

## 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.

### Centenary Celebrations of St Therese of Lisieux's Canonisation

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 11am-3pm, Carmelite Friary Church, Kildare Town. See church notice board for details.

### Venerable Matt Talbot Centenary Weekend Services

Friday June 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow.

### IRISH GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND - INFORMATION EVENING

MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 8PM. Castleknock Community Centre, Laurel Lodge.



# OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK

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

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

**GOD DOES NOT NAIL US TO OUR SINS:** The Gospel this Sunday (cf. John 8:1-11) presents the story of the adulterous woman, and highlights the mercy of God, who never desires the death of the sinner, but that we be converted and live.

Jesus is teaching the people and some scribes and Pharisees arrive, dragging before him a woman caught in adultery. The woman finds herself in the middle, between Jesus and the crowd (v. 3), between the mercy of the Son of God and the violence and rage of her accusers. In reality, they did not come to the Teacher to ask his opinion - they were bad people - but to ensnare him in a trap.

Had Jesus followed the severity of the law, approving the stoning of the woman, he would have lost his reputation for gentleness and goodness; had he wished to be merciful, he would have gone against the law, which he himself had said he did not want to abolish but to fulfill (cf. Mt 5:17). And Jesus is put into this situation. This evil intention lay hidden under the question they put to Jesus, "What do you say about her?" Jesus does not answer. He is silent and does something mysterious: "He bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground" (v. 7). Some say he was writing the sins of the Pharisees...

In this manner, he invites everyone to calm, not to act in haste and to seek God's justice. But those bad men insisted and expected an answer from him. They seemed blood-thirsty. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her" (v. 7). This response takes the wind out of the accusers, disarming them: All of them laid down their 'weapons' that is, the stones they were ready to throw, both the visible ones against the woman and the hidden ones against Jesus. And as the Lord continued to write on the ground the accusers went away, one by one, head lowered, beginning with the eldest, more keenly aware of not being without sin.

How much good it does us to know that we too are sinners! When we speak ill of others - we are all well acquainted with this - what good it would do to have

the courage to drop the stones we have to throw at others, and think about our own sins. Then only the woman and Jesus remained there: misery and mercy, face to face. "Woman, where are they?" Jesus says to her. This statement and his gaze full of mercy, of love, were enough to make this person feel - perhaps for the first time - that she has dignity, that she is not her sin, that she can change her life, that she can leave behind slavery and begin to walk down a new path.

Dear brothers and sisters, that woman represents all of us who are sinners, that is, adulterers before God, betrayers of God's fidelity. And her experience represents God's will for each one of us: Not our condemnation, but our salvation through Jesus. He wrote on the ground, in the dust of which every human being is made (cf. Gen. 2:7), God's sentence: "I do not desire that you die, but that you live." God does not nail us to our sins, he does not identify us with the evil we have done. We have a name, and God does not identify this name with the sin we have committed. He desires to liberate us, and he wants us to want this together with Him. He wants our freedom to be converted from evil to good, and this is possible with his grace. May the Virgin Mary help us to entrust ourselves completely to the mercy of God, in order to become a new creation. *Pope Francis*

**ETERNAL REST:** Please pray for the souls of Carmel Leonard, Dr Brian Lane, and Nicholette McMahon, whose funerals took place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday respectively. May the Lord grant them eternal rest, and may the Holy Spirit comfort and sustain all those who mourn.

**UPDATES: PARISH PARTNERSHIP PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK - SAT 26TH APRIL.** The pilgrimage will include the Sacrament of the Sick and our pilgrimage Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Farrell. A bus will be going from the churches in our parish partnership of Castleknock (collecting at 8am), Porterstown (8.15am) and Laurel Lodge (8.30am) - **please arrive early**. There will be stops for light refreshments in The Radisson Blu, Athlone, on the way to Knock and also on the way back. Return times that evening will be approximately Laurel Lodge 8pm, Porterstown 8.15pm and Castleknock 8.30pm. The price per person is €50, including these refreshments. To register your interest, please email your name, telephone number and the number of people going to parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie, or phone 01 640 9601. Please pay by 19<sup>th</sup> April, dropping an envelope marked Knock Pilgrimage into the sacristy or parish office, with your name and number. All age groups are welcome; our Diocese is encouraging young people in particular to come along.

**SEVEN LAST WORDS ON THE CROSS – BY JOSEPH HAYDEN.** Our Lady's Choral Society, RTE Concert Orchestra and soloists, Merchant's Quay Church, next Sat 12<sup>th</sup> April, 4pm. 1 hour long, tickets €22.50 from eventbrite.ie

**LECTIO DIVINA** Prayer and contemplation of the Gospel for the following Sunday. Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30 to 11am in Our Lady's Parish Centre.

**PARISH CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP** - This Lent, we have **wonderful opportunities** for children and youth to grow in faith, community and service:

**Easter Preparation – Songs, Signs & Stories!** Fridays, 6- 7pm, in our parish church. Children are invited to prepare for Holy Week through song, sign language, drama, and art. This is a special time to deepen their understanding of Easter and to prepare to play a part in the upcoming Holy week.

**Altar Server Training – "Step Up to Serve!"** Fridays, 6:00 - 6:30pm, in our parish church. A call to all children who feel drawn to serve at our worship. Fr. Damian will lead this training.

**NEW FAITH FORMATION GROUP:** Would you like to get involved in Catholic Faith Formation? Would you like to be part of a group to discuss, advise on, plan, lead and facilitate courses and programs in understanding and appreciating our faith? Courses and programs such as 'The Gift' (a 'Life in the Spirit' course), Bible Study courses, Lectio Divina Meditation and Contemplation, prayer groups, and many more. Information evening next Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Parish Centre, Castleknock.

**CROÍ MHÁIRE FOODBANK COLLECTION** There will be a basket left out this weekend and next weekend for the Croí Mháire Foodbank. Donations of Easter chocolate treat items for children of families who receive food support would be welcome. Thank you.

**CRY OF THE EARTH: *Latest:*** Fingal County Council are supporting our project and creating a biodiversity-rich corner on the church edge of Auburn Avenue green. A variety of sensory plants and grasses there will enhance pollinators' food supply and generate habitats for many species of insects and other creatures. Pupils from St Brigid's are involved in planting. We will increase planting too behind the courtyard cement pots, and create a haven for birds, bees, and insects. Fingal CC will plant shrubs and bushes to fill in any gaps. We request your support in creating this area for biodiversity where nature can grow and flourish.

**DUBLIN FLEADH 2025 - Free public events**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 12.30pm:** 'Music in the Phoenix Park': Performance by The Free Reeders (Harmonica Group) at Phoenix Park Visitor Centre, D08 Y304.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2-3pm** (beginners/children), **3-4pm** (improvers): Sean-Nós Dancing Workshop for Beginners/Improvers with Ada Kenny, Scoil Oilibhéir, Coolmine, D15 PX99.

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 4pm,** Junior Session (for children/teens) - open session for young traditional musicians of all levels to play/sing. Please bring your own instruments. St Brigid's GAA Club, Navan Rd, Dublin 15, D15 EY20 All events are free, but **booking is essential:** email [dublinfleadhevents2025@gmail.com](mailto:dublinfleadhevents2025@gmail.com) or Whatsapp 0872454143.