

The CMC Times



Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla
March 2023

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on [@cmcp Parish](https://twitter.com/cmcp Parish)

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 the **April 2023** issue. The deadline for articles / photos will be **Wednesday 15th March 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,

Last month I used this column to write about the meaning of a number of significant dates that occurred throughout the month of February. This month we embark on a journey that leads us to a cross on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Right at the beginning of this Lenten journey it is quite striking that I will be physically journeying to Jerusalem spending the first week of March in Jordan.

The United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem have strong bonds of friendship. The Epiphany Agreement, signed on Sunday January 10th, 2016, in St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem by the Archbishop of Dublin and the Archbishop of Jerusalem, encourages the people of both dioceses to journey together as brothers and sisters in Christ and commits to developing their relationship. As part of this ongoing relationship, I have been asked by the Archbishop to join himself and four other clergy from the Dioceses on a retreat in Amman, Jordan where we seek to learn more about our shared faith in very different contexts.

This will be the first time I have travelled to the Holy Land and the fact I will journey to a desert region during the season of Lent will be a wonderful privilege and an extremely fitting reminder of Jesus' 40 days and nights in the desert wilderness. I thank the Select Vestries and all of you for granting me the time to embark upon this journey of discovery for that is what Lent truly is, a journey of discovery.

As Jesus entered the wilderness prior to the beginning of his earthly ministry he faced forty days and nights of solitude when he was tempted to reject the mission he was sent to earth to fulfil. Basing his responses firmly in Scripture Jesus rebuked all that was thrown at him and emerged from the wilderness ready to face the challenges of bringing the Good News of the kingdom of God to a people who had lost the true meaning of their faith. Ultimately that time in the wilderness was the beginning of a journey that would lead to his death on the cross and his resurrection.

The church season we call Lent, beginning on Ash

Wednesday and ending on Easter Sunday, gives us an annual opportunity to go on our own journey (both individually and as a church family) with Jesus to the cross. For many reasons life can often feel like a wilderness – ill health, broken relationships, loss of a job, doubts and so on – and as Christians we can feel that we live in a society that has lost sight of the true meaning of our faith.

Lent offers us the opportunity to reflect upon our own lives, mistakes we have made and our own faith. In our modern world of technology and gadgets it is almost impossible to get physically lost if you have an internet connection. I'll be able to land in Amman and, despite not knowing where I am, I'll be able to type a location into my phone and it will guide me how to get there. It isn't quite so simple with life. Our journey of faith won't suddenly bring us to a place of full discovery and knowledge by Easter. However, by rooting our lives in prayer and Scripture, by worshipping together as a church community and by allowing God's Holy Spirit to guide us we can day by day grow in our faith and plant seeds of God's love in the lives of those around us.

So, I hope you're up for a journey this Lent. Please take a few minutes each day to pray our Lenten prayer. When you can please join us as we worship together on a Sunday or Wednesday and throughout Holy Week. And simply try to make some time to be alone with God. The wilderness is not a place to fear but rather a place where we can grow and emerge stronger. We have emerged from the wilderness of the pandemic, the wilderness of a parish vacancy to see real growth in church attendance, in our Sunday Club, in our organisations, in our sense of being a community of faith. God is good, and as we continue to seek him, we see wonderful things happen.

Rev Colin



Easter General Vestries – WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

If someone was to ask you in the street what does it take to run our churches I wonder would you be able to give any sort of answer or would you even know where to start? Like many institutions there is a lot of misconception around how a church operates and a lot of assumptions that are often made that are far from the reality.

When it comes to the Easter General Vestry the thinking of many parishioners is “that has nothing to do with me.”

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES ARE FOR YOU – in fact Easter General Vestries are for all of us. While the main focus for us as a church will always be the witness and mission of the wonderful good news of the Christian Gospel, we also recognise the practical needs of running a church must be given our full attention. Easter General Vestries are important annual gatherings when parishioners can learn about what is involved in the running of our parishes as well as elections for the Select Vestries and the various roles within.

Anyone is welcome to attend the Easter General Vestry, the meeting is open to everyone although only those on the General Vestry Register are entitled to vote or be elected to a position.

At the Easter General Vestry you will be given reports into the finances of the parish, plans for our church buildings and the Rectors report into all that is happening in the parish and plans for the future. Alongside this, the Select Vestry is appointed at this meeting. The Select Vestry

consists of two church wardens and two glebe wardens (one of each appointed by the Rector, the other by the people) and up to twelve additional members. As this is a triennial year we will also be electing some extra important positions.

The important thing to remember is that attending the Easter General Vestry does not mean you will be landed with a new role you don't want to do. If you are asked to stand for a position and you don't want to take it on it is ok to say no. The important thing is to be there to hear what is happening with our churches.

The dates for the meetings are:

**St Brigid's, Castleknock and St Thomas' Mulhuddart
Tuesday 21st March 8.00 p.m. in Castleknock Parish
Centre**

St Mary's, Clonsilla Thursday 30th March 7.30 p.m.

I would strongly encourage you to come along to the meeting for your church. A good turnout at the Easter General Vestry is a good sign of a healthy and growing parish. I also encourage you to pray for these important meetings, giving thanks for those who give of their time and talents in these important roles and for God's wisdom as we strive to blend the sharing of our faith and God's love with the wisdom needed to oversee all the practical needs of running a church.

Rev Colin

Earthquake Response Appeal

Thank you to all who donated to the collection for the Bishops' Appeal response to the tragic earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

We collected just over €1,300 between the two churches.



Craft Corner

At our February Craft Corner we decorated and filled boxes with fresh herbs to take home. While enjoying a cuppa it was

commented that it felt like a Tiny Tots reunion without the responsibility of minding our little ones! It's lovely to have a mix of ages at our monthly gatherings which is steadily growing. We meet at 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon in Castleknock Parish Centre and our next get together is 27th March and in April we meet on 24th.



Services for March 2023

Wed 1	No Wednesday Service	
Sunday 5	The Second Sunday in Lent	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Brigid's
Wed 8	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 12	The Third Sunday in Lent	
10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	St Brigid's
Wed 15	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 19	The Fourth Sunday in Lent—Mothering Sunday	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Brigid's
Wed 22	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 26	The Fifth Sunday in Lent	
10.00 a.m.	"Cornerstone"	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	"Cornerstone"	St Brigid's
8.00 p.m.	Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Wed 29	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre

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.

Parish Reader in the making

In the second of a series of articles, we are chatting to Femi Atoyebi who has started on the road to becoming a Parish Reader.

Tell us a little about yourself?

I am originally from Nigeria. I am the eldest and I have three siblings.

I trained as a broadcast journalist in Nigeria and I hold a Masters Degree. Previously, I worked in Corporate & Media Relations at Nestle Nigeria, Lagos.

Here in Ireland, I work as an Information Systems Manager at The Wheel and most weekends I volunteer as a FAI football referee in the Dublin & District School Boys & Girls League (DDSL). I am married to Toyosi and we have 3 children - Demi, Elizabeth and Niyi. I am a Chelsea FC fan and I love walking, travelling and photography.

Was Christianity an important part of your upbringing?

I was born and bred by Christian parents, church attendance and Sunday school classes were important parts of my early years growing up in Nigeria. I had my confirmation as a teenager and served as publicity secretary for one of the youth groups in church. Bible teachings in church and at home helped me to keep the faith, to grow in Christ as a child and to remain in Christ as an adult.

What inspired you to take on the Parish Reader program?

Years ago, I made a solemn wish that at my golden anniversary I will give my Christian journey and faith a push and more importantly to serve by becoming a Parish Reader in the Church of Ireland. As God will have it, there was a call out in 2022 in the parish for people interested in this ministry, and so I made the move.

I enrolled after prayerful consideration and the support and encouragement from my family, our diocesan lay reader and the rector. I am convinced I am at the stage of my life where this is the next personal spiritual goal to pursue.

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

As an IT manager, I am a problem solver with a strong customer service orientation, I love meeting and helping

people, and by the nature of my professional, social and communal life, it's such a privilege to be allowed into people's lives.

Recent experiences as a census enumerator, a volunteer soccer team manager and a football referee have taught me how to deal with the public and communicate with people in a respectful, courteous and professional manner, while remaining composed, even in challenging circumstances. I can also be firm when necessary and communicate with confidence and authority.



Was there any feeling of apprehension?

Oh yes, this is different; I have never done anything like this before. It is not the thought of "going back to college" that I was worried about, but the handling of the rigours of a theological academic programme alongside other commitments. That said, I am trusting God to help me through the programme.

Have you ever been involved in any other ministry previously?

My current involvement in the church is as a warden, a role I have played since 2021. It's a new experience and so am learning quickly everyday.

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

If you are led by God to start, don't fight the call. Pray about it and ask God to hold your hands through the journey.

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

I am hoping the training and the ministry will help strengthen my faith. As well as helping me on my own Christian journey, I am hoping that my ministry will support and encourage others along the way.

Tiny Tots is returning

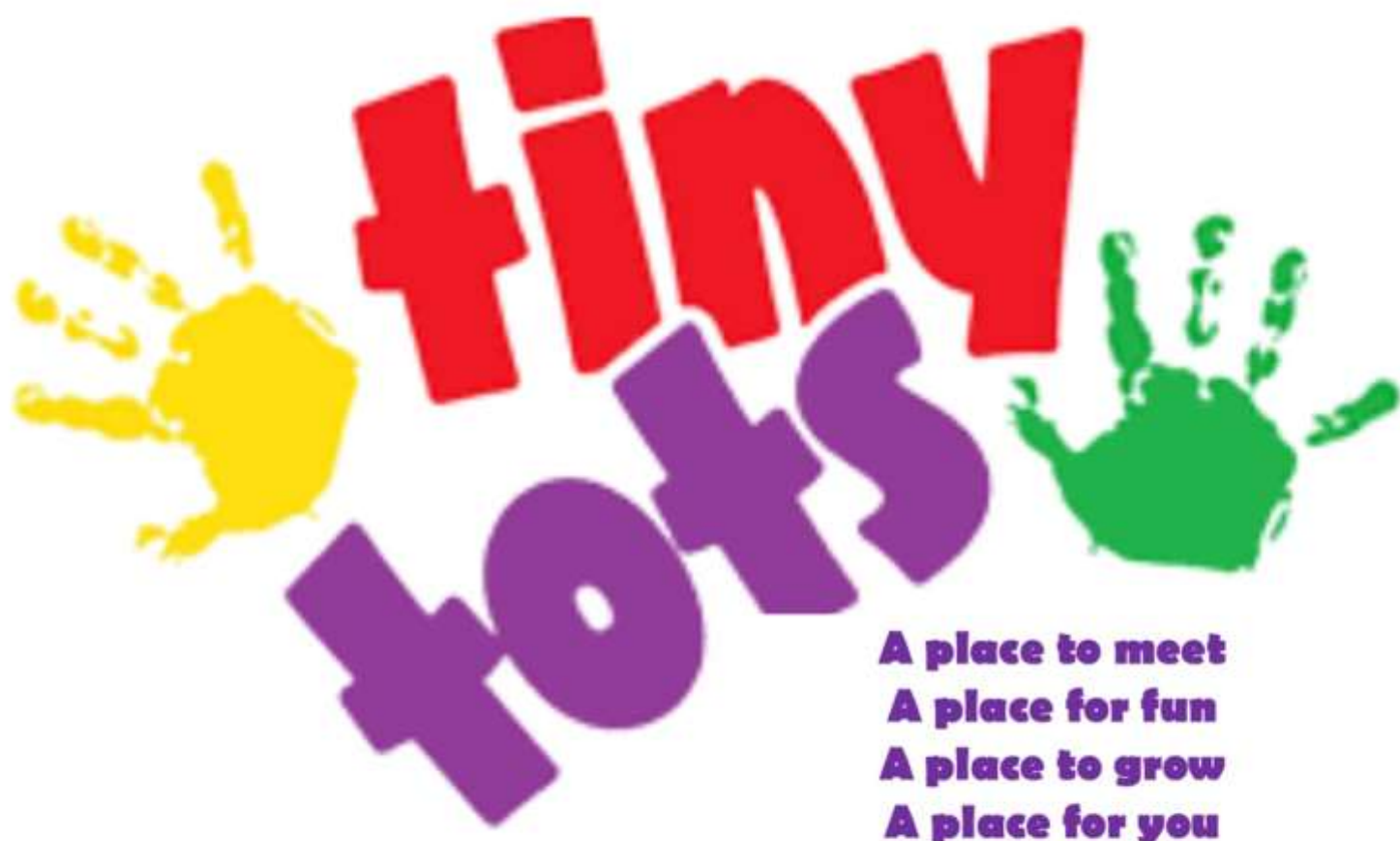
We are delighted to announce that our group for all pre-school children and their parents/ carers is set to return to Castleknock Parish Centre. There will be taster sessions once a month until June starting on Thursday 23rd March with the plan to begin a weekly group from September.

The aim of Tiny Tots is to give parents and carers the opportunity to meet up together and for children to interact. Please tell any family members or friends with young children.

There will be a charge of €2 to cover the cost of refreshments over the first monthly meetings. These meetings will allow us to see what the demand is and what is needed to start up weekly in September.

For further details please contact Louise McDonagh.

You are warmly invited to the return of Tiny Tots,
our gathering place for
all pre-school children and their parents/ carers



Castleknock Parish Centre
Thursday 23rd March 10.00am – 11.30am
(Then 3rd Thursday of each month until June, weekly from September)
€2 to cover tea/ coffee

Organisations News

Boys' Brigade

This month in BB the Junior and Company sections worked hard to create a special St Brigid's Day art piece, which has been displayed in the church - well done to the boys and big thank you to their leader, Holly, for organising this great project.

The Anchors spent an evening writing letters to the Anchors in the 1st Glaslough company in County Monaghan and are eagerly awaiting their replies!

The BB Team



Castleknock National School

Our 6th Class pupils were invited to visit Dáil Éireann in February. The children enjoyed a very interesting and informative day visiting the Dáil and the Seanad.



We had a very successful Table Quiz arranged by the Parents Association on 8th February to raise funds for the school. At the time of writing, both staff and pupils are looking forward to the pancakes the Parents Association will be providing for us on Shrove Tuesday.



You could have heard a pin drop on Monday 13th February as we listened to and watched Evelyn Pender's presentation on Castleknock Heritage and Tidy Towns. This very familiar area was brought to new life for us all. Thank you Evelyn.



We continue to pray for members and friends who are unwell, those who are undergoing treatment and those recently bereaved.

Anne C

Monday 6th March

Castleknock Parish Centre at 8.00 p.m.

"My breast cancer diary"

A young mother's positive story by Deborah

ALL WELCOME

CONFIRMATION 2023



Confirmation classes are under way ahead of our Confirmation Service which will take place in St Brigid's, Castleknock on the afternoon of the 23rd April. We are delighted to have 21 young people preparing for confirmation and we encourage you to keep them in your prayers.

Confirmation classes in March will be held on Sundays 12th and 26th at 6.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. in Castleknock Parish Centre.

Rev Colin

Lenten Series 2023

“God’s Story – Our Story”

We will meet on Thursday evenings during Lent at 8.00 p.m. alternating between the Maharry Room in Castleknock Parish Centre and St Mary's, Clonsilla as we look at the theme of “God’s Story, Our Story”. This will be a short time of worship and Bible Study with various people sharing a little of their story each week.

The first of these will be held on Thursday 2nd March in the Maharry Room, Castleknock at 8.00 p.m.

- Thursday 9th March – St Mary's, Clonsilla
- Thursday 16th March – Castleknock Parish Centre
- Thursday 23rd March - St Mary's, Clonsilla

Our Wednesday morning Eucharist will also be following a Lenten theme throughout March.



Lenten Prayer Challenge

Everyone is encouraged to keep praying our Lenten prayer as we journey towards Holy Week and the joy of Easter Sunday.

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.



Wednesday Club - Outings

The Wednesday Club Committee met recently and have put together a list of potential outings for the next few months. These are subject to change so please keep an eye on the weekly service sheets and the parish website for more information and updates.

Date	Outing Details
Wednesday 22nd March	Trip to St. Michan's Church- cost is €7 or €5 for OAPs. The tour starts at 2 p.m. It is free to look around the church, the fee is to visit the Crypt. More details in due course.
Thursday 27th April	Tour of Curragh Racecourse Cost : €17 per head
Wednesday 24th May	Picnic and walk in St. Catherine's Park, Lucan.
Thursday 22nd June	Tour of Newgrange, Co. Louth (Meet at 11.45) Cost: To be confirmed
Wednesday 26th July	Tour of Botanic Gardens. More details to follow. Cost: €5 per head.
Wednesday 30th August	Newbridge House, Donabate. More details to follow.



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