

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.

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 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 5TH JANUARY 2025

MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY: In Our Lady Mother of the Church, Masses for this great feast of the revealing of Jesus will be at **10am and 7.30pm on Monday 6th January.**

EPIPHANY ANNOUNCEMENT 2025 *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 20th 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 5th March; on the 1st June: the Ascension of the Lord, on the 8th day of the same month, the feast of Pentecost, the First Sunday of the Advent on 30th 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 + 25”. The numbers refer to the present calendar year 2025 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’).

ETERNAL REST: Please pray for the souls of our parishioners Maureen Connellan, Tony Heverin, Joan O'Loughlin and Anne Murphy whose funerals took place in our parish during this past week. We pray for Denis Collins, RIP, formerly of Hawthorn Lawn, whose funeral will take place in our Church this coming Wednesday. May the Lord grant them all eternal rest, and may the Holy Spirit comfort and sustain all those who mourn.

JUBILEE YEAR – PILGRIMS OF HOPE – Pope Francis has, opened the Jubilee Year 2025 - a year in which God's holiness can transform us. See the official website for further information: www.iubilaeum2025.va

LECTIO DIVINA – WEDNESDAYS Spiritual reading, prayer and contemplation of the Gospel for the following Sunday. Next Wednesday 8th January from 10.30 to 11am in Our Lady's Parish Centre, Castleknock.

PORTERSTOWN, LAUREL LODGE & CASTLEKNOCK PARISHES - PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Departing Tuesday, 19th August 2025 for 4 nights staying in the 4* Hotel Padoue. Spiritual Director, Fr. Paul. If you are interested in travelling, please leave your name and contact no. in the Sacristy in Porterstown after any Mass or email secretary@stmochtasparish.ie. A €200 deposit will secure your place.

THE COURAGE TO HOPE When we long to trust in God's love, what we see and sense around us so often seems to contradict that love. We are caught between what is already given and what is still to come. This space is not always very comfortable. But when it opens out towards a hope of fulfilment, then something is set free within us. Hope requires patience. "We hope for what we cannot see" (Romans 8:25), says the Apostle Paul. Turned towards what will come in fullness in God's time, yet also troubled with "fighting within and fear without" (2 Corinthians 7:5), do we dare to hold ourselves in that space rather than fleeing it? "Hoping against all hope, Abraham believed" (Romans 4:18). Abraham, the forebear of many people of faith, held on to God's promise far beyond any reasonable hope. He and his wife Sarah received what seemed impossible for them.

At a time when his country was devastated by war and its inhabitants threatened by exile, and though he was himself in prison, the prophet Jeremiah made an investment in the future: he bought a field, so sure was he that God would not abandon his people (Jeremiah 32:6-15).

Such an astonishing gesture of hope makes faith become more real. It is a firm trust in what is as yet invisible and even uncertain. Can we hold on to such a hope? This ultimately reopens the source of joy. Even in the most complicated human situations, what we had never dared hope for can become reality.

Today, incredible initiatives of hope are springing up in many countries where war wreaks havoc.

To help us understand better what hope means, we need to listen to people who live in the midst of distress and violence. Is it not through their voices that God will lead us?

During my visit to Ukraine with two of my brothers, a church leader told us: "Prayer opens up a space that allows healing". I was very struck by his remark. Constantly confronted with the pain of his people, he sees that it is in their inner life that believers can stay open to welcome what is new.

This is a process that does not necessarily produce immediate results, but which, perhaps accompanied by other means, opens a door to overcoming hurts and sorrow, and awakens the hope of a healed humanity. Prayer gives strength to stand firm in the face of the most complex situations. It breaks the waves of discouragement when darkness seems to engulf everything.

A Palestinian woman living in France, but whose family is in Gaza, wrote to us: "The love that carries the wounded, the fragile, gives new strength. It makes me think of the paralysed man in the Gospel, carried by his friends and their faith. Prayer is also a way of resisting, and that's important to me. But I'm human: after the news of the death of two members of my family, anger overwhelmed me, I shouted, I cried.... When I came to my senses, I knew that God is there in suffering and despair, and that God carries us." This summer, while visiting Taizé, she said: "Every morning, I pray to find the strength to love rather than hate." Her words are like a lamp on the road.

A young woman from an Asian country wracked by war told me: "Our people are overwhelmed but find comfort in the Gospel. How often were God's people on the run? Still, community was created no matter how hard the situation was. God may have greater plans for us, but we must take one day at a time. Being able to live the present day is a gift and a sign that life is there to be lived fully. In prayer, there is a source of peace which enables us to encourage one another, finding meaning in sharing and solidarity."

An extract from Br Matthew, Prior of Taizé's Letter for 2025 [full text available at: www.taize.fr/en_article39682.html]

SYCAMORE - return date Monday 13th January

Sycamore returns to St Mochta's parish centre, Porterstown on Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.30pm. A series of talks and informal discussions on Christian faith, based on the Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Presenter is Fr Stephen Wang, esteemed speaker and author. Course running in union with parish partnership of St Mochta's, St Thomas the Apostle and Our Lady Mother of the Church. Please join us, starting with refreshments at 7.30pm. Newcomers are very welcome.