

## 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 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.

### 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](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)

**The Parish Newsletter: Notices for the Newsletter may be emailed to [ourladyparish@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyparish@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 (as an alternative to contributing to the basket collections) towards our parish running costs, as well as to 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.

**PRESENTATION OF THE LORD  
SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**

**SIMEON AND ANNA:** While the people waited for the Lord's salvation, the prophets announced his coming. Simeon and Anna are the image and figure of this longing. Upon seeing the Lord enter his temple, they are enlightened by the Holy Spirit and recognize him as the child whom Mary carries in her arms. They had been waiting for him all their lives: Simeon, "righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him" (Lk 2:25); Anna, who "did not depart from the temple" (Lk 2:37).

It is good for us to look at these two elders who were waiting patiently, vigilant in spirit and persevering in prayer. Their hearts have stayed awake, like an eternal flame. They are advanced in age, but young at heart. They do not let the days wear them down, for their eyes remain fixed on God in expectation (cf. Ps 145:15). Along life's journey, they have experienced hardships and disappointments, but they have not given in to defeat: they have not "retired" hope. As they contemplate the child, they recognize that the time has come, the prophecy has been fulfilled, the One they sought and yearned for, the Messiah of the nations, has arrived. By staying awake in expectation of the Lord, they are able to welcome him in the newness of his coming.

Brothers and sisters, waiting for God is also important for us, for our faith journey. Every day the Lord visits us, speaks to us, reveals himself in unexpected ways and, at the end of life and time, he will come. He himself exhorts us to stay awake, to be vigilant, to persevere in waiting. Indeed, the worst thing that can happen to us is to let "our spirit doze off", to let the heart fall asleep, to anesthetize the soul, to lock hope away in the dark corners of disappointment and resignation. I think of us Christians today: are we still capable of waiting? Are we not at times too caught up in ourselves, in things and in the intense rhythm of daily life to the point of forgetting God

who always comes? Ours is a world that often runs at great speed, that exalts “everything and now,” that is consumed in activism and seeks to exorcise life’s fears and anxieties in the pagan temples of consumerism or in entertainment at all costs... Let us cultivate in prayer the spirit of waiting for the Lord... Like Simeon, let us also pick up this child, the God of newness and surprises. By welcoming the Lord, the past opens up to the future, the old in us opens up to the new that he awakens... Let us be restless, let us be moved by the Spirit, like Simeon and Anna. If, like them, we live in expectation, safeguarding our interior life and in conformity with the Gospel... we will embrace Jesus, who is the light and hope of life. (*Pope Francis*)

**ETERNAL REST:** Please pray for the souls of Frank Moriarty and Marie Hague whose funerals took place during the week. May the Lord grant them eternal rest, and may the Holy Spirit comfort and sustain all those who mourn.

**WORLD DAY OF THE SICK Mass of Healing with the Anointing of the Sick** will take place in our Parish Partnership next Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 11.30am in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Laurel Lodge. All very welcome, and to tea/coffee afterwards.

**SYCAMORE** Our usual Monday Sycamore meeting in St Mochta’s parish centre, Porterstown, will **not** be on next Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February as it is a Bank Holiday. Sycamore will resume on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Sycamore retreat day will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, starting at 9.30am with refreshments, all welcome to join in. Video talks, discussions, reflection and Spiritual Director, Fr Adrian Crowley. The afternoon will close after Holy Mass at 3.30pm. Please phone Marian on 087 295 8363.

**DUBLIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April.** As we begin our Jubilee of Hope, our Diocese has launched the 2025 Knock Pilgrimage. The pilgrimage will provide an opportunity to gather as a Diocesan community of faith to celebrate the Jubilee year. The pilgrimage will include workshops, outdoor walks, the Sacrament of the Sick and our pilgrimage Mass, which will be celebrated by Archbishop Farrell. A bus will be going from our parish partnership of Castleknock, Laurel Lodge and Porterstown. To register your interest, please email your name, telephone number and the number of people going to [parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie](mailto:parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie) Thank you.

**LECTIO DIVINA** Spiritual reading, prayer and contemplation of the Gospel for the following Sunday. Next Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February from 10.30 to 11am in Our Lady’s Parish Centre, Castleknock.

**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** - Next Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February in our church, from 10.30am to 5pm. All are welcome. There is also our usual weekly Eucharistic Holy Hour on Thursday evenings after 7.30pm Mass.

**TAIZÉ PRAYER – FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>** Our next meditative Taizé prayer will take place in our church at 7pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. All are welcome, with an extra warm welcome for the young and the young at heart.

**PORTERSTOWN, LAUREL LODGE AND CASTLEKNOCK PARISHES - PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:** Departing Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025 for 4 nights staying in the 4\* Hotel Padoue. Spiritual Director, Fr. Paul. **Update - this trip is now full.** Please email [secretary@stmochtaspriest.ie](mailto:secretary@stmochtaspriest.ie) if you wish to be added to the waiting list.

**THIRD WORLD PARTNERSHIP (TWP) - A BIG ‘THANK YOU’** to everyone who donated so generously to the Third World Partnership collection at our parish Christmas Carol Service in December. We were delighted to receive the fantastic sum of €830. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donates to the TWP via standing orders to our bank account, or using the DONATE button on our parish website - [www.castleknockparish.ie](http://www.castleknockparish.ie). Your support has allowed us to make such a difference in the education and lives of the people in our partner parish in Ethiopia. If you would like more information on the TWP, or would like to help or volunteer, please email us at [TWP@castleknockparish.ie](mailto:TWP@castleknockparish.ie).

**CHRISTMAS DUES:** Sincere thanks to all who have returned their Christmas Dues. All these contributions go directly to the central Diocesan Common Fund administered by the Diocesan Finance Secretariat out of which your priests are paid their monthly stipend, and the sick and retired priests of our Diocese are cared for.

**DIGITAL TRAINING FOR OLDER PEOPLE, LAUREL LODGE COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
Age Action is hosting free Digital Training for Older People in Castleknock Community Centre, Laurel Lodge on Fridays from 10:15 - 12:15. Please call the Getting Started team on 01 475 6989 to sign up.

**IRISH-LANGUAGE FAMILY GATHERING WITH A CATHOLIC ETHOS – FAMILY POP-UP GAELTACHT** Parents - Irish classes and faith formation. Children 7-17 yrs: Irish classes, music/art and faith formation. Beginners in Irish most welcome. Information meeting – next Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 3pm, Dominican Priory, Tallaght. For further details visit [www.dominicans.ie/c35-events/family-pop-up-gaeltacht/](http://www.dominicans.ie/c35-events/family-pop-up-gaeltacht/) or email [op.evangelisation@gmail.com](mailto:op.evangelisation@gmail.com)

*[PS: Did you read the first two paragraphs of this Newsletter very carefully?]*