lady's Parish Centre beside our Church, after 10 am Mass on Wednesdays during Lent.

Would you like to Volunteer for this initiative? Please contact the Parish Office.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE FROM ST MOCHTA'S PARISH, PORTERSTOWN Thursday 22nd June 2023, Spiritual Director Fr. Paul Ward, full religious programme, direct return flights, 5 nights full board at Hotel La Solitude, €899 pps, single room supplement of €35 per night. Please contact secretary@stmochtasparish.ie at St Mochta's Parish Office 01-821-3218.

DUBLIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK The 2023 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock, which will be led by Archbishop Dermot Farrell, will take place on Saturday April 29th. A bus is being organised from Navan Road Parish. If you are interested in travelling with them, please contact them on info@navanroadparish.com or 01 838 0265.

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

ST FRANCIS HOSPICE - SPRING MEMORIAL WALK. Walk your own 5K anytime, anyplace in the months of March and April to raise funds for the Hospice, registration fee €25. Call 01 832 7535 for a t-shirt, sponsor cards, etc.

'EUROPE AND THE FAITH' - TALK BY PROFESSOR RICHARD REX. You are invited by the Iona Institute to the above talk on Wednesday 22nd March at 7.30pm (admission free) in University Church, St Stephen's Green. As there will be refreshments afterwards, please phone 07 661 9204 or email info@ionainstitute.ie to confirm numbers.

Castleknock ICA. The Castleknock ICA Guild cordially invites visitors to a presentation by Chartered Physiotherapist, Aoife Harvey, a Specialist in Women's Pelvic Health. Date: Monday 13th March 2023. Venue: Parish Centre, Beechpark Avenue at 8 pm. Fee €5.

Life in the Spirit Seminar. Pope Francis has asked for "Life in the Spirit" Seminars in to be conducted in all Parishes. Blanchardstown Charismatic Prayer Group is taking up this call. Starting on Tuesday, 14th March at 8pm in St Brigid's Church extension. Seven (7) week course of talks and discussion, featuring: Fr Pat Collins. All are welcome.