

CHURCH SERVICES

THE EUCHARIST

Sunday: Saturday 6.00pm
 Sunday 10.00am and 12.00 noon
Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.00am
 Tuesday, Thursday 7.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: After 10.00am and before 6.00pm Mass on Saturdays and on request.

Baptism: Normally on 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 1.00pm. Enquiries to the parish office.

Marriage: By arrangement with one of the Priests.

Evening Weekday Mass availability in our Deanery:

- St Brigid's, Blanchardstown, 7.30pm Mass on Mondays
- St Luke's, Mulhuddart, 7.30pm Mass on Wednesdays
- St Patrick's, Corduff, 7.30pm Mass on Fridays

CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Damian McNeice – Phone: 089 445 3987

Fr. Denis O'Connor CSsR –Phone: 01-8214003

Parish Office – Monday to Thursday, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Phone: 01-6409601 Email: parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie

Church Sacristy – Phone: 01-8214652

Our Lady's Parish Centre – Phone: 01-8209907

Parish Website – www.castleknockparish.ie

Parish Newsletter – Notices may be emailed to ourladysparish@gmail.com

Written notices may be handed in to the Parish Office. The deadline for submissions is Thursday evening.

ROSARY TIMES - OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH: After daily Mass Mon - Sat. Rosary for children will resume after Christmas

LOST PROPERTY There are a number of unclaimed items in Lost Property - glasses, umbrellas, etc. An item which may be of sentimental value was found in the church after **10am Mass on Sunday 30th November**. Please contact the sacristy or parish office.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD The rota for Ministers of the Word for December to February is on the Parish website. Copies are available in the Sacristy. There is also a copy of the St Paul's Missal for 2026 available for all our Ministers of the Word and choir leaders

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD, TABLE ETC: Please do not leave any material without checking with Fr Damian or the parish office.



OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PARISHES OF
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, LAUREL LODGE
AND ST MOCHTA'S PORTERSTOWN.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 28 DECEMBER 2025

WILDPEACE: *Dear brothers and sisters,* "Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior has been born in the world. Today, true peace has come down to us from heaven" ... the Child born of the Virgin Mary is Christ the Lord, sent by the Father to save us from sin and death. Indeed, he is our peace; he has conquered hatred and enmity through God's merciful love. For this reason, "the Lord's birth is the birth of peace" (Saint Leo the Great, *Sermon 26*). Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room for him in the inn. As soon as he was born, his mother Mary "wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger" (cf. *Lk 2:7*). The Son of God, through whom all things were created, was not welcomed, and a poor manger for animals was his crib. The eternal Word of the Father whom the heavens cannot contain chose to come into the world in this way. Out of love, he wanted to be born of a woman and so share our humanity; out of love, he accepted poverty and rejection, identifying himself with those who are discarded and excluded. Already in the birth of Jesus, we glimpse the fundamental decision that would guide the entire life of the Son of God, even to his death on the cross: the decision not to leave us under the burden of sin, but to bear it himself for us, to take it upon himself. He alone could do so. At the same time, however, he showed us what we alone can do, which is to take on our own share of responsibility. Indeed, God, who created us without us, will not save us without us (cf. Saint Augustine, *Sermon 169*, 11, 13), that is, without our free will to love. Those who do not love are not saved; they are lost. And those who do not love their brother or sister whom they see, cannot love God whom they do not see (cf. *1 Jn 4:20*). Sisters and brothers, responsibility is the sure way to peace. If all of us, at every level, would stop accusing others and instead acknowledge our own

faults, asking God for forgiveness, and if we would truly enter into the suffering of others and stand in solidarity with the weak and the oppressed, then the world would change.

From the Child of Bethlehem, we implore peace and consolation for the victims of all current wars in the world, especially those that are forgotten, and for those who suffer due to injustice, political instability, religious persecution and terrorism. Dear brothers and sisters, in the darkness of the night, "the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (Jn 1:9), but "his own people did not accept him" (Jn 1:11). Let us not allow ourselves to be overcome by indifference towards those who suffer, for God is not indifferent to our distress.

The invocation of peace that rises from every land reaches God's heart, as one poet wrote:

"Not the peace of a cease-fire,
not even the vision of the wolf and the lamb,
but rather as in the heart when the excitement is over
and you can talk only about a great weariness...
Let it come like wildflowers,
suddenly, because the field
must have it: wildpeace."

In a few days' time, the Jubilee Year will come to an end. The Holy Doors will close, but Christ our hope remains with us always! He is the Door that is always open, leading us into divine life. This is the joyful proclamation of this day: the Child who was born is God made man; he comes not to condemn but to save; his is not a fleeting appearance, for he comes to stay and to give himself. In him, every wound is healed and every heart finds rest and peace. "The Lord's birth is the birth of peace." To all of you, I offer heartfelt good wishes for a peaceful and holy Christmas!

Extracts from Pope Leo's 'Urbi et Orbi' Christmas Day address

THANK YOU! To all who made our Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies so beautiful and those who came and enjoyed them. Thank you to those who have prepared our church with lovely decorations and put up the Crib, and all who keep our Church so worthy of God and God's people. Thank you to all our Ministers of Liturgical music, of the Word and of Holy Communion, Volunteer distributors, Collectors and Newsletter Team, Baptism, Funeral and Bereavement Teams, for all you do during these holy days and your commitment throughout the year. As ever, we are deeply indebted to our own dear Fr Denis, Fr Francis Oladiipo, Deacon Arkadiusz, Olive in the sacristy, Mary in our Parish Office, and Bernie and Tony in the Parish Centre. May the

Lord reward you all according to the wisdom and tenderness of his providential care and your need. May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the courage of Mary and Joseph, and the peace of the Christ child be yours and with your families this Christmas and stay with you always. Amen. Fr Damian

Masses this coming week:

- Monday 29th December - Mass at 10am
- Tuesday 30th December - Mass at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 31st December - **New Year's Eve** - Mass at 10am
- **Thursday 1st January - New Year's Day** - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Mass at 7.30pm

CROSSCARE CHRISTMAS FOOD POVERTY APPEAL As the cost of living continues to rise, more families than ever are turning to Crosscare for help. This year, almost 3,000 people - including 1,200 children - sought basic food support, while nearly 12,000 affordable meals were served in the Portland Row Community Café. Please support our 2025 Christmas Food Poverty Appeal. Donate at www.crosscare.ie or call 01 8360011.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION Next Friday 2nd January in our church, from 10.30am to 5pm. All are welcome. There is also our usual weekly Eucharistic Holy Hour on Thursday 8 to 9pm.

FIRST SATURDAY FATIMA DEVOTIONS, 3RD JANUARY in our church. We will commence at 9.15am with intentions, prayers and the rosary. Mass at 10am.

ETERNAL REST: Please pray for the soul of Edward (Eddie) Moran whose funeral took place in our church this Saturday. May the Lord grant him eternal rest, and may the Holy Spirit comfort and sustain all those who mourn.

MOUNT SACKVILLE, 160 YEARS OF CLUNY EDUCATION, written by teacher and historian Mary Delaney, is a specially commissioned hardback book selling for €25 which includes the names of every student who graduated from 1933 - 2024. The book is available to purchase from the school directly in person or by phoning 01-8214061 or via click and collect at <https://www.uniqueschoolapp.ie/go/pay?c=VkoDC>

HUGG Walk: New Year's Day Walk, Dodder Canal, Charlemont Luas stop to Milltown, Dublin. Thursday, 1st January, 10.30am. HUGG, Ireland's national suicide bereavement organisation, is dedicated to supporting adults bereaved by suicide.

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