

## CHURCH SERVICES

### The Eucl arist

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

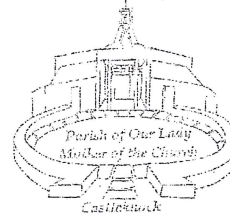
**Parish Office** – Monday to Thursday, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
Phone: 01-6409601 Email: [parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie](mailto:parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie)

**Church Sacristy** – Phone: 01-8214652

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

**Parish Website** – [www.castleknockparish.ie](http://www.castleknockparish.ie)

**Parish Newsletter** – Notices may be sent by email to [ourladysparish@gmail.com](mailto: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

### Baptism of the Lord

9<sup>th</sup> January 2022

#### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

At the conclusion of the Liturgical Season of Christmas, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The liturgy calls us to more fully get to know Jesus, whose birth we have just celebrated; and for this reason the Gospel (cf. Luke 3:15-16, 21-22) illustrates two important elements: Jesus' relationship with the people and Jesus' relationship with the Father.

In the narrative of the Baptism... we see first and foremost the role of the people. Jesus is in the midst of the people... Before immersing himself in the water, Jesus 'immerses' himself in the crowd; he joins it, fully taking on the human condition, sharing everything, except sin. In his divine holiness, full of grace and mercy, the Son of God became flesh precisely to take upon himself and take away the sin of the world: taking on our miseries, our human condition. Thus today's event is also an epiphany, because by going to have himself baptized by John, in the midst of the repentant people, Jesus manifests the logic and meaning of his mission.

By joining the people who ask John for the Baptism of conversion, Jesus shares with them the deep desire for inner renewal. And the Holy Spirit, who descends upon him "in bodily form, as a dove" (v. 22), is a sign that with Jesus a new world is being initiated, a 'new creation' in which all those who welcome Jesus into their life participate. The words of the Father are also addressed to each of us, that we may be reborn with Christ in Baptism: "Thou art my beloved son; with thee I am well pleased" (v. 22). This Fatherly love, which all of us received

on the day of our Baptism, is a flame that was lit in our heart, and needs to be kindled by means of prayer and charity.

The second element emphasized by Luke the Evangelist is that, after his immersion in the people and in the waters of the Jordan, Jesus 'immerses' himself in prayer, that is, in communion with the Father. Baptism is the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, of his mission in the world as the envoy of the Father in order to manifest his goodness and his love for mankind. This mission is fulfilled in constant and perfect union with the Father and with the Holy Spirit. The Church's mission too, and that of each of us, in order to be faithful and fruitful, is called to 'graft' ourselves onto that of Jesus. It means regenerating continually in prayer, evangelization and the apostolate, in order to bear a clear Christian witness not according to human designs, but according to the plan and style of God.

*Dear brothers and sisters, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a propitious opportunity to renew with gratitude and conviction the promises made at our Baptism, by committing ourselves to live in harmony with it daily... May Jesus, who saved us not for our own merits but in order to realize the immense goodness of the Father, make us merciful toward all. May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, be our guide and our model.*  
*Pope Francis 2019.*

#### **"ALWAYS BE THANKFUL..."**

Our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to our Christmas and New Year liturgies: those who decorated the Church, the crib, the children who wrote prayers for the Christmas tree, those who cleaned and sanitized our space for worship. Thank you to all who ministered to us: our Ministers of the Word and of Holy Communion, all involved in Music Ministry which so enriches our prayer, our Stewards, Collectors, those in the sacristy who prepare everything necessary for each liturgy, those who offer hospitality - particularly for the visit of Archbishop Dermot Farrell to us on 19th December. Thanks to those who helped open the Parish Centre so that we could accommodate larger congregations safely, to those who open and close the Church for us. In recent days we have seen the importance of our Funeral Ministry Team. On this feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we remember and appreciate

the work of our Baptism Team. Thanks to all whose open and humble hearts graciously bless our parish and make our church truly a house of prayer.

We are most grateful to all who contributed to the Christmas Offering which goes directly to the Diocesan Common Fund for the support of the Clergy of the Diocese including our sick and retired priests. On behalf of myself and Fr Denis, may the Lord bless you and your families with peace of heart in all things throughout 2022.

*Fr Damian*

#### **St. Brigid's National School**

Enrolment for junior infants for September 2022 in St. Brigid's National School, Castleknock, will commence on Monday 10th January. Please see the school website, <https://m.saintbrigids.ie/> for further details. Places will be allocated in accordance with the school's Enrolment Policy.

#### **Thank You from GOAL**

Many thanks to the many families and individuals who braved the weather to come out to support GOAL's annual Christmas Day Mile in the Phoenix Park. Your generous donations on the day and online raised over €7,000 for GOAL's humanitarian work in developing countries.

#### **TAIZE for Young People**

Taize for young people is on this Friday 14th January at 7pm It's a time for music, prayer and reflection. If you play a musical instrument, bring it along too. All welcome!

A big thank you to all who donated gifts of food items etc for Christmas hampers. A group of young people put 24 hampers together before Christmas and delivered them to families in neighbouring parishes.

**Bricks 4 Kidz Lego Technic Afterschool Classes** in Our Lady's Parish Centre, Castleknock. Every Monday from 10 January (7 weeks) Times: 1.30-2.40 and 2.40-3.40. Includes staggered pick up from St. Brigids NS, suitable for girls and boys, ages 4-12. See [www.bricks4kidz.ie/fingal](http://www.bricks4kidz.ie/fingal) or call Allison at 086 170 9493 for more details