

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
Fr. Francis Femi Oladiipo – Tel: 087-7673211
Parish Deacon: Arkadiusz Lenkiewicz
Parish Office: (Secretary: 01-820 8112)
website - www.laurellodgeparish.ie email: office@laurellodgeparish.ie
Fr. Dan Joe O'Mahony OFM Cap. Tel: 01-8200915 / 086-8090633
Saturday/Sunday 13th/14th DECEMBER 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]

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GAUDETE SUNDAY- 14th DECEMBER 2025

In today's gospel we see the compassionate ministry at work -the blind see, the lame walk and the deaf hear.

In this Eucharist we encounter the same compassionate Christ.

First Reading: (Is. 35:1-6.10)

God is the hope of his people who are crushed by suffering and misfortune.

Gospel: (Mt. 11:2-11):

We see Jesus at work and hear his words of praise for his imprisoned cousin, John.

Second Reading: (James 5:7-10)

St. James encourages us to be patient with one another and patient regarding the Lord's final coming.

REFLECTION – A Reed in the Wind

John the Baptist was no reed swaying in the wind.

A reed swaying in the wind is a symbol of those who are easily influenced, who go along with whatever is populist and who have no conviction of their own. But the humble reed can teach us something. The fact that it is light means that it is at the mercy of every wind that blows. But it has great strength too. The greatest storm cannot uproot it. Even when gigantic oaks come tumbling down, the slender reed still stands secure.

Lord teach us that there is strength in weakness and suppleness and give us the wisdom to know when to bend and when to stand firm.

POPE'S INTENTIONS DECEMBER 2025 - For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

CAROL SERVICES IN PORTERSTOWN AND CASTLEKNOCK

Porterstown Winter Warming Carol Service

takes place this Sunday 14th December at 4pm

Castleknock Parish Carol Service will take place in Our Lady

Mother of the Church this Sunday too at 6pm. All are welcome.

THE JESSE TREE - On this Third Sunday of Advent our decorations symbolise:

Isaiah's prophecy – a scroll The town where Jesus was born – a Bethlehem house

King David – a harp

King Solomon – a crown

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - Our Parish Partnership Penitential Service will be on **Monday 15th December 7.30pm** in St Thomas the Apostle Church.



St. Vincent de Paul - **THANK YOU** - €11,328.76 was raised at the collection last weekend. We are very grateful to all parishioners for their generosity

EDUCATION SURVEY CLOSING NEXT TUESDAY

The Department of Education and Youth has launched its "Have Your Say" survey, inviting parents, guardians, school staff, and Board of Management members, to share their views on the future of their parish school and for the education to be provided to the children of the parish. The survey is very short and is available online at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/>. It will remain open until **16 December 2025**.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY: 6.30pm Jerry Bergin (1st anniversary)

SUNDAY: 9.30am Jack Finn (recently deceased)

SUNDAY: 11.30am Sophie Ryan and the deceased members of the Ryan and Griffin Families

Jerry O'Neill (anniversary), Helen McCann (1st anniversary)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Martha Brophy whose funeral took place in our church during the week

Hugh Byrne, Bryan Jennings, Bob Leggett, Sr. Nora Harnett, Alan Byrne
(recently deceased)

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Liam Kelly (14th anniv), Rosaleen Agnew, Daniel O'Connor (Birthday Remembrance)