



**OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH  
CASTLEKNOCK, DUBLIN 15**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

In the Gospel this Sunday we see Jesus in conversation with Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a leading Jew. He was also a believer in Jesus. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night time under cover of darkness for fear he would be seen by others as a disciple of Jesus. We read the final part of their conversation in today's Gospel in which Jesus makes three points to Nicodemus.

Firstly, Jesus speaks of the reality of the cross. The cross will be the instrument through which eternal life becomes possible for all people.

Secondly, Jesus speaks of God's great love for the world and for humanity. God sends Jesus into the world to save all people. Everyone who believes in Jesus will share in God's eternal life.

Thirdly, Jesus speaks about the challenge of believing and living that belief in daily life. Temptation is never far away and there are aspects to all of our lives that we would wish to remain hidden because they are not of God.

It is St. Paul in today's second reading who reminds us that God's love is exceedingly generous. It is pure gift. Nothing we do can merit the salvation won for us by Jesus. Salvation is offered to us solely through believing in Christ. If we believe then we are compelled to respond to God's love made visible to us in Jesus. We strive, to the best of our abilities, to live as Jesus invites us to, loving God and loving our neighbour every day of our earthly lives.

*Fr. Kieran Coghlan*

**Mother's Day – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

We wish all mothers every blessing on this day.

**St. Partick's Day – 17<sup>th</sup> March**

Mass at 10.30am via the parish webcam.

**Lenten Talks**

A series of Lenten Talks is available on the Parish Webcam during Lent. A new talk will be uploaded from 7pm on each Monday of Lent.

**15<sup>th</sup> March:** *Women Witnesses: The challenges of proclaiming the Reign of God today - Sr. Sheila Curran*

**22<sup>nd</sup> March:** *A Journey of Hope through Grief - Olive Foley*

**29<sup>th</sup> March:** *How to Discern God's Will - Fr. Patrick Cahill*

To listen to the talks click on the Webcam link on the Parish Website. Across the top, above the image of our church, there are four headings. Click on the 4<sup>th</sup> heading entitled "Featured Videos". You will see a list of available videos. Click on a video to begin the talk.

**Novena to St. Joseph**

Pope Francis declared a special year in honour of St. Joseph on 8<sup>th</sup> December last. From 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March there will be a novena in honour of St. Joseph. The novena prayer is available on the parish website and copies are on the table at the back of the Church.

**First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2021**

Parents are invited to register their children with the parish if they wish to receive these sacraments this year. Registration is through an online form available on the parish website. The closing date for registration is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**Trócaire**

Trócaire was established by the Irish Catholic Bishops in 1973 as a response to poverty and injustice in the developing world. Your support for the annual Lenten appeal is much appreciated.