



OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK, DUBLIN 15

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8th August 2021

We continue reading this Sunday 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.

Jesus, in his teaching, is telling the people that what he is offering them is something quite different. Jesus refers to himself as the Bread of Life and the Living Bread. He promises to feed all who believe in him in a new way. Jesus links himself with the works of God in Jewish history whereby God fed the Israelite people in the desert on their journey out of the slavery of Egypt. Jesus is now the means through which God is continuing to feed his people.

Not surprisingly many people find this a difficult teaching to accept. It can only be assented to through faith. It is our faith in Jesus that enables us to say "Amen" when we approach the altar and the minister presents the sacred host to us accompanied by the words "The Body of Christ".

Once again today, we are invited to open our hearts to Jesus who comes to us as the Bread of Life and the Living Bread, especially when we receive him in Holy Communion. By welcoming and accepting him into our hearts we are strengthened to face the many challenges of life that confront us at this time. This is especially true with the difficulties posed by the Covid-19 virus and the restrictions that still impinge in many ways on our daily lives. Jesus feeds us with the strength to shoulder this burden and to remain hopeful that it will soon ease sufficiently to allow us return to a more normal way of life.

Fr. Kieran Coghlan

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.

Youth 2000 - Summer Festival - 13th to 15th August

The festival is primarily taking place online. All talks, testimonies, liturgies, prayer and worship will take place online for the course of the weekend and it is here that you can watch, engage with and participate in the Summer Festival in its entirety.

However, in line with government and church regulations, this year we are able to add in person elements at Naas and Dundalk to our Summer Festival. For all information and to register please visit www.youth2000.ie

ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG

Accord is currently recruiting volunteers who have a positive attitude towards marriage in the Catholic Church to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators. Successful applicants will receive professional training. Contact Aisling on 01 505 3112 or by email to info@accord.ie The closing date for receipt of registration of interest forms is Friday 27th August. For additional information see www.accord.ie

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. Dates for a guided walk experience will be offered 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