

CHURCH SERVICES

The Eucharist

Sunday: Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 10.00am and 12.00 noon

Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.00am
Tuesday, Thursdays 7.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

After 10.00am and 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 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.
A minimum notice of 3 months is required.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Damian McNeice – 6 Beechpark Lawn, Castleknock, Dublin 15.
Phone: 089 445 3987

Fr. Denis O'Connor CSsR – 32 Auburn Drive, Castleknock, Dublin 15.
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 sent by email to ourladysparish@gmail.com Written notices may be handed in to the Parish Office during office opening hours. Deadline for submissions is Thursday evening.



Our Lady Mother of the Church Castleknock

3rd Sunday of Advent 12 December 2021

Advent - by Jessica Powers

I live my Advent in the womb of Mary
And on one night when a great star swings free
From its high mooring and walks down the sky
To be the dot above the Christus *i*,
I shall be born of her by blessed grace.
I wait in Mary-darkness, faith's walled place,
With hope's expectance of nativity.
I knew for long she carried me and fed me,
Guarded and loved me, though I could not see,
But only now, with inward jubilee,
I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge:
Someone is hidden in this dark with me.

Written in 1948. From 'The Selected Poetry of Jessica Powers', Sr Miriam of the Holy Spirit ODC, edited by Regina Siegfried, ASC, and Robert Morneau. Sheed & Ward, 1989.

Our Lady Mother of the Church Shrine:

You may have noticed that the image at Our Lady's shrine has been updated. This more vibrant picture is the very same Our Lady and the Child Jesus that has always been at that shrine. The original has suffered somewhat from fading in recent years.

It is a Madonna and Child that was painted on a pillar of the original St Peter's Basilica building sometime in the 15th century by an anonymous artist. It was placed in the Gregorian Chapel of the 'new' current Basilica in 1578. At that time it was known as the *Madonna*

/... /...*della Colonna*, the Madonna of the Column, and drew much devotion from the people. Pope St Paul VI gave it the title *Mater Ecclesiae* – Mother of the Church in the 1960's. Pope St John Paul II had a mosaic based on it placed on the side of the Papal apartments in the 1980's that can be seen in St Peter's Square. In 2012 and 2013, this revered image underwent a major restoration, much like that done on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, and much of its original beauty and colour have been recovered. One of its most striking features is that in it both Our Lady and the Christ child are smiling. May our welcome of Mary our Mother and of her Son, Christ the Lord, bring joy to our hearts and homes.

Parish dates for your diary this Advent:

Friday 17th December: Mass with the Anointing of the Sick – parishioners who are sick or bearing an infirmity will be especially welcome to this celebration of Eucharist at which they can receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

Sunday 19th December: Bambinelli Sunday – bring your Christ child figure from your crib for it to be held up and blessed at all Masses this last Sunday before Christmas Day.

Monday 20th December: Advent Penitential Service 7.30pm with several visiting priests in attendance.

Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve - 4pm, 6pm and 8pm

Christmas Day - 8.30am, 10am and 12 noon.

We will not have a booking system for any of our Christmas Masses. The timetable for Christmas Masses and Parish Calendar is being distributed to as many homes as possible in the parish. Parish Envelope Distributors - please collect your bundle from the Sacristy after any of the Masses, or contact Mary in the Parish Office to make other collection arrangements.

Trócaire Gifts of Love:

This Christmas, consider giving Trócaire Gifts of Love and help some of the poorest people in the world to work their way out of poverty. There are 21 gifts to choose from starting at €5 for the Gift of Soap for

families in war-torn South Sudan. All the gifts are real items, sourced in-country which go to families in need of our support. For further information visit: www.trocaire.org/gifts

Trócaire have also written to the parish to thank all those who gave so generously to their recent East Africa Appeal emergency collection. They hope to be able to update us on the amount raised in the coming weeks.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul:

The Annual Christmas Appeal for St. Vincent de Paul will take place in all parishes **this weekend**. It replaces the usual Share (second) Collection. Please give as generously as you can to make Christmas a happier and less worrying time for so many families who struggle with the basics every day of the year. Thank you so much from your local St. Vincent de Paul conference. We wish you a happy and holy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

Parking near the Church:

Be careful when parking near the church, and please refrain from parking on double-yellow lines at any time. A parishioner recently received a €40 parking fine in the post for such parking near the church, but a ticket was not left on the car at the time.

7.30 Evening Mass availability in Dublin 15:

Since the beginning of Advent, St Luke's parish, Mulhuddart, have 7.30pm Mass on Mondays; St Brigid's, Blanchardstown, have 7.30pm Mass on Wednesdays and St Patrick's, Corduff, have 7.30pm Mass on Fridays. These nicely complement our Tuesday and Thursday evening Masses here in Castleknock. These extra Masses in parishes of our Deanery are being offered on a trial basis and their continuing will be reviewed in the light of attendance and demand sometime after Christmas.

Christmas Hampers:

A group of young adults will be putting hampers together that will be delivered to deserving families in the Dublin 15 area. There will be collection baskets in the church on the **weekend of the 18/19** for gifts / food / new toys etc. All donations gratefully received.