

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. 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 online way to donate to our parish or to contribute to Dues. You can also contribute to the usual weekend 1st and/or 2nd collections, towards our parish running costs and also to our Third World Partnership (TWP) project.

THE HALLOW APP: "Pray with millions around the world alongside Mark Wahlberg, Jonathan Roumie, Sr. Miriam, Fr. Mike, and more on Hallow, the #1 prayer app in the world." Many are finding elements of this American Church prayer app a useful spiritual companion.



OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK

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

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
27TH AUGUST 2023

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

"This Sunday's Gospel reading (cf. Mt 16:13-20) presents the moment in which Peter professes his faith in Jesus as Messiah and Son of God. This Apostle's confession is provoked by Jesus himself, who wishes to lead his disciples to take the decisive step in their relationship with him.

Indeed, Jesus' entire journey with those who follow him, especially with the Twelve, is a journey of educating their faith. First of all, he asks: "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" (v. 13). The Apostles liked to talk about people, as we all do. We like to gossip. Speaking about others is not so demanding; this is why we like it; even 'flaying' others. In this case the perspective of faith rather than gossip is already required, and so he asks, 'What do the people say that I am?' And the disciples seem to compete in reporting the different opinions, which perhaps, to a large extent, they themselves shared. They too shared them. In essence, Jesus of Nazareth was considered a prophet (v. 14).

With the second question, Jesus touches them to the core: "But who do you say that I am?" (v. 15). At this point, we seem to perceive a moment of silence, as each one of those present is called to put themselves on the line, manifesting the reason why they follow Jesus; therefore a certain hesitation is more than legitimate. Even if I were to ask you now, 'For you, who is Jesus?', there would be a little hesitation. Simon takes them off the hook by declaring forthrightly, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (v. 16). This answer, so complete and luminous, does not come from an impulse of his own, however generous – Peter was generous – but rather it is the fruit of a particular grace of the heavenly Father. Indeed, Jesus himself says to him: "flesh and blood has not revealed this to you" – that is, culture, what you have studied, no, this has not

revealed it to you. It was revealed to you by “my Father who is in heaven” (v. 17). To confess Jesus is a grace of the Father. To say that Jesus is the Son of the living God, that he is the Redeemer, is a grace that we must ask for: “Father, give me the grace to confess Jesus”.

At the same time, the Lord acknowledges Simon’s prompt response to the inspiration of grace and therefore adds, in a solemn tone, “you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it” (v. 18). With this affirmation, Jesus makes Simon understand the meaning of the new name He has given him, ‘Peter’: the faith he has just shown is the unshakeable ‘rock’ on which the Son of God wishes to build his Church, that is, the Community. And the Church goes forward always on the basis of Peter’s faith, that faith that Jesus recognizes [in Peter] and which makes him the head of the Church.

Today, we hear Jesus’ question directed to each one of us: ‘And you, who do you say I am?’ To each one of us. And each one of us must give not a theoretical answer, but one that involves faith, that is, life, because faith is life! ‘For me you are ...’ and then to confess Jesus. An answer that demands from us too, as from the first disciples, inward listening to the voice of the Father and consonance with what the Church, gathered around Peter, continues to proclaim. It is a matter of understanding who Christ is for us: whether he is the centre of our life, whether he is the goal of our commitment in the Church, of our commitment in society. Who is Jesus Christ for me? Who is Jesus Christ for you, for you, for you ...? An answer that we should give every day.

Pope Francis

ETERNAL REST: Please pray for the soul of our parishioner Mairéad Fogarty whose funeral took place this week. May the Holy Spirit console and strengthen all who mourn.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD – ROTA

The new rota for Ministers of the Word, covering September to November, is on the parish website and is available in the sacristy. “Your word, Lord, is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path.” *Psalms 119:105*

LECTIO DIVINA

Spiritual reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation of the Gospel for the following Sunday - an opportunity to listen, share, discuss and pray the Living Word. Please come on Wednesday 30th August after 10am Mass, just until 11am in our parish centre. For information, contact Marian on 087 2958363.

LAURA LYNN HOSPICE COLLECTION

Thank you for your generosity to the recent collection. Laura Lynn are very grateful and thank you most sincerely - €1060.25 was raised.

Society of St Vincent de Paul monthly collection takes place after all Masses this weekend, Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th August.

LOURDES ASSOCIATE FUND COLLECTION

The Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from the 7th and 12th of September. There are several ‘stalwarts’ of this wonderful faith event from our own parish. We will be bringing over 100 sick pilgrims to Our Lady’s Shrine this year where countless people have experienced God’s grace and healing. For many years, parishioners were invited to help contribute to the cost of bringing a sick pilgrim to Lourdes through the *Lourdes Associate Fund*. At present, we ask each sick pilgrim to contribute €590 towards the cost of his or her travel and stay. We never refuse an application on the grounds of not being able to afford this. The actual cost per sick pilgrim is over €1,000, factoring in the expense of necessary medical equipment and supplies.

On the weekend of 2nd/3rd September we will have a Lourdes Associate Membership collection outside the church after Mass to give you an opportunity to contribute to the cost of bringing sick pilgrims on our Diocesan Pilgrimage. If anyone would like their intentions brought to the Grotto at Lourdes, please drop them into the sacristy in an envelope marked for Fr Damian’s attention. Your intentions will be remembered at the Masses we celebrate there. Thank you on behalf of our sick pilgrims in anticipation of your support of our Diocesan Pilgrimage.

ECUMENICAL GRAVEYARD SERVICE

St Mary’s Church of Ireland in Clonsilla will have an Ecumenical Graveyard Service on Sunday 10th September at 3pm which will include the Blessing of Graves. All are welcome.

PATHWAYS: EXPLORING FAITH AND MINISTRY PROGRAMME

Pathways is a two-year, one evening a week, Adult Faith Development course, run by the Dublin Archdiocese, on Thursday evenings in DCU St. Patrick’s Campus, Upper Drumcondra Rd, Dublin 9. September to May (7.00 p.m. – 9.30 p.m). Application is now open. Early application advised. Contact: Pathways Director, Eileen Houlahan at 01 8087594 or pathways@dublindiocese.ie. Web: www.missionministry.ie

THIRD WORLD PARTNERSHIP (TWP) – METCHA BORRODO, ETHIOPIA

We have been supporting this Ethiopian parish including its school and students since 2008. Over the Covid epidemic you have helped us build toilets, showers and a water tower. Our partners in Ethiopia have asked us to help them to replace the final two dilapidated classrooms in the school. With severe inflation in Ethiopia since we last built classrooms, the cost of this building has been set at over €79000. We have €35000 towards this from donations to date. If any parishioners know of any source of funds including employers and company funds, or are willing to support us by running marathons or any other way, please contact the TWP at TWP@castleknockparish.ie, or use the DONATE button on the parish website, or phone Stephanie at (086) 821 1141.