

# The CMC Times



Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla  
December 2022 / January 2023

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**If any parishioners are unwell or due to go into hospital,  
please let us know so we can visit. Contact details to the  
left.**

## Print Deadline

The next edition of The CMC Times will be a double issue  
for **February 2023**. The deadline for articles / photos will  
be **Friday 13th January 2023**.

## CHURCH FLOWERS

Would you like to have flowers in Church in memory of a  
loved one or to remember an anniversary, a wedding, a  
baptism, to celebrate a special event or for no particular reason.

The flowers can be an arrangement, fresh flowers in a vase or a pot plant.

It does not have to be expensive

For more information please contact

Meryl Foster (Castleknock) or  
Margaret Tutty (Clonsilla)



Dear Friends,

Christmas is a great time for watching movies, especially the old classics. I'm sure many of you have watched the romcom Groundhog Day starring Bill Murray and Andi MacDowell. TV weatherman/broadcaster, Phil Connors, is annoyed and despondent when he's assigned the job of covering the annual Groundhog festivities in the small town of Punxsutawney - making this his fourth in a row. The only noticeable upside is his attractive and good-natured producer. But the real nightmare begins when Phil ends up reliving the same day (Groundhog Day) over, and over again. Unable to leave the town due to a severe blizzard, and with no end in sight, Phil struggles to find a way to escape so decides to make the best of his seemingly hopeless situation.

In 2022 it looked like we were finally getting back to what we would have once referred to as "normality." Covid was on the wain and restrictions beginning to be lifted. We have been able to meet again in person and many of our church and other events restarted. However, we were quickly to discover that as one door opened others were to close and the world seemed to move into a new period of crisis. News of the Russian invasion of Ukraine dominated our news feeds and the hearts and minds of our nation and the world. As we watched the atrocities of war unfold, we were also becoming more aware of the rising cost of living. The cost-of-living crisis has affected all of us but most notably the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.

As we faced winter many people were struggling to calculate how they might afford to heat their homes, fuel cars and put food on the table. As we look towards Christmas many will be anxious about how they can afford to buy presents or host family meals.

For others in our church family and community 2022 has brought loss of loved ones, illness and other times of sadness and hardship.

We may be wondering if things are any better than the uncertainty of December 2021, or if we are simply in a Groundhog Day of one struggle after the next.

It would be easy to think like Phil in the movie that we are in a seemingly hopeless situation ... but that would be missing the point of the film. Phil learned to make the best of the situation he found himself in. That reminds me of a young woman over 2000 years ago who found herself in what must have seemed like a movie plot (if she'd any idea what a movie was!). Unmarried, pregnant, about to be left by her young love, certain to be accused of bringing disgrace on her family and the endangerment of being stoned to death, Mary could have believed she was in a seemingly hopeless situation. Yet, on learning the news that she (somehow, miraculously) is to give birth to God's Son, she responds with possibly the most hopeFUL song every written, the Magnificat:

**"My soul magnifies the Lord  
And my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid;  
For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me  
blessed;  
Because He who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is His name..."**

When Mary (and Joseph) were thrown into the unknown - when the villagers gossiped, when the family felt let down, when they faced an arduous journey, when there was no room in the Inn. When a manger had to do for a bed, when they had to flee into exile when a jealous king wanted to kill their son, when that same son grew to be rejected by his own people, when the religious leaders despised him, when they hung him on a cross - trust was enough, faith was enough, because Mary knew that God was enough.

Whether we approach this Christmas season with uncertainties or with excited anticipation there is one thing that is certain for all of us. When we trust the one who is mighty and has done great things for us. When we remember God's faithfulness in the past and His promise for the future. Then, like Mary facing that first Christmas, our souls too can magnify the Lord.

Advent is a time of expectancy and Christmas a time when

the love of Christ bursts through the darkness. I hope we can all find peace and joy in the wonderful Christmas message. A message of hope, of love, of the importance of presence (not presents). Like that first Christmas we can often find these gifts in places and ways we don't expect – in the warmth of a smile rather than the expense of a present, in the company of loved ones rather than the portions of the meal.

I thank you for your support and encouragement since my arrival in May. It has been a great privilege to begin my journey as your Rector and to (slowly) get to know you all. It's been a blessing to see so many returning to church and seeing a real sense of community spirit. If you haven't ventured back yet hopefully you can make it over this Christmas period.

I pray that our churches will continue to grow together

under God's Holy Spirit.

I wish you all a Christmas that is full of love and hope as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

God bless,

*Rev Colin*



Mothers' Union is hosting

## **Christmas Songbook and Seasonal Readings**

**Monday 5th December**

**at 8.00 p.m.**

in

**Castleknock Parish Centre**

**All welcome to an evening of Joy.**

## **Ecumenical Advent Carol Service**

We welcome the local community to St Brigid's on Sunday 4th December at 4.00 p.m. for our Ecumenical Carol Service. Like many events this year this will be the first time the service has taken place since the pandemic. Our speaker this year will be Father Damian McNeice with music from our parish choir along with congregational singing of advent carols.

### *Ecumenical Advent Carol Service*

Sunday 4th December 2022

at 4.00 p.m.

St. Brigid's Church,  
Castleknock

Join us as we worship together in fellowship during the Advent season



## Services for December 2022

### **Sunday 4      The Second Sunday of Advent**

10.00 a.m.	Advent Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Advent Holy Communion	St Brigid's
4.00 p.m.	Ecumenical Advent Carol Service	St Brigid's

<b>Wed 7</b>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
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### **Sunday 11      The Third Sunday of Advent**

10.00 a.m.	Carol Service	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Castleknock NS Carol Service	St Brigid's
8.00 p.m.	Carols By Candlelight	St Thomas'

<b>Wed 14</b>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
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### **Sunday 18      The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Christmas 'Messy' Church & Sunday Club Party	Castleknock Parish Centre
7.00 p.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols	St. Brigid's

<b>Wed 21</b>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
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### **Saturday 24      Christmas Eve**

11.30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Holy Communion	St. Brigid's
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### **Sunday 25      Christmas Day**

10.00 a.m.	Christmas Day Family Worship with Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Family Worship with Holy Communion	St Brigid's

**The Wednesday service of Holy Communion continues in Castleknock Parish Centre at 10.30 a.m.**

**Live streaming will continue from St. Brigid's Church on Sundays at 11.30 a.m.**

## Services for January 2023

### **Sunday 1      The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**

11.30 a.m.      United Service of Holy Communion      St. Brigid's

**Wed 4**      10.30 a.m. Holy Communion      Castleknock Parish Centre

### **Sunday 8      The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord**

10.00 a.m.      Morning Prayer      St Mary's

11.30 a.m.      Morning Prayer      St Brigid's

**Wed 11**      10.30 a.m. Holy Communion      Castleknock Parish Centre

### **Sunday 15      The Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

10.00 a.m.      Holy Communion      St Mary's

11.30 a.m.      Holy Communion      St Brigid's

**Wed 18**      10.30 a.m. Holy Communion      Castleknock Parish Centre

### **Sunday 22      The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

10.00 a.m.      "Cornerstone"      St Mary's

11.30 a.m.      "Cornerstone"      St Brigid's

8.00 p.m.      Holy Communion      St Thomas'

**Wed 25**      10.30 a.m. Holy Communion      Castleknock Parish Centre

### **Sunday 29      The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

11.30 a.m.      United Service of Holy Communion      St Brigid's

**The Wednesday service of Holy Communion continues in Castleknock Parish Centre at 10.30 a.m.**

**Live streaming will continue from St. Brigid's Church on Sundays at 11.30 a.m.**



# Visit of Archbishop Michael Jackson

We were delighted to welcome Archbishop Michael to our Remembrance Day services in both Clonsilla and Castleknock where he both preached and celebrated Holy Communion. During each service there was time to reflect on the cost of war and a silence was held to remember all who paid the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts throughout the world.

Following the services, the Archbishop joined Revd Colin and Janice in our new Rectory where he prayed for God's blessing on the new house as a home for Rectors of the parish into the future.



## Castleknock Graveyard Service and Blessing of the Graves

It was a great pleasure to welcome the local community to our Ecumenical Graveyard Service with Blessing of the Graves in St Brigid's Castleknock for the first time since 2019. The church was packed with many standing in the wings and outside as we were joined by three of our local parish priests. Father Damian McNeice shared a reflection on our memory of loved ones and the hope we find in Christ that death is not the end of our journey. Father Damian along with Fathers Dennis and Brendan then led the Blessing of the Graves for the local Roman Catholic community.



## Hats, Scarves and Gloves – Christmas Giving

During the Christmas season we will be accepting donations of hats, scarves and gloves which we will then offer as a gift to those who are homeless and struggling this winter. These can be left in any of our churches over December either at the back of church or placed under the Christmas Trees.

This is a small gesture of showing God's love to people we don't know, remembering it is more blessed to give than to receive.

## Raising awareness of the persecuted church

The week of 20th – 27th November is set aside to raise awareness of the persecuted church. On Wednesday 23rd St Brigid's was lit up red this evening as we marked the week of action to pray for and remember those persecuted for their faith.

On Friday 25th at 3pm the church bells were rung as we joined churches around the world raising a voice for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are facing persecution.

Dear Lord, Please protect our brothers and sisters around the world who are being persecuted for their faith, especially those who are active in sharing the gospel.

Let your peace reign on those regions where your children are not permitted the freedom to live out their faith in safety.

And watch over and encourage those who work to support oppressed believers on the ground, risking their own lives to do so. Amen.



## CONFIRMATION 2022

We are currently awaiting news from the for the date of Confirmation in spring 2023.



There will be an information meeting in Castleknock Parish Centre on Sunday 11th December at 6.00 p.m. This meeting is for candidates and parents.

Please let me know if you have a child interested in confirmation before the meeting (and if you will be attending).

Many thanks

*Rev Colin*



# Winter Fair 2022

What a wonderful day we had today at our Winter Fair on Saturday 26th November. There was a stream of people through the Parish Centre and school as we welcomed the community back to the Fair for the first time since 2019. Cllr Howard Mahony, Mayor of Fingal, formally opened the event with the cutting of the ribbon at 11.00 a.m. with a little help from two special helpers and Blanchardstown Brass Band who played throughout the morning.

Santa's arrival was greeted by much delight by the children who formed a long queue to meet him! There were plenty of goodies on offer at all our stalls with many a bargain to be had.

A huge thanks to all who organised the Fair, those who manned stalls and those who helped in so many ways, not only today but over the past number of weeks. A total of €14,000 (before expenses) was raised. Well done all.









## Parish Christmas Cards

Thanks to Rev Colin's daughter, Ava, who designed our parish Christmas Card this year with a snowy scene depicting all three of our churches. We look forward to incorporating some more creative talents in the coming years.

The Christmas cards have been handed out or posted at the end of November. If you haven't received one as of yet please let the parish office know as we will be seeking to update our parish records in the new year.



## Craft Corner

Our recent Craft Corner get-together saw us creating individual autumnal decorated boxes using ornamental squash, pine cones, leaves and lots of imagination!



We meet once a month in Castleknock Parish Centre from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon. The cost is €5 which includes craft materials and refreshments. Feel free to bring along any project you may be working on and share ideas. Dates to keep are Monday 12th December and Monday 30th January.

You will be more than welcome!

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

We look forward to joining with our friends from the Roman Catholic Community to mark the week of prayer for Christian Unity. On Friday 20th January we will gather in Laurel Lodge church for a time of worship focusing on the theme of "Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Justice". Further details will be in the church announcements.



## Monthly Prayer Gathering

We met in November for a time of reflection and preparation as we entered into Advent. Individually we journeyed through six prayer stations helping us to prayerfully consider our faith and what the season means to us.



Our next Monthly Prayer Gathering will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 p.m. in the Maharry Room in Castleknock Parish Centre.





# Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade News

## Boys' Brigade

This month the Boys' Brigade headed out for a 'November Night Walk' armed with torches and kitted out with yellow vests. The Anchors spotted Jupiter among the stars on their expedition around the school yard, while the Junior & Company sections ventured out further around the village. The session will finish up with a Christmas outing to Leisureplex in December.

*The BB Team*



## Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association and Girls' Brigade Enrolment

We were delighted to be joined at our Cornerstone service in St. Brigid's Church on Sunday 27th November by our Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade Companies for their Enrolment service. Like everything else it has been 3 years since they have had the opportunity to have an enrolment service in the church. Thanks to all the girls and boys who assisted Rev. Colin with the service, including with all the actions.





## Castleknock National School

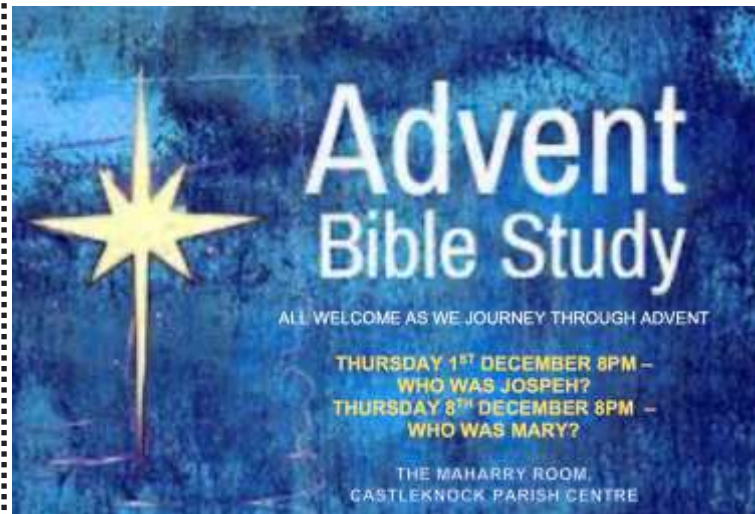


CNS launched their annual Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal in November. 64 shoe boxes were donated by families for children all around the world.



## Advent Bible Study

We are hosting a short Advent Bible series over two Thursday evenings in the Maharry Room, Castleknock Parish Centre. We will meet on the evenings of the 1st and 8th December at 7.30 p.m. to look beyond our nativity plays and our Christmas card scenes portrayal of Mary and Joseph and examine what that first Christmas would have meant to them. All are welcome as we seek to grow together deeper in our faith.



The Worldwide President of Mother's Union in Springfield Hotel Leixlip with CMC members





# Now Enrolling

Castleknock National School are now accepting applications for the 2023 - 24 school year.

Details of the admissions policy and application form can be found on the website

[www.castleknocknationalschool.ie](http://www.castleknocknationalschool.ie)

Application Forms should be returned to the school no later than

**Tuesday 10th January 2023.**