

## CHURCH SERVICES

### The Eucharist

**Sunday:** Saturday Vigil 6 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 12.15 p.m. & 6 p.m.

**Weekday:** Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. daily.  
Tuesday, Thursday & First Friday 7.30 p.m.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

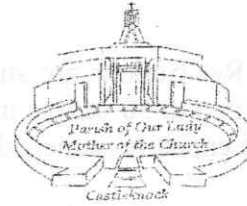
After 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Mass on Saturday and on request.

### Baptism

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 1.15 p.m.  
1 month's notice required. Book a baptism at the sacristy or parish office.  
Preparation meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 8 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

### Marriage

By arrangement with one of the Priests.  
A minimum notice of 3 months is required.



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

### Ascension of the Lord 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The end of the Easter season is drawing near as we mark the Ascension of the Lord this weekend. During the forty days between his resurrection and his ascension, Jesus appeared numerous times to his disciples. The primary purpose of these appearances was to reassure his disciples that he had risen from the dead, just as he had promised he would. As Jesus was about to ascend into heaven, he gave his final instructions to the disciples to go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News.

This mission to preach the Gospel has been the core work of the Church, the Christian community, for the past two thousand years. It will continue to be at the forefront of what our Church is about until Jesus comes again at the end of time. Today we are invited to reflect on the part that each one of us plays in this unfolding work of making salvation in Jesus known to everyone.

The Covid-19 pandemic has turned many people's lives upside down. With our churches closed for public worship for much of the past year, we have had to discover new ways of being Christian and sustaining our faith without the familiar presence of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. In this time, when our country is becoming evermore secularised, how do we enable people to hear afresh the message of Jesus and to realise its significance for giving us a perspective on life and for guiding us in how we can live it to the full? How do we facilitate that personal encounter with Jesus that leads to faith? As the disciples did all those years ago, we today are tasked with proclaiming the Gospel in a way that continues to touch hearts.

*Fr. Kieran Coghlan*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Fr. Kieran Coghlan** – 6 Beechpark Lawn, Castleknock, Dublin 15  
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**Fr. Denis O'Connor CSsR** – 32 Auburn Drive, Castleknock, Dublin 15  
Phone: 01-8214003

**Parish Office** – Monday to Thursday, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
Phone: 01-6409601 Email: [castleknockparish.olmc@gmail.com](mailto:castleknockparish.olmc@gmail.com)

**Church Sacristy** – Phone: 01-8214652

**Our Lady's Parish Centre** – Phone: 01-8209907

**Parish Website** – [www.castleknockparish.ie](http://www.castleknockparish.ie)

**Parish Newsletter** – Notices may be sent by email to [ourladysparish@gmail.com](mailto:ourladysparish@gmail.com)  
Written notices may be handed in to the Parish Office during office opening hours.  
Deadline for submissions is Thursday evening.



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

Our Church has now re-opened for public worship. Restrictions are still in place and the attendance at any Mass is currently limited to 50 people in the main body of the church with some additional seating capacity in the gallery area.

People are asked to observe the public health guidelines when in the Church for Mass or private prayer. Entry to the Church is via the main door only at this time. Please sanitise your hands on entry to the Church. Please wear a face covering while in the church. Please sit only in the designated seating and maintain physical distancing from other people.

Due to the limited capacity at present, it is likely that at certain times the Church will be unable to accommodate everyone who may arrive to attend any particular Mass, especially on Sundays. Please note that the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass remains suspended for the time being.

### **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**

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 along with other Christian traditions such as Evangelical Alliance, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians with support from the National Bible Society and Scripture Union. The overall theme "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)

### **May – Month of Mary**

Pope Francis invites us to pray the Rosary and seek the intercession of Mary for all who are suffering throughout the world because of the Covid-19 virus.

### **Laudato Si' – 241**

(Laudato Si' is second encyclical of Pope Francis)

Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power. Completely transfigured, she now lives with Jesus, and all creatures sing of her fairness. She is the Woman, 'clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars' (Rev 12:1). Carried up into heaven, she is the Mother and Queen of all creation. In her glorified body, together with the Risen Christ, part of creation has reached the fullness of its beauty. She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart (cf. Lk 2:19,51), and now understands the meaning of all things. Hence, we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom.

### **Our Lady of Fatima**

Between May 1917 and October 1917, Our Lady appeared several times to three Portuguese children - Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin, Lucia dos Santos.

In the apparitions, Our Lady asked the children to pray the Rosary for the world. Let us pray during this Pentecost month that the Holy Spirit may fill us with the fruits of God's love to serve people with the joy of the gospel.

### **Exam Prayer**

Dear Lord, as I take these exams, I thank you that my life is enfolded in the embrace of your great love for me. Help me with all the testing challenges of life that will come my way.

Holy Spirit, guide me with the gifts of Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding and Right Judgement.

Holy Mary, pray for us and all our young people. May they know the touch of your loving caress.