

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.

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
24TH SEPTEMBER 2023

GOD'S CALL AND REWARD

Today's passage from the Gospel (cf. Mt 20:1-16) recounts the parable of the labourers called to put in a day's work by the owner of the vineyard. Through this narrative, Jesus shows us the surprising way God acts, represented by two of the owner's attitudes: the *call* and the *recompense*. First of all, *the call*. Five times the owner of the vineyard goes out and *calls* people to work for him: at six, at nine, at twelve, at three and at five in the afternoon. The image of this owner, who goes out numerous times to look for day labourers for his vineyard, is touching. That owner represents God who calls *everyone* and calls *always*, at any hour. Even today, God acts this way: he continues to call anyone, at whatever hour, to invite them to work in his Kingdom. This is God's way, which, in our turn, we are called to receive and to imitate. He does not stay shut in within his world, but "goes out" in search of us; God is not closed up. He continually seeks out people, he does not want anyone to be excluded from his loving plan. Our communities are also called to go out to the various types of "boundaries" that there might be, to offer everyone the word of salvation that Jesus came to bring. It means being open... to offer hope to those who have not yet experienced, or have lost, the strength and the light that comes with meeting Christ. The Church needs to be like God: always going out... better a Church that gets into accidents because she goes out to proclaim the Gospel than a Church that is sick because she stays in.

The owner's second attitude, representing God's, is his way of *compensating* the workers. How does God pay? The owner agrees to "one denarius" (v. 2) [*a day's wage for the ordinary worker*] with the first workers he hired in the morning. Instead, to those he hired later, he says:

“Whatever is right I will give you” (v. 4). At the end of the day, the owner of the vineyard orders that everyone be given the same pay, that is, one denarius. Those who had worked since morning are outraged and complain against the owner, but he insists: he wants to give the maximum pay to everyone, even to those who arrived last (vv. 8-15). God always pays the maximum amount: he does not pay halfway. He pays everything. Here we understand that Jesus is not speaking about work and fair wages - that is another problem -but about the Kingdom of God and the goodness of the heavenly Father who goes out continually to invite, and he pays everyone the maximum. In fact, God behaves like this: he does not look at the time and the results, but at availability; he looks at the generosity with which we put ourselves at his service. His way of acting is more than *just*, in the sense that it goes beyond justice and is manifested in *Grace*. Everything is Grace. Our salvation is Grace. Our holiness is Grace. In giving us *Grace*, God bestows on us *more* than we merit. And so, those who reason using human logic, that is, the logic of the merits acquired through one’s own greatness, from being first, find themselves last. “But, I have worked a lot, I have done so much in the Church, I have helped a lot and they pay me the same as this person who arrived last...” Let us remember who was the first canonized saint in the Church: the Good Thief. He ‘stole’ Paradise at the last minute of his life: this is Grace. This is what God is like, even with us. Those who seek thinking of their own merits fail; those who humbly entrust themselves to the Father’s mercy, rather than being last - like the Good Thief - find themselves first (cf. v. 16). May Mary Most Holy help us to feel every day the joy and wonder of being called by God to work for him, in his field which is the world, in his vineyard which is the Church and to have as our only recompense his love, friendship with Jesus. *Pope Francis*

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY takes place **this Sunday, September 24th**. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the formation of the Diocesan Child Safeguarding & Protection Service and consequently the theme of the occasion is very much “reflection”. We reflect on the journey that all of us have been on over the last twenty years, especially the victims of abuse in our Church. It is also a time to reflect on the ongoing commitment by all in our parishes to ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults. A lot has been achieved; however, this work is never done. The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults in our diocese is central to the Gospel values that we embrace on a daily basis. The

current Safeguarding Newsletter is available on our parish website, along with a letter from Archbishop Farrell. A representative of the Parish Safeguarding Team will speak at all Masses this weekend.

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 27th September** from 10.45 to 11.15am in our parish centre. For information, contact Marian on 087 2958363.

TOGETHER 2023 TAIZÉ EVENING PRAYER, 7pm Saturday 30th September 2023, Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin 8, to pray for the forthcoming Synod. All are welcome especially the young and young at heart.

Family Faith Camp: Our first Family Faith Camp was held last Sat in the Parish Centre and it was a resounding success. We had 17 families with 38 children in attendance sharing their faith in a great afternoon of fun. Each family went home eager to meet again for more, by popular demand we will have our second Faith Camp on **2nd December** with the theme of Advent so stay tuned! Contact Ellen Troy for more details 0860610686.

St. Vincent de Paul: monthly collection **this Sunday**

St. Brigid’s GAA Coffee Morning in aid of St. Francis Hospice: **Saturday 30th September** between 9am and 1pm

ST VINCENT’S, CASTLEKNOCK COLLEGE, OPEN EVENING FOR 2023 – TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023 Castleknock College are delighted to invite 2023 6th Class boys and their parents to an Open Evening. There are two sessions on the night which last for one hour each. This is a ticketed only event and tickets must be reserved for your chosen time. Each ticket covers entry for the 6th class boy and up to two parents/guardians.

For tickets for the 7 to 8pm session: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-vincents-castleknock-college-open-evening-7pm-tickets-721277589687>

For tickets for the 8 to 9pm session: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-vincents-castleknock-college-open-evening-8pm-tickets-719051230587>

Applications for First Year 2024 will be accepted from 4th October 2023 until closing date on 25th October 2023. Any application received to the College after this date, even for brothers, will be returned automatically.

CASTLEKNOCK TIDY TOWNS TABLE QUIZ, WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 8PM - text John on 087 225 3572