

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 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

4th Sunday of Advent 19th December 2021

COME 'HOME' FOR CHRISTMAS

One of the best ways of preparing for the holy Solemnity of Christmas is to experience Divine forgiveness; to make our peace with God and God's family, the Church, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our communal parish Celebration of Confession [Rite II] will take place this coming **Monday 20th December at 7.30pm**. Several visiting priests will be present for the occasion to assist and all are welcome. There will also be opportunities for individual confession [Rite I] after 10am Mass on Wednesday 22nd and Friday 24th December.

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.

Thank you...

Our heartfelt thanks to all who have worked so hard to prepare our parish Church for this holy season: those who prepared the Advent Wreath, the Jesse Tree, our Crib and Bethlehem backdrop, the Christmas Tree, the wreaths, the Castleknock Tidy Towns group who have beautified the planters in our Church courtyard. May the Lord reward you.

Thank you too to our Parish Distribution Team who have delivered our Christmas Card, schedule and calendar and Christmas Offering

envelopes throughout the parish. If you have not yet received yours, some spares are available on the table at the back of the Church.

News from the Parish Pastoral Council:

The new statue of St Joseph and the child Jesus was formally blessed last Sunday by His Excellency, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Papal Nuncio, at the 12 noon Mass. Seven members of the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny Mount Sackville community who kindly donated the statue to our parish were also in attendance. Sincere thanks to all who organised this lovely occasion, particularly the members of the Catholic Grandparents Association who were the driving force behind the project.

Child Safeguarding: The Pastoral Council wish to put on record a vote of thanks to Kitty Mulligan and Cáit Gunne for their very generous years of service on this important parish committee as they will soon step down due to other commitments. We are seeking parishioners to replace them, particularly from those involved with children's liturgy.

Synodal Path Parish Animators: Fr McNeice is looking for two people from our parish to train as animators for the Synodal pathway taking place in the first half of next year in our parish. Ideally one will be from the under 35 age group and one from those of mature years. They will be trained to help facilitate, together with our PPC, two gatherings of the faithful in our parish taking place in March-April 2022, where people can listen and share in an environment of prayer and acceptance so as to discern where Christ is leading the Church.

Sunday 19th 'Bambinelli' Sunday: Again inspired by the Catholic Grandparents Association, Christ-child figures from our cribs will be blessed at all Masses this weekend. We are delighted that our Archbishop, Dr. Dermot Farrell, will celebrate the 10am Mass for us. Refreshments will be provided after Mass.

Our Parish Online Carol Service:

From Monday evening 20th December, our recently recorded Parish Carol Service video will be available to you to view both on our Parish website and Facebook page. Many thanks to our Parish Choir, Folk Group and Family Music Group for their lovely contributions.

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 it 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 what was done on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, and much of its original beauty and colour has 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.

Christmas GOAL Charity Mile

Join fellow-parishioners and friends for a run/walk/jog in aid of GOAL'S humanitarian and development work in developing countries on Christmas Day at the **Pope's Cross**, Phoenix Park, any time from 10.30 to 12 noon.

Thank You from St Vincent de Paul

The amount raised from the Annual St Vincent de Paul collection last Sunday was €23,575. St Michael's conference wishes to thank everybody who contributed and in particular the person who donated €10,000. The amount raised will help us to continue to assist families who are in need in both the Castleknock and Ballymun areas during 2022.