

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

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**Saturday/Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

**MASS TIMES FOR THE COMING WEEK**

**Monday to Friday at 10.00am - Saturday Vigil Mass: 6.30pm**  
**Sunday Masses: 9.30am and 11.30am**

In Porterstown: Saturday 6pm and Sunday 11am  
In Castleknock: Saturday 6pm and Sunday 10am and 12 noon  
[Mountview parish have a Sunday evening Mass at 6pm]

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

Today we begin a new liturgical year. The liturgy invites us to come to the house of the Lord, so that God may teach us his ways and help us to walk in his light. We are continuously in need of God's help and guidance.

**First Reading:** (Is.2:1-5) This vision of a world at peace under God challenges us to work for this new world which was inaugurated by Christ.

**Second Reading:** (Rom.13:11-14) This reading is a wake-up call and challenges us to turn away from the darkness of evil and to walk in the light of Christ.

**Gospel:** (Mt. 24:37-44): This gospel tells us to stay awake because we do not know either the day or the hour when Christ will return.

**REFLECTION**

In today's second reading we hear St. Paul saying:  
Let your armour be the Lord. So we might pray as follows:

Circle me Lord      *Keep protection near; keep danger afar*  
Circle me Lord      *Keep hope within; keep doubt without*  
Circle me Lord      *Keep light near; keep darkness afar*  
Circle me Lord      *Keep peace within; keep strife without*  
Circle me Lord      *Keep love within; keep hate without.*  
Amen

**NOVEMBER  
ALTAR LIST  
OF THE  
DEAD  
ENVELOPES**

are available at the back of the Church until the end of November.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SURVEY – HAVE YOUR SAY**

The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important in that it will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout the Republic of Ireland. The survey is school specific and **needs to be responded to by all parents and prospective parents locally**. It is important that those who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard. It is equally important that those who wish for a Catholic education for their children, and the support for sacramental preparation available in Catholic schools, would have their voice heard also. For those reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges, please participate in this survey if you are a parent or a prospective parent of a Primary school student. **The survey can be accessed at [www.gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey/](http://www.gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey/)**  
It closes on Tues Dec 16<sup>th</sup>.

**THE JESSE TREE:** 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 first Sunday of Advent our decorations symbolise:  
Adam and Eve – **a red apple** - Noah and the flood – **a rainbow and a dove**  
Abraham, father of God's people – **a man looking up at the stars**  
The sacrifice of Isaac – **a dagger**



**ANNUAL NIGHT VIGIL IN KNOCK**

IN HONOUR OF THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION OF OUR BLESSED LADY  
BUS LEAVES CHURCH AVE, BLANCHARDSTOWN SUNDAY  
7<sup>TH</sup> DEC. MEET – 4.00pm Booking Michael 086 8650708  
Intention: For peace at home and worldwide



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY: MONTHS MIND:** Shay Grey, Michael Roche,  
6.30pm David Bergin, Nicholas Hanaphy

**SUNDAY: 9.30am** Lena and JP Connor (anniversary)

**SUNDAY: 11.30am** Maureen Cahill (1<sup>st</sup> anniversary)  
Joe Cahill (18<sup>th</sup> anniversary)

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Dermot Dorgan, Andrew Browne, Michael O'Reilly (*recently deceased*)

**And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Hughie and Molly McDonald, Oliver Leahy (birthday remembrance)  
Deceased Members of the Casey Family