

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

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Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st 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]

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 21st DECEMBER 2025

The Christmas season is a busy time, so much that we tend to forget the importance of our spiritual preparation. Let us pause for a moment to make room for Jesus in our lives – Come Lord Jesus

First Reading: (Is.7:10-14)

This reading tells us of the birth of a very important child, a child who will be called Emmanuel, that is God with us.

Gospel: (Mt.1:18-24): This shows how the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled in Jesus.

Second Reading: (Rom.1:1-7)

These opening lines from Paul's letters to the Romans draws attention to the human and divine roots of Jesus.

REFLECTION

As Christmas approaches people's hopes soar. However, the substance of these hopes is often dictated by commercial interests. Little wonder then that when the sun goes down on Christmas Day many feel disappointed. Those who pin their hopes on what merchants promise will always be disappointed. Not because they promise too little, but too much – of the wrong thing. What our hearts long for is the taste of what the angels announced to the shepherds –

“Behold I bring you news of great joy, today a Saviour is born to you”
 This joy is the real hope of Christmas. Let us open our hearts to receive it.



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.

THE JESSE TREE - Children's Liturgy Group Advent Activities

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 His saving love. On this fourth Sunday of Advent our decorations symbolise:
 Joseph the carpenter – **a hammer**
 Mary the mother of Jesus – **a white flower**
 John the Baptist – **a writing board and a pen**
 Jesus Saviour of the world – **a star**



MASSES TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS EVE - Wednesday 24th December
 5pm Family Mass, 7pm Mass and 9pm Night Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY - Thursday 25th December
 Mass at 9.30am and 11.30am
ST. STEPHEN'S DAY - Friday 26th December
 Mass at 10am

Christmas Day GOAL Charity Mile - Join fellow-parishioners and friends for a run/walk/jog in aid of GOAL'S humanitarian and development work in developing countries on **Christmas Day at the Pope's Cross, Phoenix Park**, any time from **10.30 to 12 noon.**

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY: 6.30pm **MONTHS MIND - Patrick Hickey**
 Patrick Irwin (anniversary)
 Peg and Patrick Browne (anniversary)
SUNDAY: 9.30am Diarmuid Manning (recently deceased)
 Peter and Maureen Kilmartin (anniversary)
SUNDAY: 11.30am Joan Armstrong (2nd anniversary)
 Eddie Boyle (birthday remembrance)
 Edward Halton (20th anniversary)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Don Lister whose funeral took place in our church during the week. Also Shay Ardiffe, Amanda Tierney, Stephen Bryant, James Hennessy, Malcolm Murphy (recently deceased)

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Patrick and Loretto McGrath, John McGrath, Eamon O'Farrell, Irina Khomyak, Mary Kealy

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL OFFERING ENVELOPES (DUES)

are available at the back of the church. Thank you for your support.

