



OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK, DUBLIN 15

**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
25th July 2021**

Over the next few Sundays the Gospel reading at Mass comes from the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel. The theme of this chapter is Jesus as the Bread of Life, the one who nourishes and satisfies the deepest longings of every human heart.

The chapter begins with an account of the miracle of the loaves and fishes which we hear at mass today. Jesus literally feeds the people who have come in their thousands to listen to him speak. At a deeper level he is feeding the souls of the people who are hungry for something that will give meaning to their lives. Jesus is satisfying this need in a most miraculous way.

The miracle of the loaves and fishes clearly has Eucharistic overtones for us today. At Mass we too are fed and nourished by Jesus who gives himself to us in Holy Communion as the Bread of Life.

Over the last 16 months there have been a number of lengthy periods when we were unable to celebrate public Masses due to Covid-19 restrictions and parishioners were unable to receive Holy Communion. Many people felt a deep pain at not being able to physically receive the Lord. When we facilitated people to receive Holy Communion over a longer period of time at Christmas Masses, many people availed of this opportunity. This in itself is clear testament to belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. May Jesus, the Bread of Life, continue to sustain us in these challenging times.

Fr. Kieran Coghlan

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly – Sunday 25th July

Earlier this year Pope Francis announced a Church-wide celebration of a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Starting this year it will be celebrated on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Pope Francis reminded us that “old age is a gift and that grandparents are the link between the different generations, to pass on to the young the experience of life”. We remember grandparents and older people in our prayers today.

Summer Offering

To help replenish the reserves in the fund that provides for the priests of the diocese, parishioners are invited to make a summer offering at some time between now and the end of August. Summer Offering envelopes are available at the back of the Church.

The Lough Derg Pilgrim Path

The Lough Derg Pilgrim Path on the lough shore is now open daily. The full route is a 12km loop, with a shorter 8km option, and several information boards highlight features of particular interest. Leaflets are available at the Visitors Centre. A guided walk experience will be offered on Sunday 25th and Saturday 31st July, with Mass outdoors, weather permitting. Further dates for these guided walks will follow for late August and early September. For further information see www.loughderg.org For bookings email info@loughderg.org or telephone 071-9861518.

Praying for Vocations

Archbishop Farrell is asking for people and priests to pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life on a regular basis. As you are well aware, the need is great, so let's answer God's call and “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest”

PATHWAYS: Exploring Faith as an Adult

Pathways is a two-year, one evening a week, Adult Faith Development course on Thursday evenings, 7pm to 9.30pm from late September to May. Run by the Archdiocese of Dublin in DCU St. Patrick's Campus (MDCCE), Drumcondra Road. Application now open for September 2021. Early application advised. Contact *Pathways* Director, Eileen Houlahan at 01-8087594 or pathways@dublindiocese.ie Web: www.evangelisation.ie

Theology of the Arts. Does the Church need Art?

The Priory Institute, Tallaght have a week-long online Summer School running from 8th to 13th August and again from 22nd to 27th August. The course includes six recorded presentations and is very flexible as it is delivered entirely online. Cost €50. Find out more and register on www.prioryinstitute.com or phone 01-4048124.