

The CMC Times



Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla
December 2023 / January 2024

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Come join us on **Facebook** for more fun and information
[@CastleknockandMulhuddartwithClonsilla](https://www.facebook.com/CastleknockandMulhuddartwithClonsilla) or on **Twitter**
on [@cmcp Parish](https://twitter.com/cmcp Parish)

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 the **February 2024** issue. The deadline for articles / photos will be **Monday 15th January 2024**.

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)



CHRISTMAS AT CASTLEKNOCK AND MULHUDDART WITH CLONSILLA

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER IN CLONSILLA 10AM

**CASTLEKNOCK NATIONAL SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE ST BRIGID'S, CASTLEKNOCK
11.30AM**

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT ST THOMAS', MULHUDDART 8PM

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

**ECUMENICAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE,
OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH, CASTLEKNOCK 7.30PM**

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

CAROL SERVICE ST MARY'S, CLONSILLA 10AM

CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK PARISH CENTRE 11.30AM

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS ST BRIGID'S, CASTLEKNOCK 7PM

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION ST BRIGID'S, CASTLEKNOCK 11.30PM

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

ST MARY'S, CLONSILLA 10AM

ST BRIGID'S, CASTLEKNOCK 11.30AM

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER

UNITED SERVICE ST BRIGID'S, CASTLEKNOCK 11.30AM



WISHING YOU GOD'S RICHEST BLESSING FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

**FROM REV COLIN, REV NATASHA AND ALL AT CASTLEKNOCK AND MULHUDDART WITH
CLONSILLA**

The Long Wait



Dear Friends,

In 2023 we might be forgiven for thinking that Christmas starts once the big brand companies release their adverts to our screens. From mid-November (or even earlier) social media is buzzing with rumours of which will be the stand out advert of the year and in many ways the battle of the ads has taken over from what used to be the battle for Christmas number 1.

While televisions and tv advertising has been part of our lives for many decades, the idea of the Christmas ad is a relatively new phenomenon. For those of you who can remember back to the 1980's, Oxo Gravy produced what was at the time a rarity in a targeted Christmas TV ad. In Ireland in the late 80's ESB got in on the market. For many years following Marks and Spencer's were known for targeting the Christmas market. However, it was not until 2011 that the battle of the ads truly began. Some four years after their first Christmas ad, John Lewis released their biggest production to date with "The Long Wait". The Long Wait was the first ad to have a major production team behind it with an emotive storyline.

The Long Wait was set to the lyrics of the Smiths Song "Please, Please, Please Let Me Get What I want" and


followed the story of a young boy impatiently

waiting for Christmas Day to arrive. As the boy gulps down his dinner on Christmas Eve before hurriedly running up to bed, the audience expects him to get the present he's been waiting for on Christmas morning. However, the twist to the advert is that when the boy awakes on Christmas morning he runs past the presents left around his bed and goes straight to his bedroom wardrobe where he takes out a badly wrapped gift before running to his parents room to hand them the present he's been so excited to give to them. The advert ends with the words "For gifts you can't wait to give".

There is of course no doubt that these advertisements are designed to not only pull on the heart strings but to also get us reaching into our pockets to spend money on the products in shops that are being advertised. There is though something about this particular advert that sums up for me the season.

Advent begins on Sunday 3rd December and almost sits

(Continued on page 5)

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a red and white patterned shirt, is holding a wrapped gift. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a simple room with a white door and a dark curtain.

For gifts you can't wait to give

uncomfortably in our modern commercial world amongst the hustle and bustle of the Christmas preparations. Advent is a time of preparation, a time of waiting and reflection. That first Christmas morning in the small town of Bethlehem was the culmination of the long wait for the coming of the Messiah. The birth of Jesus had been foretold hundreds of years before by prophets like Isaiah and Micah and yet the incarnation of God's son almost went completely unnoticed bar a few shepherds and latterly some wise men following the stars.

Jesus coming into our world was the gift that God longed to give to all of humanity, a gift that ended in the cruelty of a wooden cross beginning another long wait for when Christ would come again. We live today in that time of the long wait for the time when the brokenness and darkness of this world will be no more. As we struggle to understand wars around the world, violence on our streets, a rise in hatred towards one another it would be easy for us to lose hope, or lose faith and to think that the time of peace and harmony on earth will never come, but just like the little boy in that advert we have to patiently wait for that perfect gift to come.

If we were to see Advent as simply a time of waiting for something better we would have missed the point. Advent calls us to live in the day, to live with hope and to live with anticipation not just about what God will do in the future but also what God can do in our present.

Let's go back to the end of the advert and that line "For gifts you can't wait to give". We might not individually have the capability to change our world, but this Christmas time we certainly can impact upon those around us, both known and unknown. Imagine if the idea of longing to give more than we receive wasn't just an advertisers gimmick to make us send more money but instead how we decided to approach not only Christmas but life itself.

Of course there are opportunities to put our hands in our pockets and give to others, we'd love you to support our Christmas appeal to supply hats, scarves

and gloves for the homeless. During December there'll be an opportunity to donate to our sharing and caring fund and in the New Year our monthly donations for the foodbank will be up and running. These are all wonderful ways of giving and showing love to others. But there are other ways too. Giving the gift of ourselves, our time, our talents is such a wonderful way to bring the hope of Christ to those around us. It may be a simple smile, a helping hand. It could be volunteering in church or for a charity. You could get involved with our mission outreach both at home and overseas.

The gift of ourselves, the gift of being there for someone in need, the gift of going out of our way to lend a hand, the gift of being present, the gift of praying for someone, the gift of encouragement ... aren't these the gifts that will truly bring peace, love and hope this Christmas?

Maybe in the busyness of the season whether we are filled with joy and excitement, or even fear and dread about what Christmas will mean to us this year, we might just make something different of the long wait, we might just consider the gifts we can't wait to give.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

May I take this opportunity to wish you all God's richest blessing for Christmas and the New Year. I look forward to seeing many of you over the Christmas period. If you haven't been in church for a while please come and say hello, I trust you will find a warm welcome. If you find yourself struggling or overawed by the time of year, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

God bless,

Rex Colin

Services for December 2023

Sunday 3 The First Sunday of Advent

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion St Mary's

11.30 a.m. Holy Communion St Brigid's

Wednesday 6 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Castleknock Parish Centre

Sunday 10 The Second Sunday of Advent

10.00 a.m. Advent Morning Prayer St Mary's

11.30 a.m. Castleknock NS Carol Service St Brigid's

8.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight St Thomas'

Wednesday 13 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Castleknock Parish Centre

Sunday 17 The Third Sunday of Advent

10.00 a.m. Carol Service 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

Wednesday 20 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Castleknock Parish Centre

Sunday 24 The Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion St Brigid's

Sunday 25 Christmas Day

10.00 a.m. Family Worship with Holy Communion St Mary's

11.30 a.m. Family Worship with Holy Communion St Brigid's

Sunday 31 The First Sunday of Christmas

11.30 a.m. United Service 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 2024

Sunday 7	The First Sunday after the Epiphany / The Baptism of our Lord	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Brigid's
Wednesday 10	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 14	The Second Sunday after the Epiphany	
10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	St Brigid's
Wednesday 17	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 21	The Third Sunday after the Epiphany	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Brigid's
Wednesday 24	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
Sunday 28	The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany / Presentation of Christ	
10.00 a.m.	Cornerstone	St Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Cornerstone	St Brigid's
8.00 p.m.	Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Wednesday 31	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre

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.

Making a list and checking it twice



During the month of November our team had all the build-up to the Winter Fair keeping us busy. With the raffle tickets and Christmas cards being sorted and sent out, we have quite literally been ‘making a list

and checking it twice’! As the designated person to recruit volunteers to hand deliver some of our raffle tickets; I would like to take the time to thank all those who gave up their time to make deliveries. The success of the Fair is testament to all the hard work that went on behind the scenes. It was my first Winter Fair in the parish and I enjoyed every moment of it!

Aside from all the preparation and excitement for our Advent and Christmas events, we of course have been continuing with our regular ministry. I have been continuing to visit to parishioners houses and have even brought Rufus with me as my ministry helper! If you would like a visit (with or without the dog!) then please get in touch and I would be delighted to pop over for a cuppa.

Rufus also continued his own ministry as he joined the



Girls’ Brigade for the children to learn about how to look after animals ... needless to say he was quite content with all the love and fuss he received.

I have been delighted to see that over the last couple of weeks our children’s and families work has been going from strength-to-strength. The parish baby group, Tiny Tots, has more than tripled in size since September, with more than thirty babies and toddlers on our register for regular attenders. Our Tiny Tots volunteers have done a fantastic job in planning lots of fun activities to keep us busy each week. We also had a small group of

volunteers attend a Diocesan event to encourage parishes that run parent and toddler groups.



Following the success of Tiny Tots, I would like to start a second children’s group in the new year. I will be starting the new group, “Play and Pray” once I have a few volunteers who can support this new ministry. The concept of the group is to teach children from seven years of age and under more about the Christian faith through fun and interactive games. If you would like more information about Play and Pray, then please contact me.

Finally, as we continue in Advent we think about preparation and looking forward. Some of you will know by now, I am someone who loves planning and setting goals. My goals for the New Year is to further develop our outreach. I hope that through prayers and encouragement, Reverend Colin, myself and our volunteers can continue to develop pioneering ways to bring faith to our young people and those who we currently do not reach. Our regular ministries of visiting housebound parishioners, teaching RE in the school and running toddler groups will continue ... but I just know there are even more ways we can demonstrate God’s love in the world. If you would like to think more about how you individually can develop your own faith then I encourage you to attend the Christian study course called “Sycamore” I will be running from January (details to be announced soon).

But for now, I wish you all a safe and happy Advent and Christmas full of God’s richest blessings.

Rev. Natasha





PLAY + PRAY!

Every Monday during Term

Time

10:00-11:30

**A Christ-centred faith focussed play group
for children under seven**

FREE PLAY. CRAFT. WORSHIP

All children must be accompanied by an adult

COMING SOON!

WINTER FAIR 2023



What a wonderful day we had recently at our Winter Fair on Saturday 25th November. There was a hive of activity throughout the morning and afternoon as we welcomed large numbers of people from the community. The stalls were full of great goodies and bargains from cakes to handbags, books, toys, the curiosity shop, art, crafts and pre-loved items. There was the opportunity to enter the raffle, guess the weight of the cake, guess the number of sweets or win the much sought after bottle hamper.

Santa's arrival was greeted with much delight by the children who formed a long queue to meet him! While also up in the school there was plenty to keep the children occupied with games, face painting, hair braiding and balloon modelling.

For those who were feeling peckish there was some delicious tray bakes along with soup and sandwiches while outside we had the hot dog stall. The day is always enhanced by the festive cheer from Blanchardstown Brass Band and this year we were also delighted to welcome the local Cineálta Choir.

A huge thanks to all who organised the Fair, those who manned stalls and those who helped in so many ways, not only on the day but over a number of weeks prior to the event. A total of around €13,500 was raised to help support the running and outreach of our churches. Well done everyone!



WINTER FAIR 2023



CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023

For our annual Christmas Appeal we will be once again be collecting hats, gloves and scarves for those who find themselves homeless. The donations this year will be shared between the Mustard Seed and Lucan Homeless Donations charities.

Items can be left at any of our church services during December or into the Parish Office. Please support if you can as we try to help in a small way those who are struggling over the winter months.

Hats, Gloves and Scarves for the Homeless



**DONATIONS IN AID OF THE
MUSTARD SEED AND LUCAN HOMELESS
DONATIONS CHARITIES.
PLEASE LEAVE DONATIONS AT ANY OF
OUR CHURCH SERVICES DURING
DECEMBER OR INTO THE PARISH OFFICE**

**CHURCH OF IRELAND PARISH OF
CASTLEKNOCK AND
MULHUDDART WITH CLONSILLA
CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023**

Organisations News

Boys' Brigade

The focus of BB in November and December has been "Get Involved" with both groups working on community projects.

Anchors said a big 'Thank you' to our local emergency services by making posters which were delivered to Blanchardstown Garda Station.

Juniors & Company sections have been giving their time to the parish Winter Fair, packaging sweets and running the tuck stall.

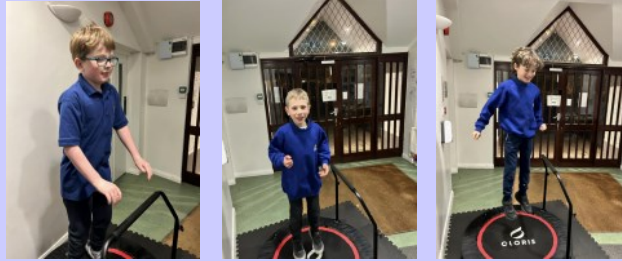
They have also been working on a charity challenge to raise money for CrossCare by taking part in a sponsored bounce!



The Juniors also donated toys to the Jigsaw Centre of the Darndale charity. They handed over the toys to Anne Cadoo of our Mothers' Union who support the Darndale charity.

Well done to all the boys and leaders for their hard work!

The BB Team



Castleknock Girls' Brigade

Since we restarted in September, we have welcomed lots of new members into all age groups in the company and the girls have been enjoying a programme of activities including dance, crafts, bible stories, badgework, games, and social nights whilst working within our theme for the year of "Creation".



The older girls all eagerly signed up to help at the Toy Stall and Santa's Grotto at the parish's Winter Fair and had great fun raising lots of funds for the parish. The following day it was great to see so many of the girls and their families come along for the Enrolment Service in St Brigid's church. This was a very proud day for the company as we presented five of our leaders with their Officer's Certificates, having completed their training and successfully passed their interviews. Congratulations to Jenny Weekes, Orlaith Taaffe, Rachel Denner, Emma Denner and Caoimhe Barry.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to the Annual Feis competitions when 11 of our girls will represent the company in the relevant competition for their age group. This is the largest group of girls we have entered for these individual singing competitions since before Covid and we wish them all the best and look forward to reporting the results in the next edition.

All the girls are looking forward to their Christmas Outings in December before we take a well-earned break for a few weeks and come back for more exciting activities in January.



Organisations News

Craft Corner

Well what busy helpers we had at our October Craft Corner get together! Lots of concentration while decorations were being created for the Craft Stall at our Winter Fair where we can boast each piece is hand crafted! Well done to all and I hope Santa doesn't borrow you to help in his workshop!! Have a lovely Christmas all and we meet up on January 29th where we will have a super craft to beat the January blues!



Youth Group Christmas Special

Yes it was a bit early but...

With a busy December ahead Youth Group had an early Christmas Special this evening with "snowball" fights, onesie races, the best "elfie", musical chairs, Christmas charades with a twist and more.



We watched a video on the cord that runs through Christmas reminding us of the wonder of the season ahead.

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as Rev Colin and Rev Natasha!

Youth Group meets again on Sunday 21st January 6pm – 7.30pm in Castleknock Parish Centre and is for all young people of secondary school age.



Shine a Light for the Diocese of Jerusalem



Scan the QR code to support our appeal for the Diocese of Jerusalem & their work for people impacted by war in the Holy Land including Al Ahi Hospital in Gaza.

The United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough is a registered charity, Reg Charity No: 20015251 - CHY7249

Upcoming Events

Habitat for Humanity Mission Trip 2024

We are excited that there has been a positive response to our proposed Mission Trip with Habitat for Humanity Ireland for 2024. It's not too late for anyone who would like to get involved, and in truth we are all involved not just those who will travel next year but this is a whole church project with the support, encouragement and prayers of everyone vital.

What we know so far is that we will be teaming up with Habitat for Humanity who are a Christian Charity who's aim is to both build and advocate for safe and secure homes for people all over the world. The team that travels will be around 10-15 people and is open to anyone over the age of 18.

We look forward to welcoming Jenny from Habitat for Humanity Ireland on Sunday 28th January when she will talk to us in both church services. There will be an information meeting for anyone who is interested in hearing more following the service in Castleknock. It is only after that meeting that we will begin to ask people to make a commitment to going so why not come along and hear what it's all about.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity Ireland visit <https://www.habitatireland.org/>

CASTLEKNOCK, MULHUDDART
& CLONSILLA
MISSION TEAM 2024



Habitat
for Humanity®
Ireland

Advent Study

Our Advent Study series looks at some of the leading characters in the Advent story in the build up to that first Christmas. The Studies are designed to bring us together in this important season of preparation amidst the busyness of December to spend time looking at the Bible and enjoying fellowship with one another. Each study is separate so if you can't make them all that is ok.

ADVENT STUDIES 2023



**27th November: 8pm Maharry Room,
Castleknock Parish Centre –
“Doubting Parents”**

**11th December: 8pm St Mary's, Clonsilla –
“The Voice in the Wilderness”**

**18th December: 8pm Maharry Room,
Castleknock Parish Centre –
“The innkeeper”**

ALL WELCOME

Upcoming Events / News

Parish Christmas Card

By now hopefully the majority of parishioners will have received their Christmas card from the parish. For this year's card we held a competition in Castleknock National School to design the front cover.

There were many wonderful entries across the whole school and it was a very difficult task for the secret judging panel to pick a winner.

The winners were announced at the Winter Fair. As the judges were so impressed with the entries alongside the prize winners we had four designs that were highly commended; Sam and Ruby in the Junior Section and Chloe and Alexandra in the Senior Section.

The winner of the Junior Section was Chloe, with Ellie winning the Senior Section, both were presented with €25 Eason's vouchers.

The overall winner was Alva Melissa who received a €50 Eason's voucher as well as having her design used for our parish Christmas cards.

Well done to our winners and all who entered, we definitely have some budding artists in CNS!



Confirmation 2024

Confirmation preparation for young people in 6th class or above will begin on Sunday 14th January in Castleknock Parish Centre for candidates and their parents. Classes will be held on Sunday evenings on dates during January – April from 6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. unless stated otherwise:



- Sunday 14th January
- Sunday 28th January
- Sunday 11th February
- Sunday 25th February
- Sunday 10th March
- Sunday 14th April
- **Sunday 21st April at 4.00 p.m. (Rehearsal for candidates, parents and sponsors)**

The Confirmation service is to be held in St Brigid's on **Sunday 28th April at 11.30 a.m.** Candidates will be expected to both attend the classes and a set number of church services in order to be ready for confirmation.

If you have a young person interested in being confirmed, please contact Rev Colin, Rev Natasha or the Parish Office.

Monthly Prayer Gathering

Our first monthly Prayer Gathering of 2024 will take place in the Maharry Room in Castleknock Parish Centre on Monday 15th January 2024.

This will be an opportunity to come together as a parish to pray as we enter into a New Year. All are welcome.



CASTLEKNOCK PARISH CENTRE
MAIN STREET, CASTLEKNOCK
3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 2PM-3.30PM



A PLACE TO GATHER AND FEEL WELCOMED
FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Living Room

A living room is a place we invite friends or visitors into our homes, it's seen as a place of warmth and comfort and of welcome. From January 2024 we are inviting anyone who would like some company to chat or just sit and relax to come into our "Living Room", at the Maharry Room in Castleknock Parish Centre.

The vision of the "Living Room" is to provide a cosy, welcoming place where there'll be a cuppa and a chat for anyone feeling lonely, who is struggling or simply would enjoy some company. This will be a safe space where people can just be themselves. As it develops there may be some activities, but will be left up to those who drop in.

The "Living Room" will be open initially once a month on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 2pm-3.30pm. The first day of the Living Room will be on Thursday 18th January.

Caring and Sharing Fund

The Caring and Sharing Fund is a discretionary fund that the Rector is able to use to help anyone in need throughout the year. There are envelopes in our churches during December if anyone would like to make a donation. If anyone would like some help, please speak to Rev Colin in the strictest of confidence.

The Church Review

The Church Review is the Diocesan magazine for Dublin and Glendalough and is produced monthly. The magazine helps you keep in touch with everything that is happening across the United Dioceses. If you would like to subscribe to the magazine for 2024 please contact Jenny in the Parish Office by 15th December. The cost for the magazine is €40.



Christmas Concert with Cineálta

St. Brigid's Church, 14th December

We're delighted to announce details of the Cineálta Choir's first ever Christmas concert! Conducted by musical director Shauna Donnelly and accompanied by pianist Michalina Dybowska, the choir will welcome the festive season with lots of seasonal favourites. The concert will take place on Thursday 14 December in St Brigid's Church, Castleknock beginning at 8.00 p.m., with doors opening at 7.45 p.m. Tickets will be available on the door, priced at €10 full price or €8 concession for students/unwaged/over 65s, while under 12s go free. Put the date in your diary now!



Rev. Natasha, Father Damien and Rev. Colin after the graveyard service in St. Brigid's recently.



CHRISTMAS

WITH



Féireálta
Choir

8PM, THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023

ST BRIGID'S CHURCH, CASTLEKNOCK VILLAGE

TICKETS €10/€8 CONCESSION

AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR



You are warmly invited to Tiny Tots,
our gathering place for
all pre-school children and their parents/ carers



A place to meet
A place for fun
A place to grow
A place for you

Castleknock Parish Centre
Thursday's 10.00am – 11.30am During Term Time
Starting 14th September 2023
€2 to cover tea/ coffee



Now Enrolling

Castleknock National School are now accepting applications for the 2024 - 25 school year.

Details of the admissions policy and application form can be found on the website www.castleknocknationalschool.ie

Application Forms should be returned to the school no later than

Wednesday 10th January 2024.

