

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 our Third World Partnership (TWP) project.



OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK

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

**5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY SUNDAY
4TH FEBRUARY 2024**

GOD COMES TO LIFT US UP

Today's Gospel passage (cf. *Mk* 1:29-39) presents Jesus' healing of Peter's mother-in-law and then of many other sick and suffering people who gather round him. The healing of Peter's mother-in-law is the first physical healing narrated by Mark: the woman is in bed with a fever; Jesus' attitude and gesture toward her are emblematic: "he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up" (v. 31). There is so much tenderness in this simple act, which seems almost natural: "the fever left her; and she served them". Jesus' healing power meets no resistance; and the person healed resumes her normal life, immediately thinking of others and not of herself – and this is significant; it is a sign of true "health"!

That day was a sabbath. The people of the village wait for sundown and then, the obligation of rest having ended, they go out and bring to Jesus all the sick and those who are possessed. And he heals them, but forbids the demons to reveal that he is the Christ (cf. *vv.* 32-34). Thus, from the very beginning, Jesus shows his predilection for people suffering in body and in spirit: it is a predilection of Jesus to draw near to people who suffer both in body and in spirit... Taking care of the sick of every kind is not an "optional activity" for the Church, no! It is not something extra, no. Taking care of the sick of every kind is an integral part of the Church's mission, as it was for Jesus. And this mission is to bring God's tenderness to a suffering humanity. We will be reminded of this in a few days, on 11 February, World Day of the Sick.

The voice of Job, which echoes in today's liturgy, is once again the interpreter of our human condition, so remarkably lofty in dignity – and at the same time so fragile. In the face of this reality, the question

“why?” always arises in the heart. And Jesus, the Word Incarnate, responds to this question not with an explanation – to this “why are we so lofty in dignity and so fragile in condition?” – Jesus does not respond to this “why?” with an explanation, but with a loving presence that bends down, that takes by the hand and lifts up, as he did with Peter’s mother-in-law (cf. *Mk* 1:31). Bending down to lift up the other. Let us not forget that the only legitimate way to look at a person from the top down is when you stretch out a hand to help them get up. And this is the mission that Jesus entrusted to the Church. The Son of God manifests his Lordship not “from the top down”, not from a distance, but in bending down, stretching out his hand; he manifests his Lordship in closeness, in tenderness, in compassion. Closeness, tenderness, compassion are the style of God. Jesus’ compassion, God’s closeness in Jesus is God’s style. Today’s Gospel passage also reminds us that this compassion is deeply rooted in his intimate relationship with the Father. Why? Before daybreak and after sundown, Jesus withdrew and remained alone to pray (v. 35). From there he drew the strength to fulfill his mission, preaching and healing. May the Blessed Virgin help us to allow Jesus to heal us – we always need this, everyone – so that we might in our turn be witnesses to God’s healing tenderness. *Pope Francis*

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK—Mass of Healing with the Anointing of the Sick—will take place in our Parish Partnership on Saturday 10th February at 11.30am in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Laurel Lodge. All very welcome.

Thank you to those who signed up and prayed through the hours of day and night for peace in St Mochta’s from 10am last Friday to 10am Saturday. When even one soul opens to God’s gift of peace, the whole earth is more open to God’s grace. May violence be replaced by love of neighbour.

Eternal Rest: Please pray for the repose of the souls of the late Dermot Downing, Sean Stanley and Bernadette Kirk whose funerals took place in our church during the week. May the Holy Spirit console and sustain all who mourn.

Open Hearts Taizé Prayer: Our February Taizé evening is on next Friday, 9th February, at 7pm. All are welcome, with a special welcome for our Confirmation candidates.

“God of life, your trust is amazing to us. You know our hearts and yet you entrust to us the treasure of your good news. When we encounter resistances in ourselves or around us, keep us from discouragement and keep rekindling in us the flame of your love.” *Br Matthew of Taizé*

Lectio Divina - Wednesdays, 10.30 to 11am - Spiritual reading and contemplation of the Gospel of the following Sunday - an opportunity to listen, share, discuss and pray God’s Living Word. Please come on Wednesday 7th February from 10.30 to 11.00am in our parish centre. For information, contact Marian on 087 2958363.

Children’s Rosary, 4pm Saturdays - The children’s rosary is recited every Saturday in our church at 4pm. Looking forward to seeing our young children then. All are welcome!

Chroí Mháire Foodbank - Dublin 15 - Thanks to all parishioners who kindly donated non-perishable food items for the Foodbank over the past two weekends. There will not be a collection this weekend. Food collection will resume again in a few weeks. Martin (086 1591188)

Knock Pilgrimage - Save The Date - Archbishop Dermot Farrell will lead our annual Diocesan pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday, April 27, from 11.45am onwards. This year marks 145 years since the apparition in 1879. A series of workshops with interesting and thought-provoking speakers are being planned; more details will follow.

Young Adult Camino 2024 - June 26th to July 3rd Our Diocese are delighted to launch their Young Adult trip to the Camino June 2024. Completing the last 110km of the Camino from Sarria to Santiago, this is a pilgrimage not to miss! Preparation dates - 16th March, 20th April, 19th May. Places are limited and all details can be found on our parish website and on the poster in the church noticeboard. All queries may be sent to: natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie.

Child Safeguarding & Protection

There is a new Child Safeguarding Policy. Copies are available upon request from the Child Safeguarding & Protection Service, Archdiocese of Dublin. A digital copy is accessible on our parish website:

<https://www.castleknockparish.ie/our-parish/safeguarding/>

Please click on the Dublin Diocese link on this page:

<http://csps.dublindiocese.ie/policies>

Our Lady’s Parish Centre

Tai Chi 6 week introductory term starting 20th February 2024, Tuesday, 8.15-9.45pm. Beginners welcome. Adult class for mixed age levels. Slow and gentle exercise regime. For more information and sign up please visit our website www.taichiclassesdublin.com or contact Nicole & Declan Mills per Ph. 086 397 5979 or email taichiclassesdublin@posteo.ie

Third World Partnership (TWP) - Metcha Borrodo, Ethiopia

We have been supporting this Ethiopian parish including its school and students since 2008. We are planning to build another classroom for the school in addition to the six we have already built. We are very grateful for the support of the parishioners for all our work so far. 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. Please contact the TWP at TWP@castleknockparish.ie, or use the DONATE button on the parish website, or phone Stephanie at (086) 821 1141.