

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.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 11TH JANUARY 2026

ENTERING INTO OUR DARKNESS TO RESTORE LIGHT

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and the Gospel presents us with an astonishing scene: it is the first time that Jesus appears in public after his hidden life in Nazareth. He arrives on the bank of the River Jordan to be baptized by John (cf. Mt 3:13-17). It is a rite by which the people repented and committed to converting; a liturgical hymn says that the people went to be baptized "with a bare soul and bare feet" – an open, naked soul, without covering anything – that is, with humility and with a transparent heart. But, seeing Jesus mingling with the sinners, we are surprised and we wonder: why did Jesus make that choice? He, the Holy One of God, the Son of God without sin, why did he make that choice? We find the answer in Jesus' words to John: "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (v. 15). *Fulfill all righteousness*: what does it mean?

By having himself baptized, Jesus reveals God's justice, that justice he came to bring into the world. Very often we have a limited idea of justice, and think that it means: those who do wrong pay, and in this way compensate for the wrong they have done. But God's justice, as the Scripture teaches, is much greater. It does not have the condemnation of the guilty as its end, but their salvation, rebirth and their being made righteous: from unjust to just. It is a justice that comes from love, from the depths of compassion and mercy that are the very heart of God, the Father who is moved when we are oppressed by evil and fall under the weight of sins and fragility. God's justice, then, is not intended to distribute penalties and punishments but rather, as the Apostle Paul affirms, it consists of making us, his children, righteous (cf. Rm 3:22-31), freeing us from the snares of evil, healing us, raising us up again.

The Lord is never ready to punish us. His hand is outstretched to help us rise up. And so, we understand that, on the banks of the Jordan, Jesus reveals to us the meaning of his mission: He came to fulfill divine justice, which is that of saving sinners; he came to take on his own shoulders the sin of the world and to

descend into the waters of the abyss, of death, so as to rescue us and prevent us from drowning. He shows us today that God's true justice is the mercy that saves. We are afraid to think that God is mercy, but God is mercy because his justice is indeed the mercy that saves. It is the love that shares our human condition, that makes itself close, in solidarity with our suffering, entering into our darkness to restore light.

Benedict XVI affirmed that "God desired to save us by going to the bottom of this abyss himself so that every person, even those who have fallen so low that they can no longer perceive Heaven, may find God's hand to cling to and rise from the darkness to see once again the light for which he or she was made" (Homily, 13 January 2008).

Let us move forward: God is mercy. His justice is merciful. Let us allow him to take us by the hand. We too, disciples of Jesus, are required to exercise justice in this way, in relationships with others, in the Church, in society: not with the harshness of those who judge and condemn, *dividing* people into good and bad, but with the mercy of those who welcome by *sharing* the wounds and frailties of their sisters and brothers, so as to lift them up again. I would like to put it like this: *not dividing, but sharing*. Let us do as Jesus did: let us share, let us carry each other's burdens instead of gossiping and destroying, let us look at each other with compassion, let us help each other. Let us ask ourselves: am I a person who divides or shares? Think a little: am I a disciple of Jesus' love or a disciple of gossip that divides. Gossip is a lethal weapon: it kills, it kills love, it kills society, it kills fraternity. Let us ask ourselves: am I a person who divides or a person who shares? *Pope Francis 2023*

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to 25th January of each year – the Octave of feasts of St Peter and St Paul. Its inauguration in Dublin will take place at an **Interdenominational Service on Sunday 18th January 2026, 8pm, at St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church in Palmerstown, Dublin 20, D20 VP97**. Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Primate of the Armenian Church of the UK and Ireland, will be the speaker at this Ecumenical Service, at which many leaders from the richness of the various Christian traditions will attend. All are welcome.

Eternal Rest: Please pray for the soul of Niall Costello whose funeral took place in our church on Thursday. May the Lord grant him eternal rest, and may the Holy Spirit comfort and sustain all those who mourn.

Parish Children's Liturgy Group – our weekly family Meditation continues in our Church next Wednesday 14th January from 2.35pm till 3pm. We look forward to welcoming you then.

Eucharistic Adoration with Music in our Church.

Adoration with music takes place on the third Friday of every month, 7 - 8pm, continuing next Friday, 16th January. All are welcome.

Lectio Divina Prayer and contemplation of the Gospel for the following Sunday. Wednesday 14th January from 10:30 to 11am in Our Lady's Parish Centre, Castleknock.

Ministers of the Word The rota for Ministers of the Word to the end of February is on the Parish website. Copies are available in the Sacristy. There is also a copy of the St Paul's Missal for all the Sundays and feasts of 2026 available for all our Ministers of the Word and choir leaders.

Rosary Times - Our Lady Mother of the Church After daily Mass Monday to Saturday. A box in which you can place your written intentions to be lifted up during the Rosary is at the back of the Church. Rosary for children will resume next Saturday 17th January at 4.30pm.

Christmas Dues: Sincere thanks to all who have returned their Christmas Dues. All these contributions, as do Easter and Summer Dues, 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.

Parish Shop: Open this Sunday 11th January from 10am to 11.30am.

TheWay.ie is a new digital platform set up by the Irish Bishops' Conference dedicated to sharing the Good News and the witness of the Catholic Church in Ireland. It is intended to help people discover the faith, live the faith and pass on the faith. It is for both seekers and followers. Visit www.theway.ie.

Catholic Schools Week 2026 begins on 18th January. This is a week to celebrate and acknowledge the wonderful contribution that our Primary Catholic schools, both primary and post-primary, make to the mission of the Church in our local faith communities and throughout the wider Church. The theme of Catholic Schools Week 2026 is **Normal Lives, Called to Holiness**.

Porterstown, Laurel Lodge & Castleknock Parishes Pilgrimage To Lourdes - Departing on Monday 24th August at 10.45am for 4 nights staying in the 4* Hotel Padoue. €725 pp sharing / €905 single rooms (limited). Spiritual Director, Fr. Paul. If you are interested, please leave your name and contact no. in the Sacristy of St Mochta's, Porterstown, after any Mass, see Fr. Paul or email secretary@stmochtasparish.ie. A deposit of €200 will secure your place.

Volunteers needed for Avista! Are you looking to make a difference in 2026? Avista (formerly the Daughters of Charity) provide supports for individuals with intellectual disabilities in your area and we **urgently** need volunteers to enhance our work. We have volunteering opportunities in a wide range of locations throughout your parish. **No experience necessary** and ongoing support will be provided. We have options for people to volunteer their time for as little as two hours per month. Contact **Liz Farrell**, Volunteer Partner Lead, on 087 3792009 or email liz.farrell@avistaclg.ie for details and an informal chat.