



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

**6th Sunday of Easter
9th May 2021**

The word “love” is the key word in the Gospel reading at Mass today. Jesus invites his disciples to love one another just as he has loved them. This is the only commandment essential for Christian living.

Love is the principal characteristic of the relationship between God and all humanity. God creates us in love. God redeems us in love. God welcomes us into the fullness of love with him in heaven. The only appropriate response I can make when I experience God’s love in my own life is to be a loving person in return, loving God and allowing that love of God to be visible in my love of my neighbour.

Jesus showed the measure of his love in giving his life on the cross for the salvation of all humanity. This is the Good News we proclaim and which we want everyone to hear. This is what motivates the missionary work of the Christian community, the Church. People who have experienced God’s love in their own hearts have a natural desire to share that love with other people and to make it known especially to people who have not yet heard of the salvation offered to us in Jesus.

Love is the guiding principle for anyone who is sincere in their following of Jesus. Whenever we examine our conscience and reflect on the quality of our Christian discipleship, we are essentially thinking about how we have loved or not loved God and neighbour through the words and actions of our daily life. May the Lord bless us in our efforts to be faithful to his commandment to love another as he has loved us.

Fr. Kieran Coghlan

Re-opening for public worship

Our Church will re-open for public worship with Mass at 10am on Monday 10th 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.

To facilitate as many as possible to attend Mass as we re-open, there will be evening Mass at 7.30pm Monday to Friday for this week only.

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 on 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 (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