

## 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, as well as 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.

**APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 : 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY.**

Today, Divine Mercy Sunday, the Gospel recounts two apparitions of the Risen Jesus to his disciples, and in particular, to Thomas, the "doubting Apostle" (cf. *Jn* 20:24-29). In reality, Thomas is not the only one who struggles to believe. In fact, he represents all of us a little bit. Indeed, it is not always easy to believe, especially when, as in his case, one has suffered a tremendous disappointment. After a huge disappoint, it is difficult to believe. He had followed Jesus for years, running risks and enduring discomforts. But the Teacher was put on a cross like a criminal, and no one freed him. No one did anything! He is dead and everyone is afraid. How can Thomas trust again? How can he trust the news (from others) saying He is alive? There was doubt inside him.

Thomas, however, shows that he is courageous. While the others are closed up inside the Upper Room out of fear, he goes out, running the risk that someone might recognize, report and arrest him. We could even think that, with his courage, he would have deserved more than the others to meet the Risen Lord. Instead, precisely because he is away, Thomas is not there when Jesus appears to the disciples for the first time, on Easter evening, thus missing that opportunity. He had distanced himself from the community. How could he get [the opportunity] back? Only by going back to the others, returning there, to that family he had left behind, scared and sad. When he does so, when he returns, they tell him that Jesus had come, but he struggles to believe. He wants to see his wounds. And Jesus satisfies him: eight days later, he appears again in the midst of his disciples and shows them his wounds, his hands, his feet, these wounds that are the proof of his love, that are the ever-open channels of his mercy.

Let us reflect on these facts. In order to believe, Thomas wants an extraordinary sign – to touch the wounds. Jesus shows them to him, but *in an ordinary way*, coming in front of everyone, in the community, not outside. As if saying to him: if you want to meet me, do not search far away; remain in the community, with the others, and don't go away. Pray with them. Break bread with them. And he says this to us as well. That is where you will find me; that is where I will show you the signs of the wounds impressed on my body: the signs of the Love that overcomes hatred, of the Pardon that disarms revenge, the signs of the Life that conquers death. It is there, in the community, that you will discover my face, as you share moments of doubt and fear with your brothers and sisters, clinging even more strongly to them. Without the community, it is difficult to find Jesus.

Dear brothers and sisters, the invitation given to Thomas is valid for us as well. We, where do we seek the Risen One? In some special event, in some spectacular or amazing religious manifestation, only in our emotions and feelings? Or rather in the community, in the Church, accepting the challenge of staying there, even though she (the Church) is not perfect? Despite all of her limitations and failures, which are our limitations and failings, our Mother Church is the Body of Christ. And it is there, in the Body of Christ, that, still now and forever, the greatest signs of his love can be found impressed. Let us ask ourselves, however, if in the name of this love, in the name of Jesus' wounds, we are willing to open our arms to those who are wounded by life, excluding no one from God's mercy but welcoming everyone, each person like a brother, like a sister. God welcomes everyone. God welcomes everyone. May Mary, the Mother of Mercy, help us to love the Church and to make her a welcoming home for everyone. *Pope Francis*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS will be celebrated with a special programme of events at St Philip the Apostle Church, Mountview, this Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April. 2PM TO 4:30PM. Including Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, Veneration of Divine Mercy Image, 3pm prayer, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and concluding with Mass at 3.30pm. Confession from 2pm supported by priests across our Blanchardstown Deanery. All are welcome.

EASTER DUES: Our sincere thanks to those who have handed in contributions to the Easter Dues. As with all the other dues we receive at Christmas and Summer, and what is collected at our first collection at Mass, these monies are sent directly to the central Diocesan Common Fund. It is from this that priests working in our Diocese receive their

monthly stipend. It also ensures the care of sick and retired priests of the Archdiocese of Dublin. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

ETERNAL REST: Pray for the light of heaven to embrace the souls of our parishioners Sheelagh O'Hare and Frank Cockram who went to the Lord recently. May the Holy Spirit sustain all who mourn them.

Castleknock Tidy Towns - Poly Tunnel. Castleknock Lawn Tennis Club has very kindly agreed to allow us to locate a poly tunnel within their grounds. We are VERY excited to get going on this project but we need your help. Based on preliminary quotes, the project will cost in the region of €7,500. Fingal County Council have agreed to provide some funding but we are still short of money for the poly tunnel and ancillaries such as the internal shelving, seed trays, water storage containers and a shed to locate our tools and equipment. This greenhouse will be used to propagate pollinator-friendly annual and perennial plants from seeds and cuttings. The ground around the poly tunnel will also be used to grow immature trees in pots, prior to planting them out in Castleknock in a few years. All funds raised in this campaign will go towards the poly tunnel project costs or will be used on further CTT environmental projects within Castleknock. Please be part of a sustainable, environmentally-focused Castleknock and contribute with your donation today! <https://gofund.me/69778978>

All Ireland Rosary Rally in Knock on 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2024.

The All Ireland Rosary Rally is back this year on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> in Knock. The day begins with a Marian Conference at 9.30am in St John's Centre. Speakers include: Fr Michael Donnelly, Sr Ana Margarita Lanzas SCTJM, and Fr Joseph Maria Deane CFR. Then there will be an opportunity to meet over 20 apostolates from around Ireland from 11.30am in St John's Centre. A well-renowned speaker from Miami called Mother Adela Galindo will deliver the keynote Rosary talk at 1.00pm in the Basilica. Then there will be the Stations of the Cross outside at 2 pm, followed by the Rosary Procession. Bishop Phonsie Cullinan will be the Main Celebrant of the 3.00pm Concelebrated Mass which will include Anointing of the Sick. Confessions are available throughout the day, and there will be rosary and scapular-making workshops in the marquee. For more information and to see a list of buses going from around Ireland.

Please visit: [www.AllIrelandRosaryRally.com](http://www.AllIrelandRosaryRally.com)

### Taize Next Meeting.

"Taize for Young People" will take place on next Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm. All are welcome!

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK. Archbishop Dermot Farrell will lead our annual pilgrimage to Knock on Sat, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 is being planned.

CHARITY QUIZ IN AID OF SUDAN. There will be a charity quiz in Kavanagh's Pub, Laurel Lodge on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm. All proceeds will go directly to support the Kiltegan Fathers Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools in Riwoto, South Sudan, where there are over 1300 students enrolled per table of 4. Contact Fran Leahy at 0879473333 for further information.

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 and share the Living Word. Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30 to 11.00am in our parish centre. For further information, contact Marian on 087 2958363.

NORTHSIDE HOME CARE SERVICES - MEALS ON WHEELS is a service that delivers meals Monday to Friday to clients in their homes. Would you like us to deliver a meal to a family member or neighbour that could benefit from a nutritious meal and a dessert for €5.50 per day? Contact Ad or Catherine 01 805 8574.

### Anam Cara.

Anam Cara North Dublin, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7:15pm in the Hilton Hotel, Malahide Rd, Northern Cross, Dublin, D17 Y924. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please contact us on [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) or 085 2888 888 for any queries.

### Tai Chi.

Tai Chi 7-week introductory term starting 9th April 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](http://www.taichiclassesdublin.com) or contact Nicole & Declan Mills per Ph. 086 397 5979 or

email [taichiclassesdublin@posteo.ie](mailto:taichiclassesdublin@posteo.ie) Many thanks,

Nicole & Declan Mills

Ph. 086 397 5979 Nicole

Ph. 087 294 2234 Declan

### The Pope's Monthly Intention --- April 2024.

*For the Role of Women: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.*