

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.

THE DONATE BUTTON ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE

This button, which can be found on the website homepage, is a convenient online way to donate to our parish or to contribute to Dues. You can also contribute to the usual weekend 1st and/or 2nd collections, towards our parish running costs, and also our Third World Partnership (TWP) project.



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 31ST DECEMBER 2023

The Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene

Meditating on the closeness of God that Christmas reveals to us will always cause wonder. God became so small and vulnerable. Christ comes to be with us, human like us, so as to better hold out his hand to us. Let us dare to recognise the presence of God in the child lying in the manger. Let us welcome his peace, and with it the hope of peace for the world. (*Br Alois of Taizé*)

The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, 'gentle and humble in heart' (Mt 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognise what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalised. (*Pope Francis*)

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 splendid wreaths, all the preparations by our Choirs, Ministers of the Word and of Holy Communion, the extra work done by those in our sacristy and parish office. May the Lord reward you according to His Wisdom, providential care and according to your need.

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

1. What started out as an ordinary day for Joseph and Mary turned out to be a day with an encounter they would remember for a long time. Perhaps you too have had significant encounters on what you expected to be just an ordinary day?
2. Simeon gave thanks because his eyes saw the salvation God had prepared. As you look back on the year ending today, in what ways have you experienced God's salvation in your life: an experience of being loved, or discovering a sense of purpose in life, or being touched by the wonders of creation? Give thanks for those memories.
3. Perhaps the past year may also have been one in which you have experienced great sorrow. What sword has pierced your soul and what has helped you to cope with it?
4. The final sentence speaks of Jesus as one who grew and became strong and was filled with wisdom. What has helped you to grow in wisdom? Have you seen others grow in wisdom through the experience of life? Recall times when you had a sense of growing up in some way. What brought that about? Think also of how you have seen growth in another person.

Lectio Divina Our spiritual reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation of the Gospel for the following Sunday, an opportunity to listen, share, discuss and pray the Living Word, will resume in the New Year. For information, contact Marian on 087 2958363

Child Safeguarding & Protection

There is a new Child Safeguarding Policy. Copies are available upon request from the Child Safeguarding & Protection Service, Archdiocese of Dublin. A digital copy is accessible on our parish website:

<https://www.castleknockparish.ie/our-parish/safeguarding/>

Please click on the Dublin Diocese link on this page:

<http://csp.dublindiocese.ie/policies>

Mount Sackville Secondary School – 160 years anniversary

In 2024 Mount Sackville will proudly celebrate 160 years of education in Ireland. The school was founded by the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny in Chapelizod, Dublin in 1864. As part of the celebrations, we invite past pupils and staff to share your stories, photographs or any archival materials of your time here or your association with the school. You may contribute items: By email: memories@mountsackville.ie, by post: Mary Delaney, Mount Sackville Secondary School, Chapelizod, Dublin 20, D20 WP68, or in person: please present the material to the school reception in a sealed envelope with your name and address to ensure you have the original material returned safely.

Chroí Mháire Foodbank

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all those parishioners who kindly donated non-perishable food items for the foodbank over the last months. The collection of food will resume in the New Year. Martin 086 1591188

Children's Rosary, 4pm Saturdays

The children's rosary will resume at 4pm on Saturday January 6th. Looking forward to seeing our young children then.

Crosscare Christmas Food Poverty Appeal

Crosscare, our Archdiocesan social care agency, is seeking support for its Christmas Food Poverty Appeal at this challenging time for many families and individuals. This year, they have worked with almost 1,000 families, not just giving them essential food and supplies but advising them and guiding them out of food poverty in the long term, giving a hand up, not just a handout. They have revamped the Community Café in Portland Row, where this year they delivered over 5,000 nutritious meals. Any donation received will help the Food Poverty team help others move forward in life and enjoy the independence of supporting themselves. Donate online at www.crosscare.ie, call 01 8360011, or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 St Mary's Place North, D07 Y768, Dublin.

Castleknock Tidy Towns

We wish to fill three volunteer roles, Secretary, Events Manager, and Social Media and Website Manager. These are **not** paid positions. To apply, please email your details to castleknocktidytowns@gmail.com and indicate in the subject line the role for which you wish to be considered. Closing date 31st December 2023.

Our Lady's Parish Centre

Tai Chi classes 6 week term starting 9th January 2024, Tuesday, 8.15-9.45pm. Beginners welcome. Adult class for mixed age levels. Slow and gentle exercise regime. For more information and sign up please visit our website www.taichiclassesdublin.com or contact Nicole & Declan Mills per Ph. 086 397 5979 or email taichiclassesdublin@posteo.ie

Third World Partnership (TWP) – Metcha Borrodo, Ethiopia

We have been supporting this Ethiopian parish including its school and students since 2008. We are planning to build another classroom for the school in addition to the six we have already built. We are very grateful for the support of the parishioners for all our work so far. With severe inflation in Ethiopia since we last built classrooms, the cost of this building has been set at over €79000. We have €35000 towards this from donations to date. Please contact the TWP at TWP@castleknockparish.ie, or use the DONATE button on the parish website, or phone Stephanie at (086) 821 1141.