

The CMC Times



**Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla
February 2023**

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

Print Deadline

The next edition of The CMC Times will be a double issue for **March 2023**. The deadline for articles / photos will be **Wednesday 15th February 2023**.

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) or
Margaret Tutty (Clonsilla)

Rector Writes

Dear Friends,

February may be the shortest month, but it is a month that brings up several significant dates in our yearly calendar. Although they fall in the same month on the face of it, there seems to be little to link these dates together.

The month begins with St Brigid's Day (and from this year on our new bank holiday!). St Brigid's Day marks not only the commemoration of the life and faith of Brigid but also the beginning of spring with its new birth and new growth. There is a tradition on St Brigid's Day of making distinctive crosses woven out of rushes. Traditionally the crosses were hung on Irish homes on February 1st to keep evil and hunger away from the household.

From St Brigid at the start of the month we move to the most romantic day of the year (or if you're an old cynic the most commercial), St Valentine's Day on February 14th. Although St Valentine's Day (or Valentine's Day as it is also called) has become a day of romantic gestures, cards, flowers and dinner for two, it originated as a Christian feast day honouring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine.

According to tradition, the origins of the day started in the not overly romantic location of a prison when a prisoner called Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his jailer. This story seems to have been added to over the years with claims he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution. In another tradition St Valentine is said to have performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry.

On the 21st of February we mark Shrove Tuesday or 'Pancake Day' as it is often widely known. This is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were "shriven" (absolved from their sins). A bell would be rung to call people to confession. This came to be called the "Pancake Bell" and is still rung today. In preparation for

fasting during the penitential season all the eggs and fats in the house would be used up and making pancakes was the perfect way to use them up.

The following day, 22nd February, we mark Ash Wednesday, the official beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of reflection and penitence as we acknowledge our need for repentance. Traditionally palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday were burnt to form ashes which were then used by a priest to mark a person's forehead with a cross representing death and repentance. As penitence during Lent, people often fasted for periods, a tradition that carries on today with many giving up treat foods such as chocolate between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

A month that begins with the start of spring, throws in a little romance and ends with penitence and fasting. February certainly brings us variation in its significant celebrations but do these days have any connection or any real significance to us?

When we think of each date in a little more detail, we can begin to see that each is linked by one common theme – "transformation." Spring brings to an end the dark months of winter with the dawn of new life and new beginnings. Our gardens are quite literally transformed with new growth, bulbs begin to emerge, buds open and blossom and bird's hatch. Spring is a time of great potential for what lies ahead.

As a young boy of about 10, I recall opening a valentine's card from my childhood sweetheart. In that moment my whole life seemed transformed, little love hearts were floating all around, there was music in the air. Of course, it didn't last as I crashed back down to earth with a bump when I discovered she had been set up by my older sister and her older sister to play a cruel trick on me (I can hear you saying aww as you read this!). Despite my childhood heartbreak when we look beyond the commercialism, St Valentine's Day can often be a day of new love or a romantic gesture and can re-ignite the sparkle in a relationship (no pressure men!).

Shrove Tuesday moving into Ash Wednesday and Lent is

by definition a time of transformation. A time when we seek to put behind us those things in our lives that we know are wrong and strive to follow God more closely. When we seek God's forgiveness and leave behind those things that burden us, we are given a fresh start and our lives are transformed.

The dictionary definition of transformation is "a marked change in form, nature, or appearance". Sometimes change is a difficult thing and often (dare I say particularly in church) we find it hard to let go of the past. In spring nature reminds us that the old often must die off for the new to be able to shoot through and on the other hand that what may sometimes seem old and lifeless can find new life and grow again. St Valentine's Day can often be a reminder of the more romantic days of our youth and how love, in its various forms, has impacted upon and transformed our lives.

Imagine for a moment starting a new thing, or perhaps leaving behind something that has troubled you for a while. Imagine what that transformation would look like. Throughout Lent I am encouraging our church family to a

challenge of praying a prayer every day for the forty plus days. By doing something new, as a church family, all praying the same words and asking God to bless our church, our lives and our community, I believe we will see God doing something new, I believe we will see transformation not just of our own lives and our own faith but for us as God's church. I encourage you to pray with us and to journey with us through February, through Lent and for whatever God has in store for us in the coming years.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Rev Colin



Seasonal Services

Thank you to all who contributed to our seasonal services those who decorated the churches, those who read in our services, our organist Fern and our choir and those who provided refreshments. We were delighted to host a number of services that hadn't been able to take place fully since 2019 including our Castleknock National School Service when St Brigid's church was full as the children led our worship with plays, readings and singing. Below are some of the lovely decorations from St. Mary's Church for Christmas.



Services for February 2023

Wed 1 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Castleknock Parish Centre

Sunday 5 The Third Sunday before Lent

10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer St Mary's

11.30 a.m. Morning Prayer St Brigid's

Wed 8 No Wednesday Service

Sunday 12 The Second Sunday before Lent

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion St Mary's

11.30 a.m. Holy Communion St Brigid's

Wed 15 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Castleknock Parish Centre

Sunday 19 The Sunday before Lent

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion St Mary's

11.30 a.m. Holy Communion St Brigid's

Wed 22 Ash Wednesday

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Castleknock Parish Centre

8.00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service St. Brigid's

Sunday 26 The First Sunday in Lent

10.00 a.m. "Cornerstone" St Mary's

11.30 a.m. "Cornerstone" St Brigid's

8.00 p.m. Late Evening Office St Thomas'

Wed 1 March No Wednesday Service

The Wednesday service of Holy Communion continues in Castleknock Parish Centre at 10.30 a.m.

Live streaming will continue from St. Brigid's Church on Sundays at 11.30 a.m.

In the first of a series of articles, we are chatting to Olive Good who has started on the road to becoming a Diocesan Lay Reader.



Tell us a little about yourself?

I was born and raised in Dublin and I'm married to Philip. We have three children, two boys, 22 and 18, and a 14 year old girl. In my earlier years I worked in administration and youth work until our second child arrived. Since then I have been the perpetual volunteer, volunteering with Girls' Brigade as an officer and Captain of our local company and the national Child Protection Officer; with Boys' Brigade as a leader, child protection team member and more recently on their national Management Committee; with Mothers' Union as a Diocesan Trustee looking after the sales of cards and goods; and with the Church of Ireland Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough in charge of Safeguarding Trust.

Was Christianity an important part of your upbringing?

I attended church with my family in North Strand where I joined our church choir and was confirmed in my early teens. This led not just to being part of the church but to having a real personal faith in Jesus as my Saviour. After I was confirmed I started to teach in Sunday School. I also joined the Christian Fellowship group in my parish, which kept me involved with my parish and this in turn continued to develop my faith throughout my teens when many of my peers were drifting away. All of this has resulted in my Christian faith being very important to me.

What inspired you to take on the Diocesan Lay Reader program?

Shortly after I got married, I felt a calling to ministry within the church. However, the door was closed to me at that time to take it further. Over the intervening years that calling never fully left me. When the opportunity arose to undertake the Diocesan Lay Reader program and with the support of my Rector, I started to explore this option anew and this time God has allowed everything to fall into place for me to take on this new ministry.

Do you think your life experiences to date will help you through this process? In what way?

Yes, I feel that being a trainer for many years will help me to be able to lead services as I am familiar with speaking in front of groups. I also feel that some of my life experiences will help me to minister to others going through similar

experiences, as it is my faith that has helped me through my most difficult times.

Was there any feeling of apprehension?

Yes, there definitely was, even though you trust that God is leading you down this path, there is still a feeling of am I good enough to do this and who am I to be taking on such a role. There is also a bit of apprehension about what others will think of you taking on this role. There is also the worry of going back to college after so many years and being able to deal with the academic side of the training.

Have you ever been involved in any other ministry previously?

I feel that my youth work and child protection work for the church are ministries. I have been very privileged to work with children and young people since I was a teenager myself and to have the opportunity to talk to them about God, the Bible, and their faith. The safety of our children at church activities is so important and I feel that the Safeguarding Trust work I have done has been a vital part of the Church's ministry to children.

Having now started on this journey, what advice would you give someone considering this path?

If you feel God calling you to ministry, don't be afraid to take the first step and see where He guides you to. You won't be on the journey on your own, not only will God be with you but you will be journeying with others on that path to ministry and together you will learn so much. And the academic side is not so bad (well not so far anyway)!

What is your hope for your future in doing the Diocesan Lay Reader program?

In doing the Diocesan Lay Reader programme I hope that I can be a resource for our Parish to help us to further God's work in our church community as well as the wider community. I hope that I can also be a resource for our Dioceses to be able to help out in other parishes to enable them to continue to worship together as a community.

Condolences

As a church family we were saddened by the deaths of Amanda Cunningham and Daphne Gardiner in January.

Amanda's funeral service took place in St Brigid's on Tuesday 17th January followed by committal in Glasnevin

Crematorium. We keep Amanda's daughters Ashling and Zoe, her father Billy and brother William and the wider family circle in our prayers.

Daphne's funeral took place in Mount Jerome Crematorium on Monday 23rd January. We remember her husband Tom, children Siobhan, Vivienne and Clive and the wider family circle in our prayers.



Monthly Prayer Gathering

It is a very special privilege to be able to meet together as a church community to pray for our churches, our community, the wider world and those who are struggling with illness or other difficulties.

We meet again on **Monday 20th February** in St Mary's, Clonsilla. All are welcome.



Hats, Scarves and Gloves – Christmas Giving

Thank you to all who contributed to our Christmas Giving collection of hats, scarves and gloves to help those who find themselves without a home this winter. An entire boot full of items were donated which we passed on the local group, Lucan Homeless Donations, to distribute to those in need at this time.



Craft Corner

We meet once a month in Castleknock Parish Centre from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon.

The cost is €5 which includes craft materials and refreshments. Feel free to bring along any project you may be working on and share ideas. The next event is on **Monday 27th February**. You will be more than welcome! The attendance at the January meeting was the biggest attendance yet, see the photo below.





We send sincere sympathy to our members Hazel Bridcut on the recent loss of her daughter Elizabeth and to Grainne Hynes on the loss of her sister Carmel.

We also send good wishes to those who are unwell and to those who are undergoing treatment at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Anne C.

**Mothers' Union are hosting
Castleknock Heritage and Tidy Towns**

Evelyn Pender

Monday 13th February 2023

Castleknock Parish Centre at 8.00 p.m.

ALL welcome to hear about Castleknock past and present

Celebration for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

On Friday 20th January, we gathered with our friends in Our Lady of the Mother Church for a special Taizé Service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



The service was specifically aimed for young people, and it was wonderful to see a good number of our confirmation class come along.

The theme of the week this year was justice with the tag line "Be-Longing." The service was led by the young people of Our Lady of the Mother Church. In his talk, based on the Beatitudes, Rev Colin used the illustration from a game called "Herd Immunity" to point us to Jesus as the one who went against the crowd by teaching and demonstrating justice for all. We were reminded of our need to help everyone to feel they belong and that our hearts should be-longing for justice.

Holy Baptism

We were delighted to welcome Millicent Arabella Ethel May Jones into our church family with Holy Baptism on Sunday 29th January in St Brigid's. Millicent was joined by her mother, Alexandra, and Godparents Stephen and Nicky for the special occasion.



Organisations News

Boys' Brigade

Boys' Brigade continue to meet on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Centre 6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.



Recently the Company welcomed Ken Gregory who spoke to the boys and girls about his work as an airline pilot! This exciting topic sparked many questions from all age groups. The team would like to thank Ken for this inspiring session.

The BB Team

Castleknock National School

CNS 6th Class were delighted to take part in the Annual Black Santa Appeal in St Ann's Church, Dawson Street. They sang Christmas carols for an hour and helped raise over €80k throughout the appeal.



This Christmas CNS also raised €350 in an art raffle for The Capuchin Day Centre in Dublin 7 who support the Homeless. They also provided over 30 care packs for the homeless.



Girls' Brigade

The girls having been having great fun over the past couple of months; learning dances and skipping, doing lots of craft and badgework, and learning Bible stories.



Before Christmas the Tiny Tots and Explorers enjoyed a trip to Ship Shape Playzone and the Juniors, Seniors and Brigaders enjoyed a trip Ice skating. Even some of the leaders ventured out onto the ice.

After a break of two sessions, it was great to be able to have girls enter the Feis competition, which was back in-person this year. We had three Explorers enter the competition singing 'I will make you fishers of men' and 'There are hundreds of sparrows, thousands, millions' in their age category. We were so proud of the girls undertaking this solo competition as it takes a lot of courage to stand up in front of everyone and sing on your own, we were even prouder when they placed 1st, 2nd and Highly Commended.

All the girls are currently working towards the Modern Dance competitions, which will take place in March.

We are also looking forward to our Annual Display which will take place on Friday 21 April.



CONFIRMATION 2023



Preparations have begun for our young people preparing to affirm their faith through the Rite of Confirmation. We are delighted to have 21 young people currently meeting twice a month for classes as they learn more about the Christian Faith using resources that follows the Apostle's Creed.

In February we meet on Sunday 12th and Sunday 19th at 6.00 p.m. in Castleknock Parish Centre. The Confirmation Service will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd April in St Brigid's.

Rev Colin

Ash Wednesday and Lent 2023



To mark the beginning of the penitential season of Lent, we will have two services of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February. Alongside our regular Wednesday morning Eucharist in Castleknock Parish Centre (10.30 a.m.), we will have a service in the evening at 8.00 p.m. in St Brigid's, Castleknock. This will be a quiet, reflective time as we come before God in preparation for Lent and the journey with Jesus to the cross.

Throughout Lent we will have a time of worship and sharing on Thursday evenings at 8.00 p.m. The theme will be "God's Story, My Story." Each week we will have a member of our church family sharing a little about their faith. These gatherings will alternate between Castleknock Parish Centre and St Mary's, Clonsilla beginning on Thursday 23rd February in Clonsilla at 8.00 p.m.

Lenten Prayer Challenge

Lent is a time of reflection, penitence and prayer so Rev Colin is hoping that many of our parishioners will join with him in saying a Lenten prayer everyday throughout Lent. The prayer will be focused on drawing closer to God and praying for a growth of faith in ourselves and in our communities.

The prayer cards will be available from our churches from mid-February and also from the Parish Office. We encourage you to join us in prayer as we faithfully journey towards the cross.

LENT PRAYER CHALLENGE

Loving God, help me to focus on Jesus' journey to the Cross, bowing my life in awe before you. Stir my heart with longing for Your Kingdom, make me restless for Your ways.

When I am tired, where the future looks uncertain and I don't know what to do, may your Holy Spirit breathe life and hope. Sweep away anything in me that does not speak of You. Set my heart on fire with Your love and joy.

Open my eyes that I might see Your vision for Your church and for this community.

Bless our church, give us courage and boldness as we walk with You. Help our church to grow in faith, love, unity and number.

Bless our community and all who live, work and play here.

We celebrate the wonder of your love which can touch lives across this land.

May this love make me see you afresh and turn my life upside down.

Inspire me to share that love with others. Amen.



RTE Sunday Service Broadcast

On Sunday 29th January Rev Colin, Stella, our choir and a number of parishioners travelled to the RTE studios to record a service for the RTE Service on Sunday programme on the morning of Sunday 5th February on RTE 1. This will be a special service to mark the new St Brigid's Day Bank Holiday as we remember St Brigid's contribution to the Christian faith in Ireland.

Hopefully you enjoy seeing some familiar faces on your tv screens and that our worship helps to spread the Good News of the Gospel as it is heard in homes throughout the country and beyond.

The Service will also be available on the RTE player following the initial broadcast.



Photo Gallery



Photo Gallery



DIOCESE OF DUBLIN

PARISHES OF CASTLEKNOCK AND MULHUDDART WITH CLONSILLA



DAFFODIL DAY

(IN AID OF IRISH CANCER SOCIETY)

FRIDAY MARCH 24TH 2023

COFFEE MORNING

IN THE

PARISH CENTRE, CASTLEKNOCK

10.00 A.M. - 1.00 P.M.

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THIS EVENT