

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, 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.

**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
21 APRIL 2024**

JESUS DEFENDS, KNOWS AND LOVES US

On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, called Good Shepherd Sunday, the Gospel (Jn 10:11-18) presents Jesus as the true shepherd who *defends, knows* and *loves* his sheep.

The “mercenary”, the one who does not care about the sheep because they are not his, is the opposite of the Good Shepherd. He does the job only for pay and is not concerned about defending them: when a wolf arrives, he flees and abandons them (cf vv. 12-13). Instead, Jesus, the true shepherd, *defends* us always and saves us in so many difficult situations, dangerous situations through the light of his word and the strength of his presence that we always experience if we want to listen, every day. The second aspect is that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, *knows* – the first aspect: *defend*; the second: *he knows* his sheep and the sheep know him (v. 14). How beautiful and comforting it is to know that Jesus knows us one by one, that we are not unknown to him, that our name is known to him! We are not a “mass”, a “multitude” for him, no. We are unique individuals, each with his or her own story, he knows each of us with our own story, each one with his or her own value, both as creatures and as people redeemed by Christ. Each of us can say: Jesus, knows me! It is true, it is like this: He knows us like no other. Only he knows what is in our hearts, our intentions, our most hidden feelings. Jesus knows our strengths and our defects, and is always ready to care for us, to heal the wounds of our errors with the abundance of his mercy. In him, the image the prophets had provided of the shepherd of the people of God is completely fulfilled: Jesus is concerned about his sheep, he

gathers them, he binds their wounds, he heals their ailments. We can read this in the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (cf Ez 34:11-16). Therefore, Jesus the Good Shepherd defends, knows, and above all *loves* his sheep. And this is why he gives his life for them (cf Jn 10:15). Love for his sheep, that is, for each one of us, leads him to die on the cross because this is the Father's will – that no one should be lost. Christ's love is not selective; it embraces everyone. He himself reminds us of this in today's Gospel when he says: "And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd" (Jn 10:16). These words testify to his universal concern: He is everyone's shepherd. Jesus wants everyone to be able to receive the Father's love and encounter God. And the Church is called to carry on this mission of Christ. Aside from those who participate in our communities, there are many people, the majority, who do so only at particular moments or never. But this does not mean they are not God's children: the Father entrusts everyone to Jesus the Good Shepherd, who gave his life for everyone. Brothers and sisters Jesus defends, knows and loves all of us. May Mary Most Holy help us be the first to welcome and follow the Good Shepherd, to joyfully cooperate in his mission.

Pope Francis

CHURCH CAR PARK

You may have noticed some changes to our Church car park beside the Community Centre that happened over the Easter holidays. This new signage, bollards and reconfiguration of some parking spaces was in response to concerns around the safety of the children as they arrive and leave school, to encourage drivers to drive slowly and with caution and to give the children a dedicated area in which to walk as they approach the school gates. It also angles those parking spaces closest to the school railings to make it easier for them to reverse in a safer manner. Our thanks to the Parish Pastoral Council who have continually raised the issue and to Miss Fay, the Principal of St Brigid's NS who was most helpful and supportive in getting this piece of work done.

COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF LAY MINISTRY NEXT SUNDAY

Archbishop Farrell has asked that the proceeds of **next weekend's SHARE collection** will be given to supporting the ongoing development of Lay Ministries in our Diocese. He writes: 'In the past year, we can point to green shoots emerging through efforts associated with our Building Hope initiative. The Diocesan Certificate in Catechesis, provided by the Office for Mission and Ministry, is a good example. This

in-demand programme examines the vocation and mission of the participants Shape Our Future Support Lay Ministry inspired to share their faith. It gives them the tools to assist others on their faith journey. I ask for your generous support for the Lay Ministry Collection. Your contributions are vital in sustaining and expanding these initiatives, ensuring our Church remains a vibrant beacon of hope and faith in the world.'

KNOCK PILGRIMAGE - NEXT SATURDAY 27TH APRIL - BUS FROM NAVAN ROAD PARISH

Archbishop Dermot Farrell will lead our annual Dublin Diocesan pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday, April 27th. Places available on a bus from Navan Road Parish. Leaving from their church at 7.50am, stop on way for refreshments, arrive in Knock at approx. 11.30am. 12 noon – workshops. 3pm – Pilgrimage Mass celebrated by Archbishop Dermot Farrell. Bring a packed lunch or visit a local restaurant. Bus leaves Knock at 4.30pm. Stop for refreshments on the way back. Estimated return time 8.15pm. Contact Navan Road Parish Office on 01 838 0265 to book a place or for further details. €40 per person.

ALL IRELAND ROSARY RALLY - KNOCK - JUNE 1ST:

www.AllIrelandRosaryRally.com

EASTER DUES: Our sincere thanks to those who have handed in contributions to the Easter Dues.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, CORDUFF - MASS AND HEALING SERVICE

Next Friday 26th April, 7.30pm, led by Fr Brendan Walsh, SAC. Adoration and Confession from 7pm. All welcome. Refreshments afterwards in the Pastoral Centre.

LECTIO DIVINA - WEDNESDAYS, 10.30 TO 11AM. For further information, contact Marian on 087 2958363.

CHILDREN'S ROSARY, 4PM SATURDAYS.: All are welcome!

CHILDREN'S FAITH CAMP: If you would like help with this work please contact Ellen Troy 0860610686.

TABLE QUIZ - CASTLEKNOCK AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

Friday 10th May, 8pm, Castleknock Tennis Club. €60 per table of 4. In aid of UNICEF Gaza and two local Dublin 15 Charities. Prizes for the first three tables, lots of spot prizes sponsored by local businesses. Contact castleknocklions@gmail.com or Brian 086 608 9629, or Robert 087 790 8520 to book.