

The CMC Times



**Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla
December 2020 / January 2021**



CHURCH FLOWERS

Would you like to have flowers in Church in memory of a loved one or to remember an anniversary, a wedding, a baptism, to celebrate a special event or for no particular reason.

The flowers can be an arrangement, fresh flowers in a vase or a pot plant.

It does not have to be expensive.

For more information please contact

Meryl Foster (Castleknock),
Margaret Tutty (Clonsilla) or the
Parish Office on
01 - 8200040



Rector Writes

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is associated for us all with gifts, with presents and above all, with God's present to humankind: his Son, Jesus Christ. That is why we give each other gifts, to celebrate the supreme gift.

Part of the association of Christmas with gifts comes from of course the story of the wise men bringing the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We celebrate this at Epiphany on the 6th January.

But there's one other gift which is important to remember, and that's the star. "As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold".

I know some people say 'I must look up my stars' – probably there is nothing more pagan than dependence on our stars. The symbol of the star of Bethlehem may have a lot to say to us.

In the last chapter of the last book of the Bible, the Book of The Revelation, Jesus says of himself 'I am the bright and morning star'!

It means the star to guide us is the Lord himself known in Jesus. He never lets us down. He never leads us up the garden path. For he is wisdom, Love, and Light. But he's the God of Surprises.

I love the verse of the Scottish poet George MacDonald:

"They all were looking for a King
to slay their foes and lift them high
thou cam'st a little baby thing that made a woman cry".

That was the surprise! The star of Bethlehem led to a surprise.

Christmas with a difference

At the time of writing we are still on Level 5 Restrictions, our services are broadcast online on Sundays. I hope you have been watching. We will hear on December 2nd what we can do in December. I will let you know how we move ahead then. It is my hope we will be able to celebrate Christmas, however in a different way, in any case can I wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Canon Paul



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Please feel free to take some copies of the
magazine to give to your friends and family

Come join us on **Facebook** for more fun
and information
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or on Twitter on [@cmcparish](https://twitter.com/cmcparish)

**If any parishioners are unwell or due
to go into hospital, please let us know
so we can visit. Contact details above.**

Print Deadline

The next edition of The CMC
Times will be a double issue
for **February 2021**. The
deadline for articles / photos
will be **Friday 15th January**
2021.

More News

Knit & Natter

Due to current restrictions our evening Natters had to end but we can still knit and maybe watch TV or listen to the Radio and chat to family at the same time.

Innocent Drinks will be accepting the Bottle Hats for delivery to them next year. We have had a lovely "Thank You" card from our MU Diocesan President, Karen regarding our prem baby items – teddies, matinee coats, blankets, etc. So let us all keep clicking the needles.

Valerie Greene



Re-roofing of St Thomas' Mulhuddart

I am pleased to say that the re-roofing of St Thomas is now complete. Moreover, a lightning conductor has been installed and the external walls have been cleaned down. There still internal work to be done but the building is being preserved for future generations. Our thanks to the roofers as well as Alan Kelly, James Anderson and Gordon Kellet for all their work.

Canon Paul



16 Days of Activism against Gender based Violence

On Sunday 29th November, a pre-recorded Service of Word was broadcast on the Parish YouTube Channel - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_4GE2QH5nUxy5CdRZqoMrA. This service was to mark the 16 Day of

Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in conjunction with the Dublin and Glendalough Mothers' Union. This service included a very compelling interview with Ifrah Ahmed who is an advocate against Gender-Based Violence and in particular Female Genital Mutilation.

Pictured are Canon Paul, Stella Obe and members of the Dublin and Glendalough Mothers' Union who took part in the service.



News in the Parish



We awaited the arrival in the park, wind blowing the trees madly and making the leaves fall like confetti. The car drew in and out came our very own Willie Wonka (8 year old granddaughter), complete with purple top hat (homemade), carrying a cane (painted papier mache) in one hand and carefully clutching a "Wonka" chocolate bar in the other. Purple jacket and a bow tie completed the outfit. Willie Wonka produced a kite and the same chilling wind whipped the kite into the air, yellow and blue, soaring to the treetops – a wonderful sight and a joy to behold. Our Covid compliant Halloween afternoon is one to remember for all the best reasons.

By contrast at home there was no excited doorbell ringing, no giggling from disguised callers, no bags open or eyes popping to see the treats before a hasty departure. At 9pm we lit a candle to remember those who had passed this year as a friend recently lost a loved one to Covid.

I recently came across the following "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation." From Philippians 4:12. Good advice and I'm working on it, aiming to increase the days when acceptance, trust and contentment are the norm. I also think of our visit to the Aillwee Cave, Co. Clare when I discovered the light of one small torch is incredibly powerful and leads the way through a very dark place. From a children's prayer by Faith Oliver Burdick:

So when the sun comes up, God, or fire is lit, or joyful candles burn,
I praise you. For you are like the light you made,
Warmer than all warm, brighter than bright,
And in your presence, God, I do not fear dark night.

On a different note we all enjoyed the interaction, smiling faces, familiar voices from Meath to Dublin to the Wirral. It was our "drop in and say hello and moments of prayer". Thank you to Sylvia for organising our Zoom connection. It's not the same as meeting in person but it's a good link for those who can avail of it with no county or country boundaries in these days of Level 5 Covid restrictions.

We look forward to being in touch again with December plans when we know the Government guidelines and hope to catch up with our members/friends for whom technology is not an option.

We send our sympathy and prayers to Sandra Connolly on the passing of her father, Bob Jones, in Co Mayo and we remember those who are unwell, especially in our own branch at this time.

Take care and stay safe.

Anne C

Merry Christmas & a Peaceful New Year

We wish all our Parishioners
the Joy and Peace of the Christmas Season
from
Canon Paul Houston, Stella Obe, Jenny McGrath
and The Select Vestries.

Christian Burial

On Friday 30th October, a funeral service took place for Richard Sydney (Sid) Kerr, in St. Brigid's Church, Castleknock. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family, Sylvia, Richard and Robert, for their loss.

Sunday Club


Christmas

Fun

**Sunday 20th December
2020**

2.00 p.m.

Email: sundayclubcastleknock@gmail.com

for more details.