

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

19th March 2023

JESUS HEALS THE MAN BORN BLIND At the centre of the Gospel this Fourth Sunday of Lent we find Jesus and a man blind from birth (cf. Jn 9:1-41). Christ restores his sight and performs this miracle with a type of symbolic ritual: first, He mixes dirt with saliva and spreads it on the blind man's eyes; then, He orders him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. The man goes, washes, and regains his sight. He was blind from birth. With this miracle, Jesus manifests himself to us as the Light of the World. The man blind from birth represents each one of us, who was created to know God; but due to sin has become blind; we are in need of a new light; we are all in need of a new light: that of faith, which Jesus has given us. Indeed, that blind man in the Gospel, by regaining his sight, is opened to the mystery of Christ. Jesus asks him: "Do you believe in the Son of man?" (v. 35). "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" the healed blind man replied. "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you" (v. 37). "Lord, I believe", [the blind man said,] and he prostrated himself before Jesus.

This episode induces us to reflect on our faith in Christ, the Son of God; and at the same time, it also refers to Baptism, which is the first Sacrament of faith: the Sacrament which makes us "come to the light", by being reborn through the water and through the Holy Spirit; as happens to the man born blind, whose eyes are opened after being cleansed in the water of the pool of Siloam. The man born blind and healed represents us when we do not realize that Jesus is the light; he is "the Light of the World", when we are looking elsewhere, when we prefer to entrust ourselves to little lights, when we are groping in the dark. The fact that the blind man has no name helps us to see our face reflected and our name in his story. We too have been "illuminated" by

Christ in Baptism, and thus we are called to behave as children of the light. Acting as children of the light requires a radical change of mindset, a capacity to judge others and things according to another scale of values, which comes from God. The Sacrament of Baptism, in fact, requires the choice of living as children of the light and walking in the light. If I were to ask you: "Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Do you believe that he can change your heart? Do you believe that he can show reality as he sees it, not as we see it? Do you believe that he is light, that he gives us the true light?" How would you answer? What does it mean to have the true light, to walk in the light? First of all it means abandoning false lights: the cold, vain light of prejudice against others, because prejudice distorts reality and ladens us with aversion to those whom we judge without mercy and condemn without appeal. When you gossip about others, you walk in shadows. Another false light, because it is seductive and ambiguous, is that of self-interest: if we value others and things on the basis of usefulness to us, of pleasure, of prestige, we are not truthful in our relationships and situations. If we go down this path of seeking self-interest, we are walking in shadows. May the Blessed Virgin, who was the first to welcome Jesus, the Light of the World, obtain for us this grace of welcoming anew the light of faith this Lent, rediscovering the inestimable gift of Baptism, which all of us have received. *Pope Francis*

THE GREAT LENTEN GOSPELS OF JOHN In this final week of *Lectio Divina* reflections on the three long and powerful passages from John's Gospel presented to us in these Sundays of Lent, we will pray through the narrative of the Raising of Lazarus in Laurel Lodge Church after 10am Mass next Thursday with Fr Damian. 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.

TABLE QUIZ IN AID OF EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN SYRIA
Thursday 30th March, 8pm, Castleknock Tennis Club. Entry Fee €50 per table of 4, prizes, raffle and spot prizes. Proceeds will be in support of an ACN project in Syria which is providing humanitarian aid and spiritual support for victims of the recent earthquake.

SPRING GATHERING We have a weekly Spring Gathering in Our Lady's Parish Centre beside our Church, after 10 am Mass on Wednesdays during Lent. All are welcome.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

Pope Francis has asked for "Life in the Spirit" Seminars to take place more often in our Parishes. Blanchardstown Charismatic Prayer Group is taking up this call. We started last Tuesday, 14th March at 8pm in St Brigid's Church extension and will continue every Tuesday at the same time for the next 6 weeks with talks and discussion featuring videos with Fr Pat Collins CM. All are welcome.

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 St Mochta's Parish Office - 01 821 3218, secretary@stmochtaparish.ie

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 8380265.

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

If you are a soprano (you have a high singing voice), 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. Rehearsals Tuesday evenings 8pm -9:30pm, and 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 email info@ionainstitute.ie or phone 07 6619 204 to confirm numbers.