

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie)

Church Sacristy – Phone: 01-8214652

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

Parish Website – [www.castleknockparish.ie](http://www.castleknockparish.ie)

Parish Newsletter – Notices may be emailed to [ourladysparish@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

WITH THE LORD, TEARS DO NOT LAST FOREVER

*Extracts from Pope Francis' homily from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 – it may be helpful to contemplate Luke 7:11 to 17 in advance of reading this.*

Jesus is about to enter Nain; the disciples and "a great crowd" are walking with him (cf. Lk 7:11). As he approaches the city gate, another procession is setting out, but in the opposite direction: it is going to bury the only son of a widowed mother. The Gospel tells us that, "when the Lord saw her, he had *compassion*" (Lk 7:13). Jesus saw what happened and he was moved by compassion. **Benedict XVI**, whom we remember today, together with the Cardinals and Bishops who died in the past year, wrote that Jesus is "a heart that sees" (*Deus Caritas Est*, 31). How many times did he keep reminding us that faith is not primarily an idea to be understood or a moral precept to be followed, but a person to be encountered. That person is Jesus Christ, whose heart beats with love for us, whose eyes look with pity upon our suffering.

The Lord halts before the tragedy of death. It is significant that this is the first time that Luke's Gospel calls Jesus "Lord": "*the Lord* was moved with great compassion". He is called Lord – the God who exercises lordship over all things – in the very act of showing compassion for a widowed mother who lost, along with her only son, her reason for living. Here we see our God, whose divinity shines forth in contact with our sorrow and grief, for his is a heart full of compassion. The raising of that young man, the gift of life that overcomes death, has its source precisely there, in the compassion of the Lord, who is moved by death, the greatest cause of our suffering. How important it is to communicate that same look of compassion to all those who grieve for the death of their loved ones!

Jesus' compassion is concrete. The Gospel tells us that he "came forward and touched the bier" (cf. *Lk* 7:14). He did not have to do that, and in those days, touching the bier of a dead person was considered something unclean, defiling those who did so. Jesus, however, cares nothing about that; his compassion makes him reach out to all those who suffer. That is God's "style", one of closeness, compassion and tenderness. And one of few words. Christ does not start preaching about death, but simply tells the young man's mother: "Do not weep!" (*Lk* 7:13). Why? Is it wrong to weep? No, Jesus himself weeps in the Gospels. He says to the mother, "Do not weep", because with the Lord tears do not last forever; they have an end. Jesus is the God who, as Scripture prophesies, will "swallow up death" and "wipe away tears from all faces" (*Is* 25:8; cf. *Rev* 21:4). He has made our tears his own in order to take them away. Here, then, we see the Lord's compassion, which leads him to raise that young son. Yet here, unlike other miracles he performed, Jesus does not first ask the mother to have faith. Why this extraordinary and unusual miracle? Because it has to do with an orphan and a widow, those whom the Bible, along with strangers, considers most alone and forsaken, having no one else to trust but God. The widow, the orphan, the stranger: these are the people closest and dearest to the Lord. We cannot be close and dear to God if we ignore those who enjoy his protection and preferential love, for one day they will be the ones to welcome us to heaven: the widow, the orphan, the stranger.

**COMMEMORATIVE MASS FOR OUR DECEASED PARISHIONERS** Our annual parish Remembrance and Bereavement Mass takes place on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**. The ceremony will be led by our Castleknock Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group, with liturgical music led by our combined Family Mass Choir and Folk Group. We invite you, your family, friends and all who have been bereaved in the past year to attend this Memorial Mass and to prayerfully remember all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. All are welcome.

**PARISH ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD** "Receive, Lord, in your kindness, the sacrificial offering we make for all your servants who sleep in Christ, that, set free from the bonds of death by this singular sacrifice, they may merit eternal life." [from the Mass prayers of November 2<sup>nd</sup>] If you would like the names of your beloved dead to be included in our parish "Book of Life", for whom Mass on the first Friday of every month is offered in our Church, simply fill in the Parish Altar List of the Dead envelopes that are available at the back of the church and return them to

the sacristy or parish office before the end of November. A reminder that, until 8th November, a plenary indulgence applicable to the Holy Souls is granted to those who visit a cemetery and pray for the departed. It would be lovely if even you go there and simply pray: "Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen."

**CHROÍ MHÁIRE FOODBANK** The collection of non-perishable food items will re-commence this weekend, **Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th of November**. Food items such as Cereal/Porridge, Pasta, Rice, Noodles, Tea, Coffee, Sauces, Beans, Peas, Sweetcorn, Soup, Chopped Tomatoes, Crackers, Biscuits would be most welcome. The boxes for the food items will be in situ in the church porch. Thank you, Martin (0861591188)

**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 8th November from 10.30 to 11.00am** in our parish centre. For information, contact Marian on 087 2958363.

**ECUMENICAL BLESSING OF GRAVES – ST BRIGID'S CHURCH OF IRELAND, CASTLEKNOCK**

**Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>, 3pm**. Ecumenical Graveyard Service with Blessing of the Graves. A Collection will take place for St Francis Hospice and Churchyard maintenance. All are welcome.

**MATER HOSPITAL FOUNDATION REMEMBRANCE WALK** This is a 5km fundraising walk, remembering those loved and lost but still carried in our hearts every day. Join them on **Sunday, 26th November** in the beautiful grounds of St. Anne's Park, Dublin. Anyone wishing to take part can sign up with this link: [www.materfoundation.ie/rememberme](http://www.materfoundation.ie/rememberme)

**TABLE QUIZ IRISH GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND:** Castleknock Tennis Club, Friday November 17, 7.30 pm. Contact John Mitchell [johnnamitchell@gmail.com](mailto:johnnamitchell@gmail.com) 086-2645861

**ANAM CARA** – support for bereaved parents - Parent Evening **Wednesday 15th November at 7:15pm** in the Hilton Hotel, Malahide Rd.

**GLENSTAL ABBEY SCHOOL**, a boys secondary boarding school, is holding an open information evening at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 8th November** in the Talbot Hotel Stillorgan A94 V6K5. For further details contact Ms Kelly Ryan: [admissions@glenstal.com](mailto:admissions@glenstal.com) or 061 621011