

# The CMC Times



**Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla  
April 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 the **May 2023** issue. The deadline for articles / photos will be **Friday 14th April 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,

Do we need to re-imagine Easter?

I often feel that Easter sits in the shadow of Christmas in our commercial world and unfortunately sometimes in our church thinking too. Christmas gets the lights and the big build up, not to mention the millions spent on presents. In our churches Christmas gets the nativity plays, a month of carol services. Easter may seem a bit like a poor relation with its more sombre build up through Lent and Holy Week and a lack of the big man in the red suit.

Personally, I love Easter. Every year I am deeply moved by the journey through Lent and the opportunity to examine our lives before our God of love and mercy.

Palm Sunday through to Holy Week gives us the opportunity to walk with Jesus on those last days towards the cross. Good Friday, as we sit at the cross, is a truly moving experience, which I believe strengthens our faith before the joy and celebration of Easter Sunday when we rise at dawn and worship and eat together.

Of course, while the journey of faith is in some way a personal experience as we meet with God only as we can, it is also an experience to be shared. I treasure the opportunity in Holy Week to travel between our three churches, to recreate the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday, solemnly gathering around the cross on Good Friday and the joy of celebrating the Eucharist together as a church family on Easter Sunday morning.

On Easter Sunday morning we will be sing a hymn that might be new to many of you "See What a Morning," the first verse proclaims:

**"See, what a morning, gloriously bright  
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem.  
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light  
as the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"**

What words of triumph, what words of hope and what words of victory over death. Surely Easter should be the pinnacle of our year as it is the pinnacle of our faith.

And so, I am moved to ask, do we need to re-imagine Easter?

How can we capture once again the importance of what happened on that hill of Calvary on the outskirts of Jerusalem? How can we share the pain and the joy of that first Easter week? How can we join the cries of the crowds shouting Hosanna and then find our own voices amongst those who cried Crucify Him? How can we find ourselves denying like Peter, turning our backs like Judas, doubting like Thomas and being overcome with joy like Mary?

We simply need to immerse ourselves into the story, to journey with Jesus from Palm Sunday to the cross and to celebrate with him on Easter Sunday. By being present in Holy Week and Easter Sunday we allow God's Spirit to transform us and we meet with a Saviour who gave everything for us so that we might avail of the hope of eternity. I urge you not to miss out on this wonderful time of the year.

Re-imagining has become a bit of a buzz word for me. For those who attended our Easter General Vestries (thank you to all who did), you heard and saw us try to re-imagine how we are church and how we do church. Re-imagining our structures to ensure that people were in roles that best utilised their gifts. Re-imagining what church will look like for us in the future and where our focus should be.

Looking at our vision for the future we want to look at four key areas which I believe we need to re-imagine.

- Growing in faith
- Serving our community
- Ministry to young families and young people
- Pastoral care

As part of this vision we are delighted to have appointed Rev. Natasha Quinn-Thomas as Curate Assistant. Rev. Natasha, while carrying out all the normal duties of a Curate, will be focusing on how we can best reach out to young families and young people and I have no doubt she



# Rector Writes

will bring a lot of energy to the role and be a real blessing to us.

We also want to re-imagine how best we use our buildings most notably Castleknock Parish Centre. The Parish Centre will soon be thirty years old and is a wonderful testament to the vision and commitment of those who re-developed the original building all those years ago. We have a great committee who have been keeping the Centre running, particularly through the difficult time of Covid. In order to honour this wonderful legacy and all of that hard work and commitment, we need to ensure that the Centre isn't just maintained but that we also begin to ask the bigger questions of what is needed in a parish centre in 2023 just as those same questions were asked and answered in the 1990's. We are looking for people with a passion for the centre and how it can best serve us as a church and our community to join that working group as we begin to look at how we can build on this this wonderful resource and make it fit our needs in 2023. If you would be interested in being a

part of this group, please let me know by Sunday 16th April.

Everything I am seeking to do as your Rector is based upon the hope we find in Easter Sunday. We have a wonderful message of Good News to share with our community. That message has been shared faithfully by parishioners of our churches throughout the ages in different ways for different times. Now is our time to re-imagine how we best serve our community in 2023 and beyond, not discarding the past but honouring those who have gone before. I invite you to journey with us, to play your part and to take a step of faith trusting that God can do far more than we could ever imagine.

*Rev Colin*



## Appointment of new Curate Assistant

It was with great joy that Rev Colin announced the appointment of Rev Natasha Quinn-Thomas (front cover photo) as Curate Assistant to our Parish of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla.

Rev Natasha will be moving to join us from her home in Wales. Natasha was employed by the church in Wales for five years in lay ministry roles. She was ordained Deacon in 2021, Priest in 2022 and is currently serving as a curate in Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area within St Asaph Diocese in Wales. Natasha will make the move to Dublin along with her Golden Labrador Rufus.

Rev Natasha has a heart for children, schools and young people's ministry alongside her experiences in both ordained and lay ministry. She will be a great asset to our church ministry and to the community and we look forward to welcoming her in June, further details to

follow.

On announcing the appointment Rev Colin said: "I am excited to have Rev Natasha coming on board as a colleague and while I am very excited about having the opportunity to be a training Rector, I also look forward to what I can learn from Natasha from her own experience and talents. Natasha has an infectious personality and I have no doubt that both the parishioners of our churches and the wider community will welcome her warmly and benefit greatly from her ministry."

Look out for a special interview with Rev Natasha in next month's CMC Times!

## **Castleknock & Mulhuddart General Easter Vestry**

This was held on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 8.00 p.m. The following were the results:

**Rector's Churchwarden, Castleknock** – Victor Raj

**Peoples' Churchwarden, Castleknock** – Femi Atoyebi

**Rector's Churchwarden, Mulhuddart** – Sadie Smullen

**Peoples' Churchwarden, Mulhuddart** – James Anderson

**Rector's Glebewarden** – Gordon Kellett

**People's Glebewarden** – George Chambers

**Parochial Nominators:** Mark Ellis, Gladys Hutchinson & David Smyth.

**Supplemental Parochial Nominators:** James Anderson, Gordon Kellett & George Chambers.

**Diocesan Synod Representatives:** Rachel Devlin & Olive Good.

**Supplemental Diocesan Synod Representatives:** Victor Raj & Rodney McCullough.

### **The following ordinary members were voted onto the Select Vestry for 2023/2024:**

Eddie Colton, Mark Ellis, Philip Good, Ken Gregory, Tracy Henshaw-Alfa, Gladys Hutchinson, Valerie Jameson, Alex Kitching, Pauline McConnell, Hal McGuckin, Orla Moore & David Smyth .

At a brief meeting of the new select vestry, Philip Good was elected as the Honorary Secretary and Alex Kitching as the Honorary Treasurer.

## **Clonsilla General Easter Vestry**

This was held on Thursday 30th March 2023 at 7.30 p.m. The following were the results:

**Rector's Church warden** – Alex Alino

**Peoples' Church warden** – Avril McCabe

**People's Glebe Warden** – Valerie Fildes

**Parochial Nominator:** Lorna Beattie

**Supplemental Parochial Nominator:** Valerie Fildes

**Diocesan Synod Representatives:** Liz Fleeton

**Supplemental Diocesan Synod Representatives:** Margaret Tutty

### **The following ordinary members were voted onto the Select Vestry for 2023/2024:**

Lorna Beattie, Gordon Hill, Maurice Maxwell, Anne O'Connor, Prosper Obioha, Barbara Melbourne, Bob Tutty, Liz Fleeton, Bola Sobowale, Fergus Beattie and Bernard Sheridan.

At a brief meeting of the new select vestry, Lorna Beattie was elected as the Honorary Secretary and Gordon Hill as the Honorary Treasurer.

## Services for April 2023

<b>Sunday 2</b>	<b>The Sixth Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday</b>	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Brigid's
4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	Castleknock Parish Centre
<b>Tuesday 4</b>	<b>Tuesday in Holy Week - It was on the Tuesday</b>	
8.00 p.m.	Evening Service	St Brigid's
<b>Wednesday 5</b>	<b>Wednesday in Holy Week - It was on the Wednesday</b>	
10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
8.00 p.m.	Evening Service	St Mary's
<b>Thursday 6</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday - It was on the Thursday</b>	
8.00 p.m.	Holy Communion	St Brigid's
<b>Friday 7</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	
10.00 a.m.	Walk with the Cross—Castleknock Ecumenical Walk starting at St. Thomas' Church, Laurel Lodge.	
8.00 p.m.	Service of the Word	St Mary's
<b>Sunday 9</b>	<b>Easter Day - The First Sunday of Easter</b>	
6.30 a.m.	Dawn Eucharist	St. Thomas'
10.00 a.m.	Family Worship with Eucharist	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Family Worship with Eucharist	St Brigid's

**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.**

## Services for April 2023

<b>Wed 12</b>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
<b>Sunday 16</b>	<b>The Second Sunday of Easter</b>	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Brigid's
<b>Wed 19</b>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
<b>Saturday 22</b>		
7.00 p.m.	Confirmation	St. Brigid's Church, Castleknock
<b>Sunday 23</b>	<b>The Third Sunday of Easter</b>	
10.00 a.m.	Cornerstone	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Cornerstone with Baptism	St Brigid's
8.00 p.m.	Holy Communion	St. Thomas'
<b>Wed 26</b>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
<b>Sunday 30</b>	<b>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	
10.00 a.m.	United Service	St Mary's

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 last of a series of articles, we are chatting to Blessing Obioha who has also started on the road to becoming a Parish Reader.*

## **Tell us a little about yourself?**

My name is Blessing Ijeoma Obioha, I am the youngest of eight siblings. I am originally from the South Eastern part of Nigeria, Eziowelle in Idemili Local Government Area of Anambra State. I have a bachelor's degree in Sociology & Master's Degree in Business Administration and worked in an Oil servicing company as an International Procurement Manager before coming to Ireland to join my spouse.

On coming to Ireland in 2005, I enrolled to study nursing in 2008 and graduated with B. Sc. Psychiatric Nursing in 2012. I worked for some years and went back to school and obtained a Master's Degree in Mental Health (Psycho-social Strand) from the Trinity College, Dublin. I am currently working as a Clinical Nurse Specialist, Mental Health Services for the Deaf. I am married to Dr Prosper Obioha (a Medical Practitioner in Dublin) and we have four children.

## **Was Christianity an important part of your upbringing?**

I was born and raised by a Christian parent in a home where church attendance, family morning prayer, Sunday school were priority. I was a member of the Girls' Brigade growing up as a child. I was confirmed in my teenage years, and during my days in secondary school as a boarder, when no priest or lay reader is available for Sunday church services, I was part of the team that conducted services in their absence. I was part of the Sunday school team that memorised bible verses and read for mothers and fathers on their special days. I participated actively in community evening daily prayer groups organised for children within their locality by the Anglican Communion in Nigeria. It was in these prayer meetings I learnt most of the bible books, both Old and New Testament. We sang it as a song; and till this day, the song is green in my memory and remains my search engine whenever I carry my bible. My parents, especially my mother, ensures that we attend the evening prayers.

## **What inspired you to take on the Parish Reader program?**

The love of Jesus Crucified inspired me to take on this role because of HIS goodness and mercy towards me and my family. In my private self, I thought, how do I pay HIM back, knowing that I am a living testimony of HIS goodness; because HE lives, I can face tomorrow and because HE lives all fear is gone. I am naturally a shy person, but through my personal journey/relationship with HIM, HE has given me the spirit of boldness and courage as in 1st Timothy 2 v 7-8.



I have longed for this ministry privately, when I saw the advert for the Parish and Diocesan Lay Reader in 2022, it was like a dream come true. I discussed with our Diocesan Lay Leader Stella Obe and my husband and both encouraged me to follow my heart desire.

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

Yes, my life experiences will serve as a testimony to win souls for Christ, instil hope to the hopeless and build the faith of believers. My job and profession as a Psychiatric Nurse, has prepared me a lot for this new role. Although it is a paid job, but it is a selfless service money cannot quantify. The core of my training is empathy, therapeutic communication and building hope. Working with clients on their journey from ill health to recovery /well-being.

## **Was there any feeling of apprehension?**

Yes, when the academic part of the programme was enlisted, I said to myself back to school again, and now, with work and young teenagers that are so demanding and need guidance. But this is what I want and have desired, in that spirit I committed everything in the hands of God. He saw me through my B.Sc. and especially Master's Programme which was not easy due to working in an acute hospital unit & the job of motherhood. I believe with God's grace and with the support of my husband I will successfully complete my programme.

## **Have you ever been involved in any other ministry previously?**

I have been involved in children ministry in Clonsilla Parish, teaching Sunday School Classes since 2010.

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

I will always encourage anyone who want to consider the path to do so because our good Lord will always make a way when there seems to be no way. HE is the God of impossibility.

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

To work as part of God's family to evangelise, assist with parish programmes and win souls for Christ.



# Holy Week and Easter Sunday

## Holy Week 2023

Holy Week is a special time when we are able to escape from the busyness and business of the world around us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus from his arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the agony of the cross on Good Friday. I invite you, if at all possible, to journey with us either all week or when you can through this most Holy of weeks.



### SERVICES 2023

**PALM SUNDAY – MESSY CHURCH EASTER  
CASTLEKNOCK PARISH CENTRE 4PM**  
**HOLY TUESDAY – ST BRIGID'S 8PM "IN THE  
TEMPLE COURTS"**  
**HOLY WEDNESDAY – ST MARY'S 8PM "PERFUME"**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY EUCHARIST – ST BRIGID'S  
8PM "DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"**  
**GOOD FRIDAY – WALK WITH THE CROSS-  
STARTING FROM LAUREL LODGE 10AM**  
**GOOD FRIDAY - ST MARY'S 8PM "AT THE CROSS"**

**WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US AS WE JOURNEY  
THROUGH THIS MOST HOLY OF WEEKS WITH  
JESUS TO THE CROSS**

## Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday moves us from the quiet reflectiveness of Holy Week to the glorious celebration of our risen Lord. We have three services on Easter Sunday morning as we join as a church family to celebrate this really special day.

For the early risers we begin in St Thomas', Mulhuddart with a celebration of Holy Communion as dawn break upon Easter morning. We gather at 6.30 a.m. and will worship outdoors if the weather is suitable (if not we will move inside the church).

In both St Mary's Clonsilla and St Brigid's, Castleknock (10.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.) we have two services of family worship with Holy Communion. There will be a joyous atmosphere as we gather to celebrate the resurrection with a surprise or two along the way. Following the services there will be the chance for the children (and maybe the grown-ups too) to go on the hunt for some special treats!



# Organisations News

## Girls' Brigade

March has been a sad and exciting month for everyone in Girls' Brigade. We started off the month with saying Adieu and Goodbye for now to leader Orla Kitching. We shall miss her smile and her enthusiasm teaching the girls each Wednesday but we wish God's every blessing on her time in Canada.

Every girl in the company has been involved in Competitions throughout March, both craft and dance competitions. The Explorers all made beautiful photograph frames depicting their favourite movie character, they produced frames depicting Matilda, Peter Rabbit, Jasmine, Rapunzel, Minions and Cinderella. The Juniors all designed Valentine's T-shirts and the results showed what an amazingly talented bunch of girls we have in the company. The Seniors had to have steady hands as they designed and made a set of false nails.

We were delighted to hear that Junior Sarah Zhang was placed 3rd and Senior Sophie Hill was placed 4th in the National Craft Competitions.

The Brigaders and the secondary school Seniors all entered the National Modern Dance Competitions and we were very proud of their performances.

The Juniors and remaining Seniors and the older Explorers entered the District Modern Dance competitions. We

were delighted that one Senior/Junior team placed 1st and the Junior team placed 3rd in their competition, whilst the Explorer team were placed 3rd in their competition.



At the end of March we started our Charity Challenge for this session, we are collecting feminine sanitary products to help combat Period Poverty. In our research for this challenge we were amazed to find that 60% of girls miss time in school due to their periods. Donations of feminine sanitary products will be accepted at Girls' Brigade each Saturday and Wednesday until the Display and all that is collected will be donated to the Ballycullen Food Bank for distribution to those in need. If anyone would like to donate to this project, please get in contact with me.

We are looking forward to our Annual Display, which will be held on Friday 21 April in Castleknock Community College at 7.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come along and support the girls as they show off some of the work they have done this year.

*Olive Good*

## Boys' Brigade

This month, along with the usual games, Bible stories and activities, the boys and girls at Boys' Brigade were busy gardening!

Thanks goes to Alanna for leading the Junior and Company sections in planting poppy and fennel seeds, which were added to the raised beds outside the Parish Centre.



The Anchors planted Nasturtium seeds to take home for Mother's Day.

The leaders and children are now busy preparing for our Family night with the distribution of awards at the end of April.

*The BB Team*



# Organisations News

## Bowls Club



There is lots of news since our last update some months ago. Initially our membership was much reduced following 'Covid' but gradually some former members started to return and we welcomed three new members in September. We entered teams in three Association competitions (Rohu - 8 person league) and ladies & gents knockout cup competitions with matches played from November to February. We had many most enjoyable matches and our Rohu team won its section to reach the final which will be played against Whitechurch on 31st March.

Club play on Wednesday nights has been great fun and the fellowship of a mid evening break for tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat is very welcome. In addition, a further three new members have joined us over recent months and we are now back to 2019/20 numbers.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME, PLEASE COME DOWN ON A WEDNESDAY NIGHT (8pm) AND GIVE IT A TRY!

*Gordon Hill*

## Craft Corner



You could nearly hear a pin drop at a recent Craft Corner get-together – everyone was concentrating so much!! We can now book our sun holiday as we have made our sun glasses cover! Threading needles is not as easy as it used to be! If you are working on a project please bring it along as we love to share ideas and tips. Our May gathering will be on Monday 29th. Look forward to seeing you.



Left: This little visitor was very impressed with our sunglass cover

Below: Despite serious concentration we enjoyed a cuppa and a natter too!



## Easter Messy Church

**Palm Sunday at 4pm**

We have a special service aimed primarily for young families but open to all on Palm Sunday, 2nd April, at 4.00 p.m. in Castleknock Parish Centre. Messy Church combines crafts, worship and food as a relaxed way of worshipping together. Messy Church is an ideal opportunity to invite people along who perhaps haven't been to church for a while or don't belong to any church.



**SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL  
4PM**

**CASTLEKNOCK PARISH CENTRE**



**CRAFTS**

**LIVELY WORSHIP**



**FOOD**



**ALL WELCOME**



## CONFIRMATION 2023



Confirmation classes are almost complete with just one class along with a rehearsal on Sunday 16th April at 6.00 p.m. in St Brigid's. The following week will be our Confirmation Service also in St Brigid's, Castleknock as we welcome Archbishop Michael who will confirm our young people. There has been a change to the previously advertised date with the service now taking place on the evening of Saturday 22nd April at 7pm.

Unfortunately, due to capacity, the service will be restricted to the candidates and their invited guests. We ask you to keep the 21 young people in your prayers not only for the service but as they continue their own journeys of faith.

*Rev Colin*

## Tiny Tots

It was brilliant to see the return of Tiny Tots in March for the first of its drop-in taster sessions before moving to a more regular weekly or fortnightly slot in September. The first morning saw the children (and parents) enjoy getting to know each other along with bubbles and song time!

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 and what is needed to start up weekly in September.

For further details please contact Louise McDonagh. Please spread the word to anyone with pre-school children.



## Lenten Series 2023

### "God's Story – Our Story"



Thank you to all who attended our weekly Lent Worship as we heard both God's Story and the story of some members of our churches. It was lovely to see the rooms in both Castleknock and Clonsilla filled on two of the evenings. We especially thank Stella, Philip, Rev Colin and Anne who shared something of their stories. Each person's story was unique to them but each was a real blessing to all who heard it. We look forward to others having the opportunity to share something of their faith in the future.





# Daffodil Day 2023

Once again this year we were delighted to host the Daffodil Day coffee morning in the Parish Centre on Friday 24th March. There was a great turn out from the parish and the wider community and it was a very sociable morning with lots of chat. As a result of the tremendous support received a total of €5,184.00 has been donated to the Irish Cancer Society. Many thanks to everyone for their support, in whatever way you did.

*Shirley McGuckin*





# Mothering Sunday

A very Happy Mothering Sunday took place recently and thanks to all the wonderful women who make up our church family and contribute so much to our community. Some photos from that morning as all the women received a gift.

Thanks also to our young people for handing them out and Clonsilla Sunday Club who made extra little treat bags.





# Wednesday Club

Our Wednesday Club enjoyed their outing recently to St. Michan's Church as well as a delicious lunch in Smithfield. Some of the members were caught on camera searching for QR codes!



The Wednesday Club Committee 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
Thursday 27th April	<p>Behind the Scenes tour of Curragh Racecourse where we will be taken to locations not seen on race days. The cost is €20 each which gives you admission to a fixture during the year. Lunch, which is optional, is at the Curragh Cafe by Lucy which is a short walk from the Curragh or a two min drive - plenty of parking there.</p> <p>The tour is at 11.30 a.m. so the aim is to be there by 11.15 a.m. The idea is to car pool so we will meet at Castleknock Church and leave by 10.30. Please let Valerie F. know if you intend coming along by 7th April. This venue is walking aid friendly. If you need anymore information please let me know</p>
Wednesday 24th May	Picnic and walk in St. Catherine's Park, Lucan.
Thursday 22nd June	<p>Tour of Newgrange, Co. Louth (Meet at 11.45)</p> <p>Cost: To be confirmed</p>
Wednesday 26th July	<p>Tour of Botanic Gardens. More details to follow.</p> <p>Cost: €5 per head.</p>
Wednesday 30th August	Newbridge House, Donabate. More details to follow.