



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

**5th Sunday of Lent
21st March 2021**

There is a real sense of foreboding evident in the Gospel this Sunday. Jesus has an acute awareness of the suffering and death that lies ahead of him. The purpose of God revealing himself to us in Jesus is about to unfold and the mission of Jesus to redeem all humanity is about to enter its final phase.

Despite being greatly troubled at his impending death, Jesus has not lost sight of the bigger picture. He realises the significance of his death in the plan of salvation for all humanity. His sacrifice will bring about the restoration of relationships between God and humanity.

Through his death and resurrection Jesus has become the source of eternal life. Everyone who is baptised and believes in Jesus shares in that promise of new life. A Christian lives life knowing that he/she is on a journey towards entering into the fullness of life with God in glory.

The realisation of being saved through the death and resurrection of Jesus gives this season of Lent its context as a preparation for the celebration of Easter. Christians recognise the great gift of life given to us by Jesus in taking the sins of all humanity upon him on the cross. So during Lent we are invited to express sorrow for our sins and to make renewed efforts at amending our lives so that they more closely resemble the life of Jesus who is the role model for our discipleship. May the Lord continue to bless our Lenten efforts as we prepare ourselves for the coming Easter festivities.

Fr. Kieran Coghlan

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.

22nd March: *A Journey of Hope through Grief - Olive Foley*

29th 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 4th heading entitled "Featured Videos". You will see a list of available videos. Click on a video to begin the talk.

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 26th March 2021.

Holy Week and Easter

Due to Covid-19 restrictions all Holy Week and Easter ceremonies will be online via the Parish Webcam. A card with the Holy Week and Easter timetable is being distributed to as many homes as possible in the parish during the coming week.

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. For more information see www.trocaire.org

Statue of St. Joseph

Pope Francis declared a special year in honour of St. Joseph in December last. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, Mount Sackville, have very generously gifted a statue of St. Joseph to our parish to mark this year. The statue, which can now be seen in the church, will be installed in a more permanent manner in the coming weeks.