



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

**3rd Sunday of Easter
18th April 2021**

We have another Gospel account this Sunday of Jesus appearing to his disciples. The disciples are clearly finding it difficult to grasp that Jesus has risen from the dead. They remain somewhat doubtful and take some convincing. It is only when they see the wounds of Jesus that they realise that it is truly Jesus present with them.

Jesus then goes on to explain everything to the disciples. He opens their minds to understand the Scriptures. He reminds them that they are witnesses to it all and their task now is to proclaim this Good News.

In the *Acts of the Apostles*, which we read from at Mass throughout the Easter season, we hear of the preaching of the apostles in those early days and the growth of the first Christian communities. We must not forget though that this message of salvation, preached all those years ago, is the very same message that we are tasked with preaching today. Indeed the message of Jesus is alive today because faithful people have handed it on from generation to generation down through the centuries. Now it is our turn to proclaim the message in our time and ensure it continues to live in the hearts of the people who will come after us.

This time of pandemic has made many people question their faith and what they believe in. The inability to physically gather for prayer and worship as God's people has helped many to realise the value and importance of public prayer and our identity as Christian people. Despite the current restrictions, let us continue with God's grace to be witnesses to the Gospel in whatever way we can.

Fr. Kieran Coghlan

Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

The annual pilgrimage will be a virtual one again this year on Saturday 24th April. It begins via webcam with an address by Archbishop Dermot Farrell and some workshops hosted by Our Lady of Victories Parish, Ballymun Road. It then switches to Knock shrine for Mass via webcam. Details of the day's programme are available on the Dublin Diocesan website at www.dublindiocese.ie

Ecumenical Bible Week 2021

Running from **Pentecost Sunday (23rd May) to Trinity Sunday (30th May)**, Ecumenical Bible Week (EBW) is led by the Archdiocese of Dublin and the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough in collaboration with many other Christian traditions ranging from the Evangelical Alliance to Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians and support from the National Bible Society and Scripture Union. The overall theme this year is "Unlocking Faith Today: Responding to New Realities". To **Register visit** – www.bibleweek.ie

National Synod for the Catholic Church in Ireland

The Irish Catholic Bishops have recently announced their intention to hold a National Synod for the Catholic Church in Ireland. Preparations are due to begin this summer with a two year period of prayer and discernment and a nationwide consultation inviting people to share their thoughts on our Church, past, present and future. More information on this is available on www.catholicbishops.ie/synod