

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

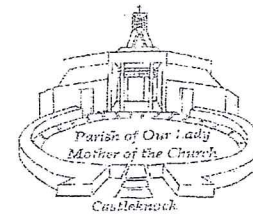
Parish Website - www.castleknockparish.ie

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.

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY SUNDAY
11TH FEBRUARY 2024

JESUS TOUCHES THE LEPER: Today's Gospel passage (cf. Mk 1:40-45) presents to us the healing of a man afflicted with leprosy, a disease that in the Old Testament was considered a grave impurity and required the leper to be separated from the community: they lived in isolation. His condition was truly pitiful, because the mind-set of the time made him feel unclean even before God, and not only before mankind. Even before God. Therefore the leper of the Gospel beseeches Jesus with these words: "If you will, you can make me clean" (v. 40).

Upon hearing this, Jesus feels pity (cf. v. 41). It is very important to pay attention to this inner resonance of Jesus. We cannot understand the works of Christ, we cannot understand Christ himself, if we do not enter his compassionate and merciful heart. And this is what spurs him to stretch out his hand to that man afflicted with leprosy, to touch him and say to him: "I will (it); be clean" (v. 40). The most shocking fact is that Jesus *touches* the leper, because that was absolutely prohibited by Mosaic law. Touching a leper meant being infected even inside, in the spirit, that is, becoming unclean. But in this case the influence flows not from the leper to Jesus so as to transfer the contagion, but actually from Jesus to the leper so as to grant him purification. In this healing, apart from Jesus' compassion and mercy, we admire his audacity. He is concerned neither about the contagion nor about the rules, but is moved only by the will to free that man from the curse that burdens him.

Brothers and sisters, no disease is a cause of impurity: disease certainly involves the whole person, but in no way does it impair or impede his or her relationship with God. On the contrary, a sick person can be even more united with God. Instead, sin: that yes, is what makes us unclean!

Selfishness, arrogance, entering the world of corruption: these are diseases of the heart from which we need to be purified by turning to Jesus like the leper: "If you will, you can make me clean!"

And now, let each of us think about our own heart, look within ourselves, and see our own impurities, our own sins. And may each of us say to Jesus: "If you will, you can make me clean". And each time we approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation with a contrite heart, the Lord also repeats to us: "I will (it); be clean!" How much joy there is in this! In this way the leprosy of sin is overcome; we return to joyfully experience our filial relationship with God and we are fully readmitted into the community. *Pope Francis*

Day of Fasting and Abstinence - Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent when we make time to turn everything within ourselves back towards the harmony that exists in God. Ash Wednesday is just one of two mandatory days of fasting and abstinence for us each year, the other being Good Friday. We fast from meat and alcohol. We can have one full meal that day and two smaller meals. These fasts from food are not expected of the elderly or of children or those with medical conditions. Blessed Ashes shall be distributed during our 10am morning Mass and an evening Mass on Wednesday is available in St Luke's Church, Mulhuddart at 7.30pm. Envelopes with small amounts of blessed ashes shall be available in the church all day after Mass so that this sacramental can be brought to the infirm and housebound.

Daring to Hope A Photographic Exhibition of the pioneering work of Irish Religious Sisters since the foundation of the State is coming soon to Precious Blood Church, Fassagh Avenue in Cabra, Dublin D07 X825. Weds 21st and Thurs 22nd Feb 11am to 3pm. Fri 23rd 11am to 8pm, Sat 24th Feb 12 noon to 6pm. Sun 25th Feb 10am to 4pm.

Trócaire : Trócaire boxes are available for you to take home should you wish to use this well established way of contributing to their excellent development and justice work caring for the poorest of the earth. Salome Mumba, from the Malawi Office of Trócaire, will give a presentation on this year's Lenten Campaign "Climate Crisis – Water Justice" on Friday 23rd February in Precious Blood Church at 7pm.

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. And all are welcome!

Lectio Divina - Wednesdays, 10.30 to 11am - Spiritual reading, meditation and contemplation of the Gospel of the following Sunday - an opportunity to listen, share, discuss and pray the Living Word. Please come on Wednesday 14th February from 10.30 to 11.00am in our parish centre. For information, contact Marian on 087 2958363.

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

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

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. If you wish to book, contact natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie.

Mount Sackville Secondary School - 160 Years Anniversary
In 2024 Mount Sackville will proudly celebrate 160 years of education in Ireland. The school was founded by the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny in Chapelizod, Dublin in 1864. As part of the celebrations, we invite past pupils and staff to share your stories, photographs or any archival materials of your time here or your association with the school. You may contribute items: By email: memories@mountsackville.ie, - By post: Mary Delaney, Mount Sackville Secondary School, Chapelizod, Dublin 20, D20WP68; - In person: Please present the material to the school reception in a sealed envelope with your name and address to ensure you have the original material returned safely.

Priory Institute - Study Theology Online, is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before February 14. Find out more on our website: www.prioryinstitute.com.

Third World Partnership (TWP) - Metcha Borrodo, Ethiopia
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.

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 phone Nicole & Declan Mills at 086 397 5979 or email taichiclassesdublin@posteo.ie