

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

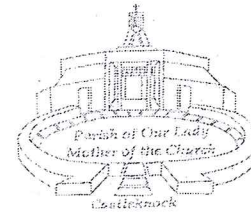
Parish Website - www.castleknockparish.ie

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.

Society of St Vincent de Paul monthly collection takes place after all Masses this weekend, Saturday 24th / Sunday 25th February 2024. Mile buíochas.



OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK

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

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT : 25TH FEBRUARY 2024

THE TRANSFIGURATION - IGNITING LIGHTS: This Second Sunday of Lent invites us to contemplate *the Transfiguration* of Jesus on the mountain, before three of his disciples (cf. *Mk 9:2-10*). Just before, Jesus had announced that in Jerusalem he would suffer greatly, be rejected and put to death. We can imagine what must have happened in the heart of... those close friends: the image of a strong and triumphant Messiah is put into crisis... and they are beset by anguish at the thought that the Teacher in whom they had believed would be killed like the worst of wrongdoers. And in that very moment, with that anguish of soul, Jesus calls Peter, James and John and takes them up the mountain with him.

The Gospel says: He "led them up a high mountain" (v. 2). In the Bible, the mountain always has a special significance: the elevated place where heaven and earth touch each other, where Moses and the prophets had the extraordinary experience of encountering God... Jesus climbs up with the three disciples and they stop at the top of the mountain. Here, he is transfigured before them. His face radiant and his garments glistening, which provide a preview of the image as the Risen One, offering to those frightened disciples *the light*, the light of hope, the light to *pass through the shadows*: death will not be the end of everything, because it will open to the glory of the Resurrection. Thus, Jesus announces his death; he takes them up the mountain and shows them what will happen afterwards, the Resurrection.

As the Apostle Peter exclaimed (cf. v. 5), it is good to pause with the Lord on the mountain, to live this "preview" of light in the heart of Lent. It is a call to remember, especially when we go through a difficult trial — and many of you know what it means to go through a difficult trial — that the Lord is Risen and does not allow darkness to have the last word.

At times we go through moments of darkness in our personal, family or social life, and we fear there is no way out. We feel frightened before great enigmas such as illness, innocent pain or the mystery of death. In the same journey of faith, we often stumble encountering the scandal of the cross and the demands of the Gospel, which calls us to spend our life in service and to lose it in love, rather than preserve it for ourselves and protect it. Thus, we need a different outlook, a light that illuminates the mystery of life in depth and helps us to move beyond our paradigms and beyond the criteria of this world. We too are called to climb up

the mountain, to contemplate the beauty of the Risen One that enkindles glimmers of light in every fragment of our life and helps us to interpret history beginning with the victory of Easter.

Let us be careful, however: that feeling of Peter that "it is good that we are here" must not become *spiritual laziness*. We cannot remain on the mountain and enjoy the bliss of this encounter on our own. Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, among our brothers and sisters and into daily life... Going up the mountain does not mean forgetting reality; praying never means avoiding the difficulties of life; the light of faith is not meant to provide beautiful spiritual feelings. No, this is not Jesus' message. We are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere. Igniting little lights in people's hearts; being little lamps of the Gospel that bear a bit of love and hope: this is the mission of a Christian. Let us pray to Mary Most Holy, that she may help us to welcome the light of Christ with wonder, to safeguard it and share it. *Pope Francis*

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. Deirdre Davis from Trócaire, a native of Castleknock, will address us at Masses this weekend about this year's Lenten Campaign "Climate Crisis - Water Justice"

ACCORD COLLECTION Thank you for your generosity to the Dublin Accord annual collection last weekend. €2350 was raised.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD The new rota for Ministers of the Word, for March to May, will be on the website from the beginning of March. Copies are available in the Sacristy.

LENTEN EARLY MORNING AND EVENING MASSES. During Lent there will be 7am Mass Monday to Friday in St Philip the Apostle Church Mountview. As usual, there is also Evening Mass available across our Deanery, at 7.30 in our parish on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 7.30pm on Monday nights in Blanchardstown parish, Wednesdays in Mulhuddart parish and on Fridays in Corduff.

JUST LENT 2024 If you are looking for a short, simple weekly resource to help you pray and reflect this Lent, try the Office of Mission & Ministry's *Just Lent* Resource which features a strong focus on social justice. Each week there is a prayer, a connection with the Sunday scriptures and a short reflection, following the method of see, discern and act. The resource also includes a guide page on how to use it. To download it, see the LENT section of missionandministry.ie

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 joining us. All are welcome!

LECTIO DIVINA: WEDNESDAYS, 10.30 TO 11AM: Spiritual reading, prayer and contemplation of the Gospel for the following Sunday - an opportunity to listen to, share and discuss the Living Word. Wednesday 28th February from 10.30 to 11.00am in our parish Centre. For information, contact Marian on 087.295 8363.

DARING TO HOPE A Photographic Exhibition of the pioneering work of Irish Religious Sisters since the foundation of the State continues in Precious Blood Church, Fassaugh Avenue in Cabra, Dublin D07 X825. Sat 24th Feb: 12 noon to 6pm. Sun 25th Feb: 10am to 4pm

CROÍ MHÁIRE FOODBANK - DUBLIN 15: Thank you to all those parishioners who kindly donated non-perishable food items for the Foodbank. There will be a collection for the next two weekends - 24th/25th February, and 2nd/3rd March. Thank you, Martin (086 1591188)

KNOCK PILGRIMAGE - SAVE THE DATE: Our Archbishop, Dr. 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 thought-provoking speakers is 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, please fill out the form: <https://forms.office.com/e/1GBviSd72R/>. All queries may be sent to natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie.

Special Fundraiser - Local GAA: Cake sale of freshly homemade cakes and buns in aid of the St. Brigid's U15 Boys & Girls GAA Teams. At the Parish Centre, following both Masses on Sunday February 25th 2024. Míle buíochas.

Trócaire Ireland Appeal for Gaza. Coffee Morning, Cake Sale and Monster Raffle after 10am and 12noon Masses in the Parish Centre on St Patricks Day. Please come and support these devastated people. Let us show them that we care. Please bake or make a donation. Contact: Ellen Troy 0860610686

Children's Liturgy Team. Our next Faith Camp will be held on Saturday, March 16th, from 2:00pm to 4:30pm in the Parish Centre. Focus will be on Easter and the significance of Holy Week. All ages are welcome and parents are welcome to stay also. There will be something that suits every child; drama, arts & crafts, singing, music, fun and games, Treats and more. Spaces are limited so please book:

<https://form.jotform.com/232152033665348>