

The CMC Times

A photograph of a large field of snowdrops. The plants are densely packed, showing numerous white, bell-shaped flowers hanging from green stems. The leaves are long, narrow, and green, some showing signs of being wet with water droplets. The background is dark, suggesting a mulched garden bed.

Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla
March 2024

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Come join us on **Facebook** for more fun and information
[@CastleknockandMulhuddartwithClonsilla](https://www.facebook.com/CastleknockandMulhuddartwithClonsilla) or on **Twitter**
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 2024** issue. The deadline for articles / photos will be **Friday 15th March 2024**.

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)



The Great Escape



Dear Friends,

When I was younger there was a war movie called The Great Escape. The movie is set in a Nazi prisoner of war camp during World War 2. The Nazis, exasperated at the number of escapes from their prison camps by a relatively small number of Allied prisoners, relocate them to a high-security "escape-proof" camp to sit out the remainder of the war. Undaunted, the prisoners plan one of the most ambitious escape attempts of World War II. The film is based on a true story and although an oldie is filled with plenty of comedy and adventure that makes it well worth a watch today.



As we continue through Lent on our journey to Easter with thoughts of repentance, meditation and reflecting upon how we live our lives, I think it can be tempting to try the great escape. Lent, of course, is based upon Jesus' time in the wilderness when he, tired and hungry, was faced with the temptation of taking the easy way, to turn his back on what the mission his heavenly Father had called him to and to choose self and power of servanthood and sacrifice.

In Holy Week we will reach the Garden of Gethsemane where we are moved with the real human side of Jesus

as he wrestles with the pain of the cross, which confronts him

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

When we are facing difficult situations, when life just seems too busy to cope, when the future seems to hold nothing but pain and suffering or faith can waiver and we may well feel like walking away. The journey of Lent and Holy Week reminds us that we are not alone in having those doubts. Jesus, of course, stayed the course and took on the burden of the cross for us all. However, his closest followers, when the crowds began to turn and the going got tough chose the great escape.

Let's stay in that evening in the Garden of Gethsemane, remember Judas had already sold out Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and now he is going to be arrested by the Romans at the demand of the Jewish Religious leaders. Jesus has come in to Jerusalem, he has overturned the tables of the money sellers in the temple, he has told his disciples one of them will betray him and now he goes to a quiet place to pray – he knows he is going to be arrested soon and hung on the cross so he wants to spend time alone in prayer with his closest friends nearby keeping watch.

The disciples were left with one simple task, to stay awake and watch over Jesus. He leaves them for one hour and comes back to find them fast asleep after just one hour. This is the start of the disciples great escape as Peter denies him, Thomas doubts him and they all go into hiding with only a few left at his side as he hangs on the cross.

The story of the first Easter was set to the background of Jesus being deserted by those who were close to him, but can we blame them? Their Rabbi and friend is arrested, beaten and killed, they fear they are next and they haven't (unlike us) had the benefit of knowing how Easter Sunday would turn out. They were frightened,

RECTOR WRITES

confused and in fear of their lives.

Yet, in the light of the resurrection one by one Jesus welcomes those who had faltered back into the fold. Why? Simply because God is bigger than our doubts and he forgives our failings in a way none of us will truly understand.

Lent and Easter gives us all the opportunity to refocus and reconnect with God, to stop trying to escape but rather surrender to his will for our lives and re-affirm our desire to follow him even in the tough times. Holy Week and Easter give us the perfect opportunity to encourage a family member or friend along to a church service or event when perhaps they might re-connect too.

Those disciples, who finally realised that following Jesus was the best choice they could make, changed the lives of so many people and are remembered to this very day. We may not have that same affect but by following in their footsteps and bringing the love and hope of Jesus to our homes, places of work, friends and family we too can see lives changed.

Lent may feel like we our lost in the wilderness but Easter is coming, and there is real blessing for those who persevere.

God bless,

Rev Colin

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES & WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

Last year I wrote in The CMC Times encouraging all parishioners to consider why they should attend the Easter General Vestry for their church. I wanted to emphasise that Easter General Vestries are for all of us not just the current members of the Select Vestries. This year I want to repeat the importance of attending this important meeting.

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 Rector's 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.

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 with St Thomas' Mulhuddart
Tuesday 9th April 8pm (in Castleknock Parish Centre)**

St Mary's, Clonsilla Thursday 18th April 7.30pm

I would strongly encourage you to come along 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

DIOCESE OF DUBLIN

PARISHES OF CASTLEKNOCK AND MULHUDDART WITH CLONSILLA



DAFFODIL DAY

(IN AID OF IRISH CANCER SOCIETY)

FRIDAY MARCH 22ND 2024

COFFEE MORNING

IN THE

PARISH CENTRE, CASTLEKNOCK

9.00 A.M. - 1.00 P.M.

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THIS EVENT

Services for March 2024

Sunday 3 The Third Sunday in Lent

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion St Mary's

11.30 a.m. Holy Communion St Brigid's

Wednesday 6 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Castleknock Parish Centre

Sunday 10 The Fourth Sunday in Lent - Mothering Sunday

10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer St Mary's

11.30 a.m. Morning Prayer St Brigid's

Wednesday 13 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Castleknock Parish Centre

Sunday 17 St. Patrick's Day

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion St Mary's

11.30 a.m. Holy Communion St Brigid's

Wednesday 20 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Castleknock Parish Centre

Sunday 24 Palm Sunday

10.00 a.m. Service of the Word St Mary's

11.30 a.m. Cornerstone St Brigid's

4.00 p.m. Messy Church 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.

Services for March 2024 (Continued)

Monday 25	Monday in Holy Week	
8.00 p.m.	Holy Week Service - "Perfume"	St Mary's
Tuesday 26	Tuesday in Holy Week	
8.00 p.m.	Holy Week Service - "Walking in the Light"	St Brigid's
Wednesday 27	Wednesday in Holy Week	
10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
8.00 p.m.	Holy Week Service - "Betrayal"	St Mary's
Thursday 28	Maundy Thursday	
7.30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Sedar Supper	Castleknock Parish Centre
	Followed by Holy Week Service - "His Hour had Come"	St Brigid's
Friday 29	Good Friday	
10.00 a.m.	Ecumenical Walk with the Cross – starting at Laurel Lodge	
8.00 p.m.	"At the Cross"	St Mary's
Sunday 31	Easter Day - "See and Believe"	
6.30 a.m.	Dawn Service	St Thomas'
10.00 a.m.	Family Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Family Holy Communion	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.

YOU ARE INVITED

During Holy Week we remember and reenact the events that lead up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Holy Week culminates on Easter Sunday, when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

You are warmly invited you to join us for Holy Week and Easter services in Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla.

Let us journey together with Jesus to the cross and the glory of Easter Sunday.



PARISH OF
CASTLEKNOCK AND
MULHUDDART WITH
CLONSILLA

A CHURCH OF GOD, A CHURCH FOR ALL
Growing together as a Christ-centred community
where all are welcome, all are loved

love

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2024

Monday "Perfume"

8:00pm St Mary's Clonsilla

Tuesday "Walking in the Light"

8:00pm St Brigid's, Castleknock

Wednesday "Betrayal"

8:00pm St Mary's, Clonsilla

Maundy Thursday Seder Supper "His Hour had Come"

7.30pm Thursday Castleknock parish Centre/ St Brigid's

Good Friday "At the Cross"

10:00am "Ecumenical Walk with the Cross" departing from Laurel Lodge

8:00pm St Mary's Clonsilla

Easter Sunday "See and Believe"

6:30am St Thomas', Mulhuddart Dawn Service

10:00am Family Worship with Eucharist

11:30am Family Worship with Eucharist



LENT AND EASTER 2024

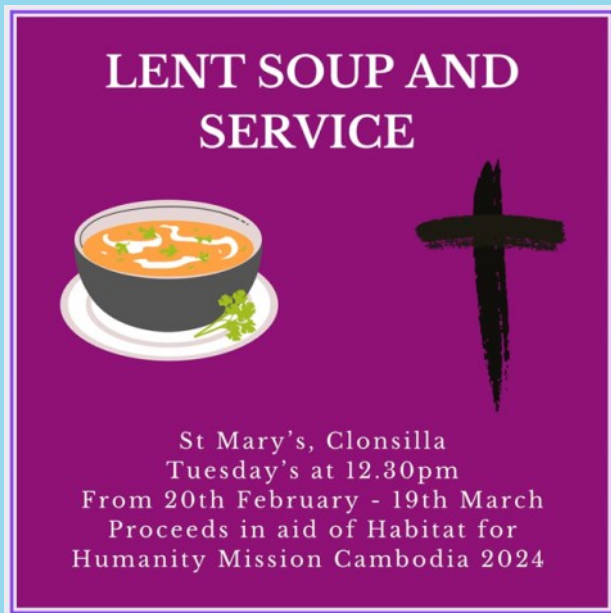
Our journey through Lent to Easter continues as we meet weekly to worship together and grow in faith.

Lent Soup and Service

The Lent Soup and Services continues on Tuesday's at 12.30pm in St Mary's, Clonsilla as we meet for a short service and a bowl of soup.

This is a great opportunity to invite people along during Lent during their lunch break to meet together and spend time with God and one another.

All donations will go to the work of Habitat for Humanity.



Palm Sunday Messy Church

Following the success of last year's Messy Church for Palm Sunday and Easter, we meet this year on Sunday 24th March at 4.00 p.m. in Castleknock Parish Centre. Messy Church comprises of Bible based crafts, a lively time of worship and short talk as well as some food.

This is a great event for all the family and a wonderful time to invite others to come along and experience our church family.

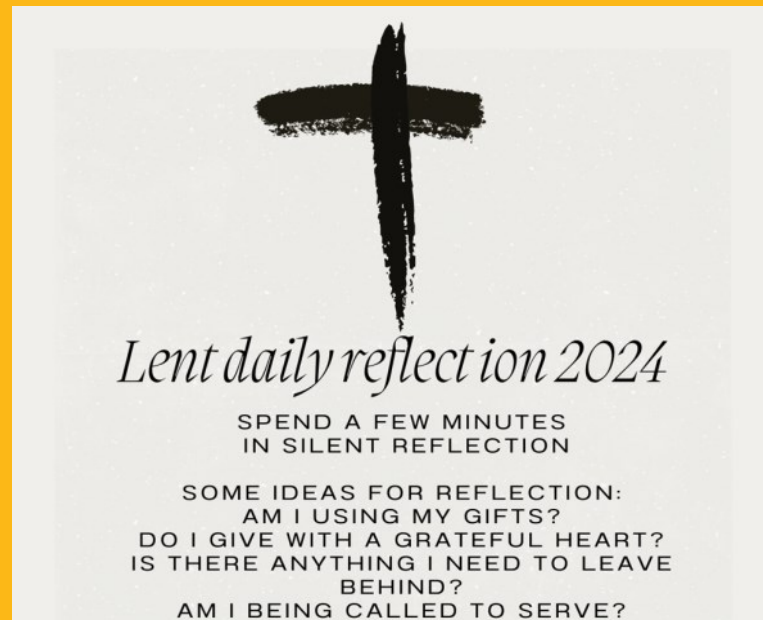


Sycamore Course

The Sycamore Course continues on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in the Maharry Room. The Sycamore course is a series of videos and guided discussions designed to help us reflect on and develop our faith. Rev Natasha will be leading these sessions in Castleknock Parish Centre on a weekly basis until the course is completed.

Lent Daily Reflection

We are encouraging everyone to join us in spending a few minutes in reflection throughout Lent.



Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Please plan to come along and join us through Holy Week to the pain and rejection of the cross to the glory of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. This is a very special week and we have a variety of services throughout the week including a special Seder Supper on Maundy Thursday and our Ecumenical Walk with the Cross on Good Friday.

On Easter Sunday we have three services of the Eucharist to celebrate the resurrection.

Habitat for Humanity Mission Trip 2024

We held our first team meeting for the trip to Cambodia at the end of January as we began to learn more about the project.

The team will travel to Phnom Pehn, the capital of Cambodia on Friday 27th September. It is located in the south-central region of Cambodia on the banks of the Tonlé Sap, Mekong, and Bassac Rivers. While the city, and the country itself has grown in wealth, that has led to a greater divide between the rich and the poor with many living in poverty. Habitat for Humanity Cambodia state that 75% of the population live on less than \$3 a day, 2 million homes in Cambodia do not meet Habitat's minimum quality requirements and over 15% of Cambodians live below the poverty line. The team will be working alongside Habitat in Cambodia to help those in most need secure a suitable and safe place to live and call home.

A MISSION FOR ALL... it's important to remember that while a team of people will physically travel to Cambodia, this is a mission for of us to play our part. Your prayers, support and encouragement will play a vital role so please get involved and find out more. The team are currently coming up with a couple of fundraising ideas. The first of which will be a Buy A Brick campaign, there will be more details in next month's CMC Times.

Any fundraising will be used to cover the cost of the build (not travel etc.). Each team member contributes €850 towards the cost of the house building, we have already had one very generous offer to cover the cost of one of the build contributions from someone who is unable to travel but wants to support the team. All contributions along with prayer and encouragement will be greatly appreciated. Remember "you don't have to lift a hammer to help."

For more information on Habitat for Humanity Ireland, visit <https://www.habitatireland.org/>



Craft Corner

Despite a miserable wet morning, our first Craft Corner of 2024 got off to a busy start! We made a scented heat pack and little hand warmers that can be heated up in a microwave and popped into gloves to keep hands warm. It was lovely catching up over a cuppa too. We meet again March 25th & April 29th where we have more lovely crafts for you to try your hand at!



Play and Pray

Following on from the success of Tiny Tots, Rev Natasha is launching Play and Pray. The concept of the group is to teach children from seven years of age and under more about the Christian faith through fun and interactive games. If you would like more information about Play and Pray, please contact Rev Natasha.



Youth Group

February's Youth Group was a games night with challenges from Snakes and Ladders, to Hungry Hippos, Catchphrase and Countdown earning chocolate prizes and fun and laughter. We were delighted to have Mark come on board as a new leader for Youth Group and would encourage anyone else who might like to help out to speak to Rev Colin or Rev Natasha.



Due to Easter, there is no meeting in March so the next Youth Group will be in April, details to follow.

Members of our Wednesday Club enjoyed a tour of Altamount Gardens in Carlow recently. It was wonderful to see the snowdrops in bloom, and the rain stayed away too.



Following the Gardens a tasty lunch was enjoyed by all in nearby Tullow.



CASTLEKNOCK PARISH CENTRE
MAIN STREET, CASTLEKNOCK
3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 2PM-3.30PM



A PLACE TO GATHER AND FEEL WELCOMED
FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Living Room

It was wonderful to see The Living Room grow at our second gathering in February as we met for a cuppa, chat and friendship in the Maharry Room.

We meet again on Thursday 21st March. There'll be a cuppa and a chat for anyone feeling lonely, who is struggling or simply would enjoy some company. This is a safe space where people can just be themselves and meet new people. Please spread the word to anyone you know who might benefit from this outreach.

Food Bank

Our monthly donations for the Croí Mháire Foodbank in Blanchardstown are now up and running. All donated items will be delivered to the food bank following the fourth Sunday of each month. We are requesting non-perishable food items, any items that are particularly needed will be highlighted in the church notice sheet.

Monthly donations for the Foodbank will be delivered following the 4th Sunday of each month but can be donated at any time during the month.

Confirmation 2024

Confirmation classes continue in February ahead of the Confirmation service to be held in St Brigid's on Sunday 28th April at 11.30am. We only have one class in March on Sunday 10th at 6.00 p.m. in Castleknock Parish Centre.

We have 19 young people preparing for Confirmation this year so please keep them in your prayers and encourage them when you see them in church.

In the photo you can see the young people enjoying a game as part of Rev Natasha's class on the Bible.



Holy Baptism

We were delighted to welcome little Tadgh for Holy Baptism in St Brigid's, Castleknock on Sunday 25th February. Tadgh was joined by his parents Aisling and Padraig, his Godparents John, Jimmy, Jo-Ann and Karen, family and friends. It was a great pleasure to have Rev Aisling Shine, a friend of the family, with us to baptise Tadgh.

We wish Tadgh and his family God's richest blessing.



Fundraising and Social Committee

We all know the affect the pandemic had on gathering together and how this impacted our life as a church community. The time feels right to bring back more opportunities to gather and to socialise with one another. Added to that the increasing financial costs of both running a church and being missional in our outreach to the community a small committee has been formed to come up with ideas for some events in the next couple of years.

The committee is represented by parishioners from across our churches, Muriel Kellet, Valerie Fildes, Xana McCarthy, Ken Gregory, Helen Chambers and Barbara Melbourne along with Rev Colin. We thank each one of them for offering to serve on the committee and after our first meeting it is clear there is a lot of ideas and creativity in the group. While the committee will be helping to steer our events they will of course need others to help out and of course other ideas and suggestions are welcome.

The first two events this year will be a BBQ (for the grown-ups) on Friday 21st June, please note a slight change of date from the announcement in last month's CMC Times.

On Saturday 7th September there will be an Afternoon Tea.

Moving forward there will be other events both for all the family, children or adults. We already have a number of gatherings up and running throughout the year so these will add to them.

SAVE THE DATE



FOR THE

CMC Parish

BBQ

Friday
21st June
2024

More information to follow



Mothers' Union began the year on Monday 8th January with a night of 'fun and games' which included word searches, dingbats and building the tallest free-standing structure with paper straws (I hadn't realised how competitive things would get!!). Fortunately, we didn't need to call in an adjudicator and the night ended with a chat over a cup of tea.

At our February meeting Jacqui Armstrong (Diocesan President of Derry & Raphoe, MU Domestic Abuse and GBV Coordinator) highlighted global statistics around gender-based violence which find that one in three women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual abuse, with similar statistics here in Ireland. She noted the need for action and that it doesn't have to be big – small can be effective. A simple support she said, is to place a poster with details about the nearest refuge on the notice board in your church. Over the coming months we will be working together with the parish to become a place of safety and support.

Our next meeting will be on March 4th with a presentation about an 'Unsung Hero'.



Family Fun Beetle Drive

We enjoyed a great evening at the Beetle Drive, which according to records was the first in the parish since 2012! It was great to see so many of all ages gather in Castleknock Parish Centre and to hear the fun and laughter, as well as the sense of competition grow as the night went on and there were prizes to be won.

It was a really fun evening, congratulations to Robin our overall winner and thanks to all who came along.

Well done to the Tiny Tots team who organised the event, which raised €480 in aid of the Jack and Jill Foundation.

