

The CMC Times



Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla
October 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 **November 2023** issue. The deadline for articles / photos will be **Friday 13th October 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)



Scattering the seeds of faith



Dear Friends,

During a recent conversation, Rev Natasha and I were commenting that the theme of seeds had been coming up a lot in our lectionary readings for both Sunday and Wednesday morning services. As clergy we get a little concerned when the same theme keeps reoccurring in a short space of time as there are only so many things you can say on the same subject, and this was even before we started the harvest services! We both felt we were getting a little tired of seeds and were hoping for a change of theme soon. Then Rev Eugene came along to speak at our first harvest service in Mulhuddart and his theme was, well yes you've guessed it ... seeds.

Over the past month or so we've had mustard seeds, scattered seeds, seeds growing on good soil, seeds growing on bad soil, seeds being choked by weeds and seeds that just don't grow at all. Given the agriculture of the time and the importance of being able to grow crops, it's not overly surprising that Jesus shared several parables based on seeds. So having exhausted the theme you might be wondering why you are now reading my musings once again on seeds.

The more I thought about seeds and the more I hoped to move away from seeds, the more I got the feeling God was trying to tell us something through seeds. The problem with seeds is that whether they are planted or scattered it takes a time for us to see a result, it takes us a while to realise that the seed is actually something of worth. The period between planting and growth can be a couple of days or it can run into weeks or even months. Trees, for example, grow much more underground than overground at first, meaning we don't realise how much that seed is taking root for a long time.

For Rev Natasha and I, the role of being your clergy can mean many things. We are called to care for you pastorally, we are called to teach and lead you in worship, we are called to celebrate the sacraments, we are called to attend meetings (sometimes lots of meetings) and so on ... but perhaps above all we are

called, just as you are, to scatter seeds of faith.

These seeds of faith often may seem to have no impact, but that's when we realise this is where God takes over. The seeds are scattered and God in His wonderful, mysterious way works in the lives of those with whom we share the joy, hope and love of His Kingdom. Of course, as Jesus' parable reminds us, the soil in which the seed lands is also important. Within the life of our church there are many seeds planted by many people. Those seeds may fall in our worship, children's or youth organisations, in our Mothers' Union, in our parish centres, in prayer meetings, bible studies, in so many ways and opportunities for each of us to grow in our faith. Yet we only receive if we allow ourselves to be in that right soil, if we seize those opportunities to grow, to share together and to hear God's word. If we chose not to come to church, not to get involved in the life of our church community, are we really giving those seeds a chance to flourish and grow?

For a church to grow there must be commitment from its members. We have seen since the pandemic how easy it is to simply drift away from things and lose commitment. It can be easy to choose to do something else on a Sunday morning, it can be easy not to make the effort to go out on a cold evening. It can be easy to create an environment in which those seeds of enthusiasm get choked by other distractions. Perhaps you don't realise it but when you don't join us you are missed and we lack something without you. As your Rector, it isn't my style to come asking if we haven't seen you for a while, but you are missed and we want you to be back amongst us, growing, loving, serving, worshipping together.

At the end of this month at our United Service we will be focusing on mission and seeds will be planted for the opportunity to serve God both locally and overseas. It is my hope and prayer that many of you will seek to allow those seeds to grow in your lives, to explore where that may lead and to allow God to work in you.

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Have I settled in yet?

Hello from the Curate!

I now been living here in Castleknock for over three months and the question I keep being asked is “have you settled in yet?”... and after three months of summer I feel like I am certainly finding my feet!

As you are all aware, I had the most lovely welcome to the parishes with my induction service, followed by strawberries and prosecco.

From that point on it feels like the warm welcomes haven't stopped! I have had the privilege of getting to know the various groups and projects within the churches and the wider community and have enjoyed getting to meet all of you.

What I was keen to get involved with is the children's and family engagement in the parishes and spent a large proportion of my summer planning weeks-worth of fun Religious Education lessons for the children at Castleknock National School. But the fun didn't stop there, as from mid-September I have helped run our Tiny Tots group, which now runs weekly. In addition there has also been the family worship of Cornerstone and a double baptism, which I have also had the privilege of leading.



The rest of the summer months passed quickly with lots of home visits (which meant lots of coffee and cake!), but the big thing I am sure you all really want to know is “how has Rufus the dog settled in?” to which I am delighted to say that Ru has found his favourite spot in the house looking at all the activity in the Parish Centre and our evenings are spent with walks around the Phoenix Park.

So yes! - I do feel as though I am settling in. As my favourite season of autumn makes us reflect on the changes within God's creation; I'm still continuing to reflect on my own change in ministry, but I am enjoying the season of change!

Rev. Natasha



(Continued from page 3)

There is so much potential in our parishes, we can see so many signs of growth and hope through the commitment of so many of you. However, there is so much more to come if we seek to grow together, if we seek to provide good soil, if we seek to hear and follow God's word, we can impact this community with love, hope and light and we can see lives truly transformed.

“Jesus said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Perhaps we haven't heard the end of seeds just yet!

God bless,

Rev Colin

Services for October 2023

Sunday 1 Oct	The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	
10.00 a.m.	United Harvest Service	St Mary's
Wednesday 4	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	St Brigid's (TBC)
Sunday 8	The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	
10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer with Baptism	St Brigid's
Wednesday 11	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 15	The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Brigid's
Wednesday 18	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 22	The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity	
10.00 a.m.	Cornerstone	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Cornerstone	St Brigid's
8.00 p.m.	Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Wednesday 25	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 29	The Fifth Sunday before Advent	
10.00 a.m.	United Service - Mission Sunday	St Mary's
Wed 1 Nov	All Saints' Day	
10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
8.00 p.m.	Service of Healing and Remembrance	St Mary's

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

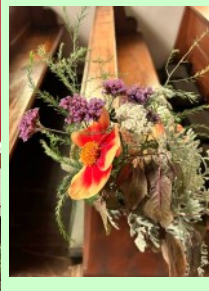
Live streaming will continue from St. Brigid's Church on Sundays at 11.30 a.m.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

On Sunday 17th September, 3.00 p.m. in St Thomas', Mulhuddart it was a great delight to welcome Rev Eugene Griffin, our former Curate as our preacher at the first of our Harvest Festival Services. Rev Eugene shared on the importance of planting seeds of faith in our communities. Rev Colin prayed for Eugene and Joanna as they prepared to make their move to Kinsale parish in Cork Diocese.

It was great to see the church filled and thanks to Sadie and all the helpers for the beautiful decoration of the church. Despite the rain we were able to share in refreshments and a time of chat and laughter following the service.

Our joint Harvest service for Castleknock and Clonsilla this year will be in St Mary's, Clonsilla on Sunday 1st October 10.00 a.m. Our guest preacher will be Rev Peter Campion, Chaplain of King's Hospital School. This will be a celebration for all the family, and we are hoping some of the children will help us with the service. We are supporting our Mothers' Union appeal for the Mustard Seed Charity by asking people to bring donations of toiletries and small bottles of water. We will be using a liturgy that has been compiled by Olive Good as part of her studies towards becoming a Diocesan Reader. There will be refreshments following the service.



News

Castleknock Girls' Brigade

September has been a busy month already for Girls' Brigade with the leaders having their planning meeting, attending the GB AGM and attending classes to learn the dances to teach the girls.

Congratulations to Jenny Weekes, Orlaith Taaffe, Rachel Denner, Emma Denner and Caoimhe Barry who all undertook their Officer's Interviews on 13th September, having completed their Officer's training over the past two years. We are delighted that they all passed these interviews and we are very proud of them.

We were delighted to welcome back our girls on Wednesday 20th September and Saturday 23rd September along with a number of new girls in each section. We have an exciting year planned with lots of activities for the girls including dancing, baking, crafts, scripture, games, badgework, singing, drama, STEAM and a few more surprises.

Our Tiny Tots and Explorers (3-8 year olds) meet on Saturday mornings in the Parish Centre at 10.00 a.m. Whilst on Wednesday evenings our Juniors and Seniors (age 9 – 13 years) meet from 7.00 p.m. and our Brigaders (age 9- 17 years) meet from 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

New members in all sections are very welcome, so if you know any girls (age 3 – 17) that would like to join Castleknock Girls' Brigade, please contact Olive by email at 42ndcocastleknock@girlsbrigadeirl.ie to sign up for a trial period.

*Olive Good
Captain*



Holy Baptism

On Sunday 10th September we celebrated the Holy Baptism of Elizabeth Westwood-Farnan. Beth was joined by her parents, siblings, family and friends for the celebration.

On Sunday 24th September we celebrated the Holy Baptism of Alexandra and Olivia Elmes. The sisters were joined by their parents, family and friends.

We welcome Beth, Alexandra and Olivia into God's family and pray them all.



Youth Group

We had a great first night back at Youth Group in September and it was great so see some new faces. Alongside the usual

mix of fun games and refreshments, Rev Colin gave a

short talk on New Beginnings as we looked at how we approach making a new start.

Youth Group meets again on Sunday 15th October from 6pm to 7pm in Castleknock Parish Centre. Please note this will be for an hour only on this occasion.

Youth Group meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month and the group is for all young people of secondary school age.



Winter Fair

Our annual Winter Fair takes place on Saturday 25th November in Castleknock Parish Centre. The Winter Fair is both a great opportunity to welcome the wider community and an opportunity to raise some funds for all of our churches. The fair is only possible when everyone comes together to share in the hard work of organising it and ensuring it is a wonderful day for all who come along. Following on from our first meeting in September, we meet again on Monday 2nd October at 7.15 p.m. in the Parish Centre and all are welcome to come along and find out what needs doing.

Bowls Club

Bowl's recommenced for the 2023/24 season on Wednesday 6th September last and it has been great to see familiar faces returning over the past few weeks.



We held our AGM on Wednesday 20th September which was chaired by our club president, Rev. Colin, and attended by eleven members. Our wonderful long standing Hon Secretary, Mrs Valerie Greene, did not seek re-election and Mr Nigel McKeever was duly elected in her stead for the coming season. Mr Gordon Hill was re-elected as Hon Treasurer and five Committee members were also elected.

Many thanks to Valerie for her many years of dedicated service and commitment to ensuring the ongoing success and sociability of our Parish Bowls Club.

Our main club night is Wednesday evenings with bowling from 8.00 p.m. to 10.15 p.m. and new members are most welcome. Please contact the Parish Office for details.

Gordon Hill

Tiny Tots



Our group for parents/ carers and pre-school aged children is now up and running meeting (during school term time) on Thursday's from 10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Tiny Tots is a great place for parents and carers to meet for chat and friendship and for little ones to have fun and play. Please spread the word to anyone you know with young children who would benefit from getting to know others and have a place for the little ones to play and interact. There will be fun activities and song time each week as well as special seasonal days to keep everyone entertained.

United Service – Mission Focused

Sunday 29th October is the 5th Sunday of the month which means we will be holding a United Service in St Mary's, Clonsilla at 10.00 a.m. (There will be NO service in Castleknock that morning). This service will have a special focus on mission as we start to outline mission opportunities both locally and overseas. Please come along if you can to hear about these exciting projects and how you might be able to get involved.

Service of Healing and Remembrance

Our annual service to remember loved ones who have died and to seek healing prayer for ourselves or others takes place in St Mary's, Clonsilla on 1st November, All Saints Day, at 8.00 p.m. All Saints Day is a day in which we remember those close to us who have died and is a very appropriate time to come together in thanksgiving for their lives and the memories we have of them. The service will also provide space to pray for healing either for yourself or others and the opportunity to come forward for healing prayer.

Please feel free to invite along anyone you feel may benefit from this service.

Craft Corner

Craft Corner is on Monday 24th October from 10.30 to 12.00 in Castleknock Parish Centre. At each get together we show and help you create a craft item to take home at a cost of €5 where all materials are supplied and we also enjoy a cuppa. Feel free to bring along any project you may be working on.

We usually meet the last Monday of every month unless it's a bank holiday weekend. You can contact Ruby if you need any more information.

Looking forward to a busy creative 2023/24!



Monthly Prayer Gathering

We will continue our series on prayer as we meet for our monthly prayer gathering in the Maharry Room, Castleknock Parish Centre on Monday 16th October at 7.30 p.m. This month we will be looking at "how we pray" as well as joining in prayer for the church, the world, our community, and those in need.

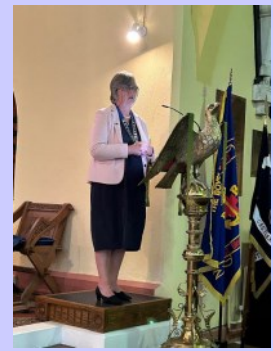
Praying together as a church community is an important part of growing together as a church community so if you can why not mark the monthly prayer gathering into your diary. The gatherings are informal with refreshments and fellowship as well as prayer.

PRAYER
GATHERING

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Congratulations to Rachael Price on receiving her Long Service Certificate for 45 years membership at the MU Branch Songs of Praise night in early September. It was also great to hear our Diocesan President, Ada Lawson, speak at our recent MU Enrolment Service in St. Brigid's Church, Castleknock.



Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union invites you to come to Castleknock Parish Centre on Monday 2nd October 2023 at 8.00 p.m.

Ruth Gyves will be speaking on

Mission.....imPOSSIBLE?

Ruth was in St George's College, Jerusalem with our Lay Reader, Stella, during the summer when they studied "The Women of the Bible"

Everyone welcome

News

Celebration of Pets

It truly was a celebration of animals when we met in Castleknock Parish Centre on Sunday 4th September. It was a joyous occasion as we were joined by many dogs, a cat, a tortoise and their human friends, to give thanks to God for all creatures great and small.

It was wonderful to hear the dogs barking along to our songs as Rev Natasha prayed for the animals and Rev Colin reminded us of the joy of finding the one that is lost, and how God's love is constant for all of us no matter how far away we stray.

Thank you to all who came along to make it such an uplifting occasion. We look forward to developing this service further next year!



Clonsilla Graveyard Service

Despite the heavy rain and even threat of thunder a good-sized crowd gathered in St Mary's Clonsilla on the afternoon of Sunday 11th September for our Ecumenical Graveyard Service with Blessing of the Graves. Thankfully we managed to get through the service avoiding the heavy showers.

We were delighted to be joined by Deacon Tim from Clonsilla and Porterstown who joined Rev Colin and Rev Natasha in leading our worship and prayers. The collection on the day was in aid of St Francis Hospice and the upkeep of the graveyard.

Thank you to the parishioners who helped make the service possible.

The Ecumenical Service for Castleknock will be held on Sunday 12th November at 3.00 p.m. in St Brigid's Church followed by the Blessing of the Graves in the graveyard.



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



A place to meet
A place for fun
A place to grow
A place for you

Castleknock Parish Centre
Thursday's 10.00am – 11.30am During Term Time
Starting 14th September 2023
€2 to cover tea/ coffee