

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.

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD, BOOKSHELF OR TABLE AT BACK OF CHURCH

Please do not leave any material (notices/leaflets/books/publications, etc.) on the table, bookshelf or on the Church notice board without checking with Fr Damian or the parish office. Thank you

LOST PROPERTY:

There are a number of unclaimed items in Lost Property - glasses, umbrellas, etc. An item which may be of sentimental value was found in the church after **10am Mass on Sunday 30th November**. If you think this or the other items may be yours, please contact the sacristy or parish office.



OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PARISHES OF
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, LAUREL LODGE
AND ST MOCHTA'S PORTERSTOWN.

2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
4TH JANUARY 2026

MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY: In Our Lady Mother of the Church, Mass for this great feast of the revealing of Jesus will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th January. 10am Mass that morning is available in our partnership parish of St Thomas the Apostle, Laurel Lodge.

EPIPHANY ANNOUNCEMENT 2026 of the date of Easter and the movable feasts that define us:

Beloved brothers and sisters, the glory of the Lord has been manifested among us, and always will be until his return. Within the rhythms and events of time, we remember and live out the mysteries of salvation. The Triduum of the crucified, buried and risen Lord is the centre of the entire liturgical year which will culminate on Easter Sunday, 5th April. On each Sunday, the weekly Easter, holy Church makes present this great event, by which Christ conquered sin and death. From Easter flow all holy days: Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, on 18th February; on the 17th May: the Ascension of the Lord, on the 24th day of the same month, the feast of Pentecost, the First Sunday of the Advent on 29th November. The pilgrim Church on earth proclaims the Easter of her Lord also on the feasts of the holy Mother of God, of the apostles and saints, and on the commemoration of all the faithful departed. To Christ who was, who is and who is to come, the Lord of time and history, be everlasting praise for ever and ever. Amen.

“CHALKING THE DOOR”: In Germany and other parts of Central Europe there is an Epiphany tradition of marking the front door of your home with chalk in a pattern like this: **“20 + C + M + B + 26”**. The numbers refer to the present calendar year 2026 and the crosses to Christ. The letters C, M, and B stand for the traditional names of the biblical Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar), and also for the Latin blessing “Christus mansionem benedicat” (‘May Christ bless this house’).

POPE LEO ON THIS NEW YEAR: “On the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, at the beginning of the new civil year, the Liturgy offers us the text of a beautiful blessing: “May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace” (*Num* 6:24-26). The people of Israel, to whom this blessing was addressed, were a people who had been set free – men and women reborn after a long period of slavery, thanks to God’s intervention and the generous response of his servant, Moses. In Egypt, they had enjoyed certain comforts: food was available, as were shelter and a measure of stability. Yet this came at the cost of their freedom; enslaved, they were oppressed by a tyranny that demanded ever more while giving ever less (cf. *Ex* 5:6-7). Now, in the desert, many of those former comforts were lost. But in exchange there was freedom, which took shape as an open road toward the future, found in the gift of a law of wisdom and in the promise of a land where they might live and grow without shackles or chains. In short, it was a rebirth.

Thus, at the dawn of the new year, the Liturgy reminds us that for each of us, every day can be the beginning of a new life, thanks to God’s generous love, his mercy and the response of our freedom. It is beautiful to view the coming year in this way: as an open journey to be discovered. Indeed, through grace, we can venture forth on this journey with confidence – free and bearers of freedom, forgiven and bringers of forgiveness, trusting in the closeness and goodness of the Lord who accompanies us always.

We recall this truth as we celebrate the mystery of Mary’s divine motherhood. By her “yes,” she helped give a human face to the source of all mercy and benevolence: the face of Jesus. Through his eyes – first as a child, then as a young man and as an adult – the Father’s love reaches us and transforms us. Therefore, as we set out toward the new and unique days that await us, let us ask the Lord to help us experience at every moment, around us and upon us, the warmth of his fatherly embrace and the light of his benevolent gaze. In this way, we may better understand and keep constantly in mind who we are and towards what marvelous destiny we are heading. At the same time, let us also give God glory through prayer, holiness of life, and by becoming mirrors of his goodness for one another.

Saint Augustine taught that, in Mary, “the Creator of man became man: so that, though he orders the stars, he might suckle at a woman’s breast; though he is the Bread (cf. *Jn* 6:35), he might hunger (cf. *Mt* 4:2)... in order to free us, even though we were unworthy” (*Sermon* 191, 1.1). In this way, Augustine recalled one of the fundamental features of God’s face: the complete gratuity of his love. As I emphasized in the [Message for this World Day of Peace](#), God presents himself to us “unarmed and disarming,” as naked and defenseless as a newborn in a cradle. He does this to teach us that the world is not saved by sharpening swords, nor by judging, oppressing or eliminating our brothers and sisters.

Rather, it is saved by tirelessly striving to understand, forgive, liberate and welcome everyone, without calculation and without fear.

This is the face of God that Mary allowed to take shape and grow within her womb, completely transforming her life. It is the face she proclaimed through the joyful yet delicate light of her eyes while bearing him in her womb; the face whose beauty she contemplated daily in her home as Jesus grew as a child, boy and young man; and the face she followed with the heart of a humble disciple, as he walked the paths of his mission, all the way to the cross and the resurrection. To do so, she too laid aside every defense, renouncing expectations, claims and comforts – as mothers so often do – consecrating her life without reserve to the Son she had received by grace, so that she might, in turn, give him back to the world.

In Mary’s divine motherhood, then, we see the meeting of two immense, “unarmed” realities: that of God, who renounces every privilege of his divinity to be born in the flesh (cf. *Phil* 2:6-11), and that of a human person who, trustingly and fully, embraces God’s will. In a perfect act of love, she offers him the greatest power she possesses: her freedom.

Reflecting upon this mystery, Saint John Paul II invited us to contemplate what the shepherds found in Bethlehem: “the disarming tenderness of the Child, the surprising poverty in which he is found and the humble simplicity of Mary and Joseph.” These realities transformed their lives, making them “messengers of salvation”.

ETERNAL REST: Please pray for the soul of Sheila Murray whose funeral took place in our church this Saturday. May the Lord grant her eternal rest, and may the Holy Spirit comfort and sustain all those who mourn.

TAIZÉ PRAYER - Our monthly meditative Taizé prayers will take place at 7pm next Friday 9th January. All are welcome.

PARISH CHILDREN’S LITURGY GROUP - our weekly family Meditation resumes in our Church next Wednesday 7th January from 2.35pm till 3pm. We look forward to welcoming you then.

LECTIO DIVINA Prayer and contemplation of the Gospel for the following Sunday. Wednesday 7th January from 10:30 to 11am in Our Lady’s Parish Centre, Castleknock.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD The rota for Ministers of the Word for December to February is on the Parish website. Copies are available in the Sacristy. There is also a copy of the St Paul’s Missal for 2026 available for all our Ministers of the Word and choir leaders.

THANK YOU FROM GOAL - Many thanks to the many families and individuals who came out to support GOAL’s annual Christmas Day Mile in Phoenix Park. Your generous donations on the day and online raised over €13,000 for GOAL’s [humanitarian work](#) in developing countries.