

CHURCH SERVICES

The Eucharist

Sunday: Saturday Vigil 6 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 12.15 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Weekday: Monday to Friday 10 a.m. & 7.30 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

After 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Mass on Saturday and on request.

Baptism

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month at 1 p.m.
1 month's notice required. Book a baptism at the sacristy or parish office.
Preparation meeting, 1st Thursday of the month, 8 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

Marriage

By arrangement with one of the Priests.
A minimum notice of 3 months is required.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Kieran Coghlan – 6 Beechpark Lawn, Castleknock, Dublin 15
Phone: 01-6408595 Email: kcoghlan@eircom.net

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: castleknockparish.olmc@gmail.com

Church Sacristy – Phone: 01-8214652

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

Parish Website – www.castleknockparish.ie

Parish Newsletter – Notices may be sent by email to 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, DUBLIN 15

4th Sunday of Advent 22nd December 2019

The Advent season is almost over. As we prepare this coming week to celebrate Christmas we are introduced to the figure of Joseph as the principal character of the Gospel on this final Sunday of Advent.

Joseph is presented in the Gospel as an upright man, a man of honour, a man open to hearing the Word of God and a man prepared to act in accordance with the Word of God that he hears. In his own quiet way Joseph offers us an example to reflect upon as we discern how God is calling us in life.

Joseph had a difficult decision to make when he realised that Mary was with child. He made a choice to deal with the situation in what he considered to be an honourable way. But in his dream where he encountered the angel Joseph discerned that God was calling him to act differently. When he awoke from his sleep he had the courage to change his mind. Joseph takes Mary home as his wife and becomes the father figure in the earthly life of Jesus. Along with Mary, Joseph then has a pivotal role to play in rearing the child Jesus whose birth in Bethlehem we celebrate at Christmas.

The climax of the Gospel reading this Sunday is that Jesus is the Emmanuel, a name which means 'God is with us'. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this week, may you experience joy in the God who is with us and the peace which the coming of the Lord brings to all who welcome Jesus as their Saviour.

Fr. Kieran Coghlan

Happy Christmas

We wish all parishioners and visitors to our parish at this time every blessing as we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour.

Christmas Eve

Family Mass at 6 p.m., Carols at 9.30 p.m., Night Mass at 10 p.m.

Christmas Day

Mass at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. No evening Mass.

St. Stephen's Day

Mass at 10 a.m. only. No evening Mass.

Friday 27th

Mass at 10 a.m. only. No evening Mass.

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th

Mass at the usual weekend times.

Peace Light of Bethlehem

An eternal flame burns in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. On Wednesday 11th December a light from that flame was taken by local Israeli and Palestinian Scouts and has been passed on over the past few days to many parts of the world. A light from that flame in Bethlehem has arrived in Ireland and is being brought by Irish Scouts to many parts of our country. We are blessed to have a light from that flame here in our own Church in these closing days of Advent as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. Please pray that the Prince of Peace may bring his peace to the Holy Land and to all other places of conflict throughout the world. May we know the peace of Christ in our own hearts too.

St. Vincent's Castleknock College

2021 Admissions: Closing date for applications for First Year in 2021 is 31st December 2019.

2020 Scholarships: Application form available on the College website. Closing date for applications is 31st December 2019. See www.castleknockcollege.ie for information.

Christmas GOAL Charity Mile

Join fellow parishioners and friends for a run/walk/jog in aid of GOAL'S humanitarian and development work in developing countries on Christmas Day at the Pope's Cross, Phoenix Park, any time from 10.30 to 12 noon.

Joseph the dreamer

Pope Francis has spoken on several occasions about his devotion to St Joseph. St Joseph is his favourite saint, he says, because he shows us how God reveals his plan to us in our times of silence and rest. He keeps a statue of a sleeping St Joseph on his desk, placing prayer requests under it.

Speaking on a trip to the Philippines in 2015, he said: 'I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength ... Joseph's rest revealed God's will to him. In this moment of rest in the Lord, as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities, God is also speaking to us. But like St Joseph, once we have heard God's voice, we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act.'

Today's Gospel recalls the central role played by St Joseph in the story of the birth of Jesus. A man of honour from the outset, the goodness of his character is further highlighted by his response to God's voice. When he wakes up after hearing God's instructions in a dream, he immediately acts on it and takes Mary into his home. His openness to God's will is a crucial element in the story that follows: his partnership with and support of Mary, the birth of Jesus, his care for the child 'who is to save his people'.

Christmas is very near now, and we are busy and preoccupied with our preparations. A good time, perhaps, to pause in silence, to rest with God, and to listen to what he might have to say to us.

Reflection for Christmas

Endless peace sounds great, but, as we know, peace is always 'under construction', always fragile, always in need of support. Where have you experienced peace? What about your own commitment to be a peacemaker, a bearer of peace to others?

(extracts from *Intercom* magazine: <https://www.intercommagazine.ie/>)