



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

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

The image of the vine and the vinedresser that features in this Sunday's Gospel is a remarkable image of both our personal relationship with God and the relationship between God and his people, the Church.

It reminds us that as Christian people we are connected to God. We do not live or grow as people in isolation. The growth of the vine and the work of the vinedresser in caring for and maintaining the vine are intrinsically linked. God cares for us and attends to us, pruning us, shaping us, moulding us, nourishing us, so that we grow and bear the fruit in life that he intends for us. The success of our productivity depends on the care of God and our willingness to allow ourselves to be nurtured and tended to in this way by God.

Today's culture places a premium on our being connected to one another. This past year of lockdowns and restrictions has brought home to us in a very real way how much we depend on social interaction with other people. The inability to physically be with people and the separation from being with family and friends over a sustained period has been acutely felt by many people.

Cut off from God we can do nothing of his will for us. Just as the branch separated from the vine withers and dies, so too do we die spiritually if we are cut off from God. We can keep in touch with God through prayer, listening to his Word in Scripture, and being sensitive to God speaking to us through the people and events of daily life.

*Fr. Kieran Coghlan*

### **Re-opening for public worship**

Our Church will re-open for public worship with Mass at 10am on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May. As before, the attendance at Mass is limited to 50 people in the main body of the church with some additional seating in the gallery. People attending Mass are asked to sanitise their hands on entry to the church which is via the main door only. Please wear a face covering while in the church, sit only in the designated seating and maintain physical distancing from other people.

### **First Friday – 7<sup>th</sup> May**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.30am until 6pm.

### **First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

These Sacraments, which normally take place at this time of year, are being postponed for the time being on public health advice. We look forward to celebrating these Sacraments later in the year when it is safer for us to do so. Please remember our children and their families in your prayers during this month.

### **Ecumenical Bible Week 2021**

Running from **Pentecost Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup> May) to Trinity Sunday (30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/synod)