

CHURCH SERVICES

THE EUCHARIST

Sunday: Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 10.00am and 12.00 noon
Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.00am
Tuesday, Thursday 7.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: After 10.00am and before 6.00pm Mass on Saturdays and on request.

Baptism: Normally on 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 1.00pm. Enquiries to the parish office.

Marriage: By arrangement with one of the Priests.

Evening Weekday Mass availability in our Deanery:

- St Brigid's, Blanchardstown, 7.30pm Mass on Mondays
- St Luke's, Mulhuddart, 7.30pm Mass on Wednesdays
- St Patrick's, Corduff, 7.30pm Mass on Fridays

CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Damian McNeice - Phone: 089 445 3987

Fr. Denis O'Connor CSsR -Phone: 01-8214003

Parish Office - Monday to Thursday, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Phone: 01-6409601 Email: parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie

Church Sacristy - Phone: 01-8214652

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

Parish Website - www.castleknockparish.ie

Parish Newsletter - Notices may be emailed to ourladysparish@gmail.com Written notices may be handed in to the Parish Office. The deadline for submissions is Thursday evening.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX'S CANONISATION

Saturday 26th April, 11am-3pm, Carmelite Friary Church, Kildare Town.

See church notice board for details.

VENERABLE MATT TALBOT CENTENARY WEEKEND SERVICES

Friday June 6th to Sunday June 8th. Details to follow.

RETREATS NIGHTS IN LENT, MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CHURCH,

www.cabraparish.ie

Retreat for Women, Tuesday 25th March, 7pm, Feast of the Annunciation



OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PARISHES OF
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, LAUREL LODGE
AND ST MOCHTA'S PORTERSTOWN.

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
23 MARCH 2025

THE GOD OF ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY: "In today's Gospel begins Jesus comments on some news of the day. While people still remember the 18 who died when a tower collapsed on them, they tell him about some Galileans whom Pilate had killed (cf. *Lk* 13:1). And there is a question that seems to accompany these tragic affairs: who is to blame for these terrible events? Perhaps those people were guiltier than others and God punished them? These are questions that also come up today. When crime news weighs on us and we feel powerless before evil, we often ask ourselves: is it perhaps a punishment from God? Did he bring about a war or a pandemic to punish us for our sins? And why does the Lord not intervene?"

We must be careful: when evil oppresses us, we run the risk of losing our clarity and, in order to find an easy answer to what we are unable to explain, we end up putting the blame on God. And very often the bad habit of using profanities comes from this. How often do we attribute to God our woes and misfortunes in the world, to he who instead leaves us always free and hence never intervenes by imposing himself, but only by proposing himself; He who never uses violence and indeed suffers for us and with us! In fact, Jesus rejects and strongly contests the idea of blaming God for our evils: those persons who were killed by Pilate and those who died beneath the tower were not any more at fault than others, and they were not victims of a ruthless and vindictive God, who does not exist! Evil can never come from God because "He does not deal with us according to our sins" (*Ps* 103:10), but according to his mercy. This is God's style. He cannot treat us otherwise. Rather than blaming God, Jesus says we need to look within ourselves: it is sin that produces death; it is our selfishness that tears apart relationships; it is our wrong

and violent choices that unleash evil. At this point the Lord offers the true solution: conversion. He says, "unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Lk 13:5). But Jesus knows that conversion is not easy, and he wants to help us here. He knows that we often repeat the same mistakes and the same sins; that we become discouraged. Thus, after his appeal, he encourages us with a parable that tells of the patience of God. He offers the comforting image of a fig tree that does not bear fruit during the accorded season, but is not cut down. More time is given to it, another possibility. God always gives us another opportunity. He does not cut us down out of his love. He does not lose heart or tire of offering us his trust again, with tenderness. Brothers and sisters, God believes in us!" *Pope Francis*

ETERNAL REST: Please pray for the souls of Séamus O'Shea whose funeral took place on Thursday, and Declan Cahill, whose funeral took place on Friday in Laurel Lodge parish. May the Lord grant them eternal rest, and comfort and sustain all who mourn.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SATURDAY 26TH APRIL. Including workshops, outdoor walks, the Sacrament of the Sick and our pilgrimage Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Farrell. A bus will be going from our parish partnership of Castleknock, Laurel Lodge and Porterstown, collecting at each parish. There will be stops for light refreshments in The Radisson Blu, Athlone, on the way to Knock and on the way back. The price per person is €50, including these refreshments. To register your interest, please email your name, telephone number and the number of people going to parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie. Please pay by 17th April by dropping an envelope marked Knock Pilgrimage into the sacristy or parish office, with your name and telephone number. All age groups are very welcome.

PARISH CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP This Lent, we have **wonderful opportunities** for children and youth to grow in faith, community and service: **Easter Preparation - Songs, Signs & Stories!** Fridays, 6:00 - 7:00pm, our parish church. Children are invited to prepare for Holy Week through song, sign language, drama, and art. This is a special time to deepen their understanding of Easter and to prepare to play a part in the upcoming Holy week.

Altar Server Training - "Step Up to Serve!" Fridays, 6:00 - 6:30pm, our parish church. A call to all children who feel drawn to serve at our worship. Fr. Damian will lead this training.

Faith & Film Night - "The Chosen" (For ages 12+), Saturday, 22nd March, 4:30 - 6:30pm, Our Lady's Parish Centre. A great opportunity for our youth to get together, watch an episode of *The Chosen* and connect.

SYCAMORE in St Mochta's parish centre, Porterstown. Sycamore resumes on Monday 24th March at 7.30pm; the last session will be on Monday 31st March, 7.30pm.

LECTIO DIVINA Spiritual reading, prayer and contemplation of the Gospel for the following Sunday. Next Wednesday 26th March from 10.30 to 11am in Our Lady's Parish Centre, Castleknock.

HEALING MASS - ST PATRICK'S, CORDUFF - FRIDAY 28TH MARCH There will be a healing mass led by Fr. John Walsh (Limerick) next Friday 28th March at 7.30pm with adoration from 7pm in St Patrick's Church Corduff . All welcome, and to the cup of tea afterwards in the Pastoral Centre.

CRY OF THE EARTH: Latest developments: Fingal County Council are supporting our project and creating a biodiversity-rich corner on the church edge of Auburn Avenue green. A variety of sensory plants and grasses there will enhance the pollinators' food supply, and generate habitats for many species of insects and other creatures. Pupils from St Brigid's will be involved in planting. Take time to look at this area and you will see the beautiful gravel pathways surrounding the plants. This area is not for car parking - it's an area to be enjoyed by the community. We plan to increase planting too behind the courtyard cement pots, and create a haven for birds, bees, and insects, and generate a variety of habitats. Fingal CC will plant shrubs and bushes to fill in any gaps. We request your support in creating this area for biodiversity where nature can grow and flourish.

CASTLEKNOCK TIDY TOWNS The AGM of Castleknock Tidy Towns will take place on Thursday 3rd April at 7pm in Our Lady's Parish Centre, Castleknock. There is an open invitation to all residents of Castleknock, and an opportunity to find out what is happening locally. There will also be a talk given by Mr. John Halley with a theme of "*Restoring Nature Restoring Ourselves*".

SEVEN LAST WORDS ON THE CROSS - BY JOSEPH HAYDEN. Our Lady's Choral Society, RTE Concert Orchestra and soloists, Merchant's Quay Church, Sat 12 April 4pm. 1 hour long, tickets €22.50 from eventbrite.ie

DUBLIN FLEADH 2025 10TH - 11TH MAY, DUBLIN 15 - '25 for 2025 free public events'

Saturday 5th April, 2-4pm: '**Austin Joyce Memorial Set dancing workshop**' with Seán Murphy, Scoil Olibhéir, Coolmine, Dublin 15.

Sunday 6th April, 1pm: '**Hidden gems in the Phoenix Park Walk**' with Larry Healy

Sunday 6th April, 4pm: '**Music in the Phoenix Park**': Performance by Muintir Uí Bhreacáin at Phoenix Park Visitor Centre. All events are free, but **booking is essential**: email dublinfleadhevents2025@gmail.com or Whastapp 0872454143.

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