CHURCH SERVICES

THE EUCHARIST

Saturday	6.00pm
Sunday	10.00am and 12.00 noon
Monday, Wednesday, F	riday, Saturday 10.00am
Tuesday, Thursday	7.30pm
	Sunday Monday, Wednesday, F

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: <u>parishoffice@castleknockparish.ie</u> Church Sacristy – Phone: 01-8214652

Our Lady's Parish Centre – Phone: 01-8209907 Parish Website – <u>www.castleknockparish.ie</u> Parish Newsletter – Notices may be emailed to <u>ourladysparish@gmail.com</u> 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, as well as 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.

3rd Sunday of Advent 15th December 2024

"THE LORD IS NEAR. WHAT SHALL WE DO?" The Gospel in today's Liturgy, the Third Sunday of Advent, presents us with various groups of people — the crowd, the publicans and soldiers — who, touched by John the Baptist's preaching, ask him: "What then should we do?" (Lk 3:10) Let us reflect a little on this question... "The Lord is near. What shall we do?" Let us give an example: let us think of a dear one who is coming to visit us. We joyfully and impatiently await them. To properly welcome them, we will clean the house, we will prepare the best dinner possible, perhaps a gift... In short, there are things we will do. It is the same with the Lord. The joy of his coming makes us ask: what shall we do? But God elevates this question to a higher level: what should I do with my life? What am I called to? What will fulfil me?

By suggesting this question, the Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us. Life is not meaningless; it is not left to chance. No! It is a gift the Lord grants us, saying to us: discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true! Each of us — let us not forget this — has a mission to accomplish. So, let us not be afraid to ask the Lord: what shall I do? ... Let us ask ourselves as well: what would be good for me to do for myself and for my brothers and sisters? How can I contribute to the good of the Church, to the good of society?

The Season of Advent is meant for this: to stop and ask ourselves how to prepare for Christmas. We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass. But let us ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What shall we do? After the question, "what shall we do?"- the Gospel lists John the Baptist's responses that are different for each group. In fact, John recommends that those who have two tunics should share with those who have none; to the publicans who collect taxes, he says: "Collect no more than is appointed you" (Lk 3:13); to the soldiers: "Do not mistreat or extort money from anyone (cf. v. 14). He directs a specific word to each person that responds to their actual situation in life. This offers us a precious teaching: faith is incarnated in concrete life. It is not an abstract theory. Faith is not an abstract theory, a generalized theory — no! Faith touches our very flesh and transforms each of our lives. Let us think about the concreteness of our faith… Does it lead me to serving others, helping out? What can I do concretely during these days as we draw near to Christmas? How can I do my part?

Let us make a concrete commitment, even if small, that is adapted to our situation in life, and let us continue to do it to prepare ourselves for this Christmas. For example: I can call a person who is alone, visit that elderly person or that person who is ill, do something to serve a poor person, someone in need. Even still: maybe I need to ask forgiveness, grant forgiveness, clarify a situation, pay a debt. Perhaps I have neglected prayer and after a long time, it is time to draw near to the Lord's forgiveness. Brothers and sisters, let us find something concrete and do it! May Our Lady, in whose womb God became flesh, help us. *Pope Francis*

'BAMBINELLI' SUNDAY: This Sunday, on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, a day of rejoicing at the nearness of God, bring the baby Jesus figure from your crib at home to **either** our 10am or 12 noon Mass for it to be blessed. After our 10am Mass, the parish Children's Liturgy group is delighted to invite you and your family to a very special Christmas Celebration in our parish centre. This year, our theme is 'Joy to the world' - sharing with our little ones how Christ brings joy and happiness to everyone, especially those who are sick, lonely, or in need of love this season.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD - ROTA FOR DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY

The rota for Ministers of the Word for December to February is available on the Parish website. Hard copies are in the Sacristy.

ETERNAL REST: Please pray for the soul of John Dolan, whose funeral took place on Monday. May the Holy Spirit comfort and sustain all those who mourn.

LECTIO DIVINA - WEDNESDAYS, 10.30 TO 11AM Spiritual reading, prayer and contemplation of the Gospel for the following Sunday. Wednesday 18th December from 10.30 to 11am in Our Lady's Parish Centre.

CHILDREN'S ROSARY, 4PM SATURDAY recited every Saturday in our church at 4pm. Looking forward to seeing our young children joining us, and all are welcome.

More December Dates for your Diary:

- Our Parish Carol Service Sunday 15th December, 6pm.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation, Monday 16th December 7.30pm. Our Parish Partnership Penitential Service will be held on Monday 16th December 7.30pm <u>in St Thomas the Apostle Church, Laurel Lodge.</u> Several visiting priests will assist on the evening. All are welcome.
- Individual confession will be available on:
 - Saturday 21st December after 10am Mass
 - o Tuesday 24th December 10.30am to 12.30pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

- Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December 6pm Family Mass and 9pm Night Mass
- Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December 10am and 12 noon
- St Stephen's Day Thursday 26th December Mass at 10am

Planting for the Future - the PPC 'Cry of the Earth' Project

Building on the great work this year in sowing pollinator-friendly plants in the large pots that adorn the front approaches to our Church, the next phase is to involve the wider community including the schoolchildren of St Brigid's. This phase involves the planting of bulbs and shrubs, to include gorse or furze, to protect the existing plants from encroachment and to further enhance the Church environment. Are you in a position to support the community in this very worthwhile planting project? We are seeking support from parishioners with an interest / expertise in horticulture for advice, and would also appreciate assistance with the planting. If you are in a position to help in any way, please contact Margaret Condon, our PPC Chairperson, at 086 839 2518.

WHAT IS PRAYER? WHY SHOULD WE PRAY? AND HOW? If you are interested in these and similar questions please join us for the last night in this series of adult faith discussions in St Brigid's Pastoral Centre, Blanchardstown, D15 YY61 on Wednesday 18th December, 7:00pm to 8:10pm.

CROSSCARE APPEAL Crosscare, the social care agency of our Archdiocese, is once again asking for support for their Christmas Food Poverty Appeal. So far this year, almost 3,000 people, including 1500 children, have needed basic food supplies and support; over a quarter of those coming to Crosscare's Food Poverty Service accessing food support are parenting alone. In the Community Café in Portland Row, staff will have served nearly 10,000 affordable, nutritious meals by the end of this year. As families struggle to cope with the cost of Christmas, there will likely be a spike in the number of people seeking help in the weeks ahead.

Anyone wishing to contribute can donate online at <u>www.crosscare.ie</u>, call 01 8360011, or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 Saint Mary's Place North, D07 Y768.