

PARISH of ST. THOMAS the APOSTLE
in partnership with the parishes of Porterstown & Castleknock

Very Rev. Damian McNeice, P.P. – Tel: 089 4453987
Rev. Brendan Quinlan C.C. - Tel: 01-8208144 or 087-2460033
Parish Office: (Secretary: 01-820 8112)
website - www.laurellodgeparish.ie email: office@laurellodgeparish.ie
Fr. Dan Joe O'Mahony OFM Cap. 01-8200915 / 086-8090633
Saturday/Sunday – 16th / 17th DECEMBER 2023

MASS TIMES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday – Friday at 10.00 am

MASS ON THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 23rd December 6.30 pm
Sunday 24th December – 9.30 am, 11.00 am and 12.30 pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve – Sunday 24th December
5.00 pm (children), 7.00 pm and 9.00 pm
Christmas Day – Monday 25th December
9.30 am, 11.00 am and 12.30 pm
Mass on the week days 26th to 29th December at 10.00 am

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)
17th DECEMBER 2023

First Reading: (Is. 61:1-2): The writer declares that he has been sent by God to usher in the new age of salvation for Jerusalem and for all of God's people.

Second Reading: (1Thess5 16-24): This is taken from the end of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. He summarises the life he recommends to them.

Gospel: (John 1:6-8) The subject of the gospel is the same as those of last Sunday; the witness of John the Baptist who invites everyone to faith in Jesus.

REFLECTION

There is a clear note of joy in today's readings
Joy is not the same as pleasure
Pleasure is of the body, joy is of the spirit
Pleasure is like a flame in the night
It brightens things for a while but it dies quickly
Leaving us darker and emptier than before
Joy on the other hand is like a bright fire in the hearth
Joy in the heart is the surest sign of the presence of God



Christmas Carol Service – A big **THANK YOU** to all who attended our Carol Service last Monday evening and to all who took part. Special thanks to Denis Twomey and his team for all their work in making the evening a very special one. The Carol Service can be viewed on the webcam.



THANK YOU: THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND FOR THE SVP AMOUNTED TO **€12,830.67.**

The Jesse Tree is an Advent tradition. It tells us the story of God's plan from the beginning of time to bring His people into saving love. It is a countdown to Christmas, starting with the story of God's people in the Old Testament, and ending with Jesus, God's beloved Son. It tells us about Jesus' family tree and reminds us that we are part of his family too.

ON THIS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT OUR DECORATIONS SYMBOLISE:

Isaiah's prophecy – a scroll The town where Jesus was born – a
King David – a harp Bethlehem house
King Solomon – a crown



The last Day Chapel activity is Sunday 17th December.

We will resume on Sunday 14th January 2024.

RITE II CONFESSIONS: Sunday 17th December after the 09.30 am Mass
Sunday 24th December after the 12.30 pm Mass
Penitential Service - A Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation Monday 18th December in Our Lady Mother of the Church, Castleknock at 7.30pm

MASS INTENTIONS

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|--------------------------|--|
| SATURDAY: 6.30 pm | MARY KEALY (3RD ANNIVERSARY) |
| SUNDAY: 9.30 am | NANCY & JIMMY GRIMES (ANNIVERSARY) |
| 11.00 am | OLIVE & BILL NEWMAN (ANNIVERSARY) |
| 12.30 pm | LIAM KELLY (ANNIVERSARY) |

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

GERRYWARD whose funeral took place in our church during the week

Kathleen O'Donoghue (Months Mind)

Carmel and Patrick Hickey, Barbara Shaughnessy Hein,
Gretta Hennigan, Sinead O'Hanlon, Ivan Reilly, Stephen Kenny
(Recently Deceased)

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Denis Byrne, Kevin Nugent, Rosaleen Agnew, Dan McAnaney

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The Pope's Intentions December 2023 - For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

LECTIO DIVINA: Spiritual reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation of the Gospel for the following Sunday - an opportunity to listen, share, discuss and pray the Living Word. Please come **on Wednesdays** from 10.30 am to 11.00 am in Our Lady's Parish Centre, Beechpark Lawn, Castleknock. For information, contact Marian on 087 2958363.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

The Irish Hospice Foundation provides a free Bereavement Support Line. This National Freephone Service is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 1800 807077. Visit www.hospicefoundation.ie for more information.

AWARE – SUPPORT & SELF CARE GROUPS

If you or those with whom you work wish to connect with people in relation to your mental wellbeing, consider using Aware's phone-in and Zoom support and self-care groups, support line or support mail. For more information, visit www.aware.ie.

Adoration takes place in Laurel Lodge Church every Wednesday from 8 pm to 9 pm.

All Welcome. Also available on the parish webcam: www.laurellodgeparish.ie

St Mochta's, Porterstown - Sundays 7pm to 8pm

Our Lady Mother of the Church - Thursdays 8pm to 9pm

Mass Intentions: To arrange an anniversary Mass or Mass for a special intention please phone the parish office (01 8208112) or email office@laurellodgeparish.ie with the details. Mass intentions can also be booked with the Sacristan.

Early booking is recommended.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday mornings - 9.00 am – 9.30 am

Saturday evenings - 5.00 pm – 5.45 pm

Rite II (communal celebration) – after the 6.30 pm Mass on the 1st Saturday of the month

PRAYERS/INTENTIONS

A basket will be left at the altar for people to place their intentions/prayer requests. These will be prayed for at the 10.00 am Mass on the day.

