

# The CMC Times

February 2026



Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla

A CHURCH OF GOD, A CHURCH FOR ALL

Growing together as a Christ-centred community where all are welcome, all are loved.

# Parish Contacts:

**Rector:** Rev. Colin McConaghie 087 3466140

**Diocesan Readers:** Stella Obe (087 2237402) & Olive Good (087 2451310)

**Parish Readers:** Femi Adoyebi & Blessing Obioha

**Parish Website:** [www.castleknock.dublin.anglican.org](http://www.castleknock.dublin.anglican.org)

**Parish Administrator:** Jenny McGrath

## Parish Office:

Castleknock Parish Office, Main Street, Castleknock, Dublin 15.

01 820 0040 [cmcparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cmcparishoffice@gmail.com)

Hours: 9.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. weekdays

(Closed Wednesdays)

## Castleknock National School

Principal: Mrs Sandra Moloney

01 820 2611

## The CMC Times:

Editor: Philip Good

## Cover Photo:

Saint Brigid's window in St. Brigid's Church, Castleknock.

If you wish to comment on or contribute to The CMC Times, the email address is: [thecmctimes@gmail.com](mailto:thecmctimes@gmail.com)

Come join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cmcparish](https://www.facebook.com/cmcparish) or on Instagram on @cmcparish

**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 for **March 2026**. The deadline for articles / photos will be **Friday 13th February 2026**.

# 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 Anne O'Connor (Clonsilla)

# RECTOR WRITES

Dear Friends,

For those of you who read the Friday emails or pay attention to the service sheets on a Sunday morning, you'll know by now that I'm more than capable of making a mistake or two. There can be typos or there can be dates or times that are completely wrong. Often this can be down to the technology, the often dangerous habitat of cutting and pasting and often it's simply down to me thinking I've typed the right thing without having paid enough attention to realise. In a previous church I had a good friend who was brilliant at spotting these not so deliberate mistakes. I did laugh a little after I'd left the parish and this person took over the social media. Their very first post got the service time wrong. I was much too polite to point the error out.

The old saying "we can't see the wood from the trees" so often rings true, as if you're like me quite often we only see what we want to see. It can be small things like a date or time on an announcement or it can run much deeper, for example, when we only see the good (or bad) in ourselves or others. Studies have shown that we often fail to perceive things that are "right before our eyes," a sort of misinformation by omission. The phenomenon is known as inattentional blindness and means we can miss the most obvious of things, the lost keys that are right in front of us, something missing in a room or reading a date or time as we expect it to be, not what it actually says.

As I read through the Bible, I see so many instances where people don't see what is right in front of them. Take the story of the choosing of David as God's King in waiting. Samuel, the prophet, and David's father, Jesse, are quick to assume who God will chose by looking at the outward appearance of each son. God of course has other plans, he can see the type of character that is really needed rather than just the obvious, so each brother is turned down until David is chosen. The right person was there all along but no one could see it as they thought they couldn't see what was right before their eyes.

As we move into the New Testament and read through the Gospels', we time and time again see Jesus reveal to us glimpses of the Kingdom of Heaven by how he cares for those on the margin of society, how he has compassion for the lost

and has time for those who are suffering. However, the religious leaders of the time think they know better, they only see what they want to see and so they dismiss the teaching and example of Jesus because it doesn't fit with the image of God they had created for themselves. They were being told to care for the poor and those in any sort of need, they were being taught to love all, even their enemy, but they suffered from inattentional blindness, they couldn't see the obvious. When Jesus told them that the Kingdom of God was being revealed by his very presence they just couldn't see what was there in front of their very eyes. Emmanuel, God was with them, but they had their own image of God and Jesus didn't fit their narrative.

I think this failure to see what God was making so clear through sending his Son into the world has continued throughout the history of the church. So often we have taken Christianity and made it about what we want it to be, a reason to do harm, a reason to exclude others, a reason to claim supremacy and our eyes (or minds) haven't been able to see what God wanted us too.

We may not use our Christianity to abuse power but quite often we too can fall into the trap of wanting a God to fit our vision, not God's. We may want a God who responds to all our needs, so when things go wrong we fail to see what God taught us about suffering or carrying our burdens. Or we may want a God who thinks the same as us, only loves people who are like us, only wants us to worship the way we like. All of these things, and more, can prevent us from seeing God as revealed through Jesus. How sad it would be if we only saw God through the demands of our own eyes rather than the God who sent his Son into the world through love to teach us to love one another, care for the poor and oppressed and be people who seek justice for all.

I pray that all of our eyes will be truly opened to see Jesus, not the version we want, but the Saviour who gave his life so that we could have life in eternity.

God bless.

*Rev Colin*



# A TRIBUTE TO CANON CECIL BRYAN



It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of our highly respected former Rector Canon Cecil William Bryan. Canon Cecil died peacefully at his home in Newbridge on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 following a long battle with illness. Cecil, beloved husband of Primrose for 58 years and loving and loved father of David, Caroline and Jill.

Cecil was ordained as a deacon in 1968 being appointed to serve as a Curate Assistant in Zion Parish, Dublin. In 1972 he was appointed as a Chaplain to the RAF before moving to become our Rector here in Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla in 1975.

Cecil and Primrose arrived to our parishes with two young children, David, who was four at the time, and Caroline, who was two. It wasn't the easiest of arrivals as during the vacancy in 1974/1975, following the departure of Canon Neill and the arrival of then Rev Bryan, the Select Vestry decided to sell the rectory situated on the Castleknock Road. It was felt that the house was in poor repair and that there was no great merit in retaining it as a rectory. An exchange of houses and cash was arranged. The owners of 12 Hawthorn Lawn (a recent housing development at the time) at the western end of Castleknock village, moved to the rectory

and the Bryan's moved into the much smaller Hawthorn Lawn house which remained the Rectory until 2022. In 1979 Cecil and Primrose's third child, Jill, was born completing their family.

Cecil spent fourteen years as Rector of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla. He is fondly remembered by parishioners who were in the parish at that time and many have kept in touch with the Bryan family over the years. Many have commented that Cecil was an encourager by nature and actively supported parishioners who were interested in beginning new initiatives. He had a heart for children's and youth ministry and we are blessed that he helped establish a number of groups that are still going strong today by giving his support to members of the church who suggested these new ministries. In 1978 Tiny Tots and Sunday morning creche began under the guidance of Anne Cadoo. In 1987 Canon Cecil asked Hilary Nason to start a Girls' Brigade Company and the following year, in 1988, David Smyth set up a Boys' Brigade Company. Tiny Tots, and the uniformed organisations are still at the heart of our churches today, a testament to Cecil's vision.

Canon Bryan was also very faithful to older, housebound parishioners and was highly regarded for his pastoral care of all. His commitment was so that he continued to visit one of the elderly ladies after he had moved to Kings' Hospital as he knew her health was failing and she appreciated his ministry to her. He took her funeral in St Brigid's Church some months' later.



Cecil was a keen sportsman and refereed schools' rugby matches for Castleknock College. When in Castleknock Parish he played cricket with Phoenix Taverners in the Phoenix Park. He also ran a marathon before it became such a popular activity. He and the late Serby Cashell initiated the St Stephen's Day hockey matches, which continued for many years and are fondly remembered by a number of generations of parishioners.

# A TRIBUTE TO CANON CECIL BRYAN

It was with great sadness that Cecil announced his departure from the parish in 1989 when he returned to chaplaincy, this time in Kings Hospital where he continued to minister to a number of the younger parishioners. Following ten years as Chaplain of KH, Cecil was appointed as Rector of Tullow in 1999 where he remained until his retirement in 2007. In 2002, during his time in Tullow, he was appointed a Canon to Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

Sadly Cecil developed Parkinson's disease when he was still working in ministry and relatively young. He struggled with this disease for the rest of his life but still took opportunities, along with Primrose, to keep in contact with a number of parishioners from his time here in the parish. We remain thankful for Cecil's legacy as Rector of our parishes and we continue to keep Primrose, David, Caroline and Jill in our prayers.

There is a wonderful insight into Cecil as Rector of Castleknock on the RTE archives, which can be viewed at: <https://www.rte.ie/archives/2025/0630/1521033-castleknock-rector/>



**WINTER26  
MADNESS**  
**HOLY TRINITY RATHMINES**  
**SAT 21ST FEB 2026, 7.30PM**

**DGYC**  
DUBLIN  
GLENDALOUD  
YOUTH  
COUNCIL

**SPEAKER  
SHANE MAGUIRE**

# SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2026

<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>Saint Brigid</b>	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Brigid's
<b>Wednesday 4</b>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>The Second Sunday before Lent</b>	
10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	St. Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	St. Brigid's
<b>Wednesday 10</b>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>The Sunday before Lent (Transfiguration)</b>	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Brigid's
<b>Wednesday 18</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>The First Sunday in Lent</b>	
10.00 a.m.	Service of the Word	St. Mary's
11.30 a.m.	Cornerstone	St. Brigid's
8.00 p.m.	Holy Communion	St. Thomas'
<b>Wednesday 25</b>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	Castleknock Parish Centre
<b>Sunday 1 March</b>	<b>The Second Sunday in Lent</b>	
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
11.30 a.m.	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.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Confirmation 2026

Confirmation classes began in January ahead of the Archbishop coming to confirm our young people at a special service on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm in St Brigid's, Castleknock. There are 14 young people considering Confirmation and classes will continue on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 4pm in Castleknock Parish Centre. Through the classes the young people will look at the Christian faith as laid out in the Apostles Creed and will be encouraged to examine what that faith means to them.

Please keep all the candidates in your prayers as they prepare for this important step in their own journey of faith.

## Ash Wednesday and Lent

There will be two services to mark Ash Wednesday on 18<sup>th</sup> February. We will have our regular Holy Communion Service at 10.30am in Castleknock Parish Centre. In the evening there will be a reflective Eucharist in St Mary's, Clonsilla at 7.30pm as we begin the journey through Lent.

Our Lent "Soup and Services" will take place during Lent in St Mary's, Clonsilla. These will begin on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 12.30pm and continue each Tuesday until Holy Week (excluding St Patrick's Day). We are seeking volunteers to make soup and bring bread, please speak to Rev Colin.

Our Lent Home Group Bible Study will take place in the Rectory (D15 PN2F) on Thursday evenings on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Our theme this year will be "Follow Me." We will be looking at what it means to follow Jesus through Lent and in our lives. Taking Jesus' journey to the cross, as well as other Scripture references, the Study will help us to grow in faith together. The Bible Studies are friendly and designed for everyone, all are welcome to join us.





ARE HOSTiNG

# A FAMILY FUN BEETLE DRIVE

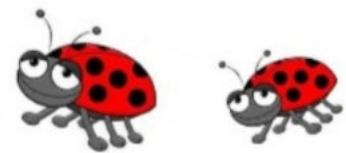
DATE: FRI 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

TIME: 7PM

VENUE: CASTLEKNOCK PARiSH  
CENTRE

PROCEEDS IN AID OF:

BARRETTSTOWN  
CHILDREN'S  
CHARITY



TiCKETS: €5 PER PLAYER

CHiLDREN UNDER 6 YRS  
MUST HAVE AN ADULT  
PLAYiNG WITH THEM  
(THAT ADULT GOES FREE!)

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

TiCKETS MUST BE BOOKED iN ADVANCE  
PLEASE CONTACT:  
OR  
LOUiSE (087 1317837)  
ADA (086 3410569)



# Vacancy - Grounds Keeper / Maintenance Person

The Select Vestry of Castleknock and Mulhuddart wish to recruit a part-time Grounds Keeper / Maintenance Person for Castleknock Parish Centre and St. Brigid's Church, Castleknock.

**Hours:** Monday - Friday 9.00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Rate of Pay:** €14.15 gross per hour.

The successful candidate will be required to provide an efficient and comprehensive maintenance service to the Parish to ensure the grounds of the Parish Centre and church are clean, tidy and in an orderly condition at all times and will be responsible for maintaining the cleanliness and hygiene standards, ensuring a pleasant and welcoming environment for all.

The ideal candidate will -

- be reliable and punctual with a strong work ethic.
- have previous maintenance experience (desirable).
- have an awareness of health and safety standards.
- have an ability to work independently.

To apply for this position, please post a cover letter and CV, marked "**Private and Confidential, Addressee only**" to the:

Hon. Secretary, Select Vestry of Castleknock and Mulhuddart,  
Castleknock Parish Centre, Main Street, Castleknock, Dublin 15, D15 DK54,  
or  
email a cover letter and CV to [cmcparish@gmail.com](mailto:cmcparish@gmail.com).

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00 p.m. on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

# ORGANISATIONS NEWS

## Youth Group

Youth Group met on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December for their Christmas evening with some unusual Christmas themed party games putting us in the Festive mood.

Great to see our young people getting together and enjoying fun and friendship, the chocolates helped too!

Youth Group met in January for an evening of games, and a talk all based around the theme of how Jesus went against the popular opinion of the time to teach us to live a life that puts others first.

In February we are attending Winter Madness on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February in Holy Trinity, Rathmines. We will join with young people from across the Diocese and further afield for worship and time together. Further details will be sent closer to the time.

Youth Group is open to all young people of secondary school age and is a great opportunity for our teenagers to meet together and stay connected with church.



## Bowls

Bowls had a great Christmas night in December to bring 2025 to an end.

Congratulations to Marie, Valerie and Paul who were the winners on the night of our fun competition. Thanks to everyone who provided such a great supper. All were looking great in their Christmas attire.



# ORGANISATIONS NEWS

## Castleknock National School

During December we were delighted to welcome back some past pupils of the school to complete Work Experience as part of their Transition Year Programme.

The classrooms and corridors of the school were filled with the sounds of Christmas for as the children prepared for the School Carol Service on Sunday 14 December.

The classes prepared various carols, poems and plays to bring alive the story of Christmas for all attending.

It was looking particularly festive in school on Thursday 11 December as all the children and staff wore their Christmas Jumpers to support Children's Health Ireland in their Save a Smile campaign.

6<sup>th</sup> Class supported the Black Santa Appeal with Carol singing on Thursday 18 December, entertaining those passing by St Ann's Church on Dawson Street.

The return to school after the Christmas break was accompanied by cold weather, which necessitated extra layers being worn and staying in at break due to a frozen yard. But there was an air of excitement in the school as the remainder of the works to rectify the damage caused by the flood at midterm had been completed.

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes are enjoying their renovated classrooms with new ceilings, carpets, bathroom floors and noticeboards having been put in place. A huge thank you to our parents who have turned up repeatedly over the past couple of months when appeals have been sent out. They have helped to move furniture, books and equipment from the damaged classrooms to temporary locations for the initial dry out; moving everything back again to classrooms whilst contractors were sourced; moving everything out once more to allow the work to be completed; and then moving it back one last time. We are very lucky to have so many parents who are willing to give of their time and energy every time we put out a call for help.

We look forward to having four student teachers on placement. They have completed their observation days in the classrooms and will be returning to teach the children. Supporting these placements is so important in supporting the training of the teachers of the future.



# ORGANISATIONS NEWS



## Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union met for the last time in 2025 on Monday 1st December when Ruby Bannister had us recycling our toilet roll inserts to make very festive Christmas crackers. We also enjoyed some festive treats on the night.

Mothers' Union celebrated Nollaig na mBan at their first meeting of 2026 with carols and reflections.

In 2026, there will be a number of events to mark the 150 years since Mary Sumner, the wife of a rector in Hampshire, formed a group to support mothers from all backgrounds in bringing up their children and strengthening family life within the Church. The first event will be on Saturday 7th February at 11am to meet for prayers at the Annabella Hayes grave in St. Fintan's Cemetery, Sutton followed by lunch in the Marine Hotel, Sutton.

Our next branch meeting will be on Monday 9th February when we will have Jenny Kellett talk to us about her trip to Mount Everest. Everyone is welcome.



## Tiny Tots

In December our Tiny Tots were thrilled to have Santa visit for their Christmas party. The children along with parents and carers had a great morning.

Tiny Tots started back on the 22nd January following the Christmas break and welcomed 8 new little ones and their parents and carers. The children had great fun getting creative.

Well done to all of our wonderful volunteers who have made Tiny Tots such a huge success.



# NEWS

## Christmas Appeal

Thank you to all who donated to this year's Christmas Appeal of hats, scarves, gloves and socks to help those who are homeless. We were able to donate a good number of items to the Mustard Seed Charity as we continue to support their much-needed work in helping those who are struggling at this time. Anne Cadoo handed over the donations to her brother Dougie and we received a lovely message from Mark Ryan who has taken over from Dougie:

*"My name is Mark Ryan, I took over the reigns leading the Mustard Seed Soup Run when Dougie retired, I'm completely bowled over by your very kind and extremely generous donation, I want to thank you and your congregation for thinking of our ministry, our homeless friends will be truly blessed by your donation."*

*'Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward them for what they have done.'*

Proverbs 19:17.



## Noel hangs up his strimmer!

At the staff Christmas lunch Rev Colin presented Noel Scanlon a gift on behalf of us all to mark his retirement after some 13 years working in Castleknock. Noel has been a wonderful servant looking after the graveyard for many years and will be missed by both us in the parish and the local community who got to know him over the years. We wish Noel every blessing for his retirement.



## Christmas Tree Lighting

Another great evening was organised by the magnificent Castleknock Tidy Towns as Castleknock village was lit up with the switching on of our Christmas Tree early in December.

Great singing provided by St Brigid's School Choir and the CLTC Christmas Choir.

Let's keep the community spirit growing!



## Condolences

Our deepest sympathies to the families of Tony Bradfield and Wendy O'Rourke who died in December and Packianath (Raj) Jebaraj Gunasekaran, Yvonne Smith and Fiona Gargan who died in January.

Tony's funeral service took place in St Brigid's, Castleknock on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December while Wendy O'Rourke's service took place in St Mary's, Clonsilla on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

The funeral services for, Raj, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January and Yvonne, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January both took place in Clonsilla. We pass our thanks to Rev Aisling Shine who officiated at both those services.

The funeral of Fiona Gargan took place in St Brigid's on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

We continue to keep all their loved ones in our prayers.

# NEWS

## Twenty Year Celebration

On Sunday 18th January we came together for a wonderful morning of celebration as we gave thanks to God for Stella Obe's 20 years of serving as a Diocesan Reader in our churches and throughout the United Dioceses.

Fitting Stella's bubbly personality, it was a time of great joy with Stella preaching a wonderful sermon on how all of us are called to follow Jesus.

We were joined by our former Curate Eugene and his wife Joanna, Stella's Diocesan Reader colleagues and parishioners from churches where Stella has served as well as members of her family.

Thank you to all who helped with the lunch and preparing the hall making it a great occasion.



## Parish Centre Works Update

Over the past year there have been a number of major projects carried out by the Parish Centre Management Committee as they strive to ensure the Centre is both well maintained and meets the standards needed for usage under current regulations. Those upgrades have included the refurbishment of the old part of the building, office and Maharry room with a new heating system. New boilers have been fitted for the main body of the building including the two larger halls. The toilets have been completely updated, outside of the building painted and two new doors (fire door in Main hall and front door) fitted.



As many of you will know the Main Hall was out of action for the first few weeks of January for a major refurb. Due to the presence of damp and mould and a lack of proper insulation both the acoustic tiles and ceiling tiles had to be replaced and properly insulated. The Hall was also lacking in ventilation, so a new air pumping system has been fitted to ensure the hall stays damp and mould free. The Hall has new lights and has been painted giving it a fresh new look and the sound quality has improved greatly.

As we prepare for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December this year of the hall being redeveloped, there are still a few big projects to come with the biggest being a kitchen refurb.

Of course, all of this work comes at a cost, and we are thankful that the Parish Centre brings in a profit each year which has helped meet some of the costs. However, there is not a bottomless pot, so in March we will be holding an appeal for anyone who would like to support the redevelopment work. There will be further details in next month's CMC Times.

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 2026

## Habitat for Humanity Mission Trip 2026

The Cambodia Mission team for 2026 will meet together for planning on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February in Castleknock Parish Centre following the service in St Brigid's. It will be a great opportunity for the team of 14 to come together to get to know each other better and to continue with planning ahead of travel to Cambodia in July.



### Buy A Brick for Cambodia

You can support our church mission trip to Cambodia in July 2026 through "Buy a Brick." Donate to the build at any time in cash or directly through our online fundraising page.

<https://habitatreland.enthuse.com/cf/cmc-cambodia2026>



If you donate via our online page and your donation is for our Buy A Brick campaign, please note it in the comment section or let one of the team know.

We know that many of you would have liked to join but are unable to do so for numerous reasons the team or have asked about supporting the team financially. If anyone would like to make a larger donation to perhaps support a team member cover the cost please speak to Rev Colin or Olive Good

Remember you don't have to lift a hammer to be part of the mission project.



# Materials Needed

**Must be new or in working order**

✓ **Building Materials**

Plasterboard, plywood, insulation, timber, brick/block, render, fencing, doors, windows and architectural salvage

✓ **Bathrooms and Plumbing**

Toilets, sinks, baths (*white only*), showers, pipes, taps, wall tiles

✓ **Hardware and Tools**

Hinges, doorknobs, handles, deadbolts, electrical, plumbing, nails, screws, nuts, bolts, fixings, DIY or gardening tools

✓ **Appliances**

Dishwashers, washers/dryers, refrigerators, microwave ovens, cookers/hobs

✓ **Kitchens**

Cupboards, worktops, sinks, taps, wall tiles

✓ **Flooring**

Carpet and rugs, wooden flooring, vinyl, ceramic or carpet tiles

✓ **Lighting and Electrical**

Lamps, lighting fixtures, cable, sockets, plugs, switches

✓ **Paint and Wallpaper**

Labelled tins and unopened rolls.

✓ **Furniture**

*Home* - dining tables, coffee tables, wardrobes, bed frames, bedside tables

*Office* - desks, chairs, bookshelves, filing cabinets

## What we cannot accept

✗ Anything that doesn't work/needs a replacement part

✗ Hazardous materials/chemicals

✗ Appliances more than 10 years old

✗ Microwaves and dishwashers over 5 years old

✗ Single pane windows

✗ Mattresses

*Drop off your items or book your free collection for larger items by calling your local store.*

**[habitatreland.org/restore](http://habitatreland.org/restore)**

**Lisburn office:** Riverside Centre, Lisburn BT27 5EA T: +44 28 9263 5635

**Drogheda office :** Unit 8, Donore Industrial Park, Drogheda A92 HFY7 T: +353 41 213 9894

E: [info@habitatreland.org](mailto:info@habitatreland.org)

Charity number NI: NIC103240 ROI: 20051785

# CHRISTMAS IN OUR PARISHES

On Sunday 14th December we were in the tranquil surroundings of St Thomas' Church, Mulhuddart, with Carols by Candlelight.

There was great singing, Christmas readings and a wonderful message from Olive reminding us to take some time out and focus on what's really important at Christmas time.

On Sunday 21st December there was a lovely morning of celebration with a Carol Service in St. Mary's, Clonsilla and at our Christmas Messy Church in Castleknock Parish Centre with our talented crew helping the children (and adults) create some amazing crafts reminding us of the Christmas story.

Olive led our Messy Church worship with Judith on piano. Rev Colin, with the help of Olive and a toilet roll (which she made into a crib for baby Jesus), reminded us how so many very ordinary every day things became something amazing when God sent his Son on that very first Christmas. God wants to use our everyday ordinary things to do amazing things too!

Thanks to those who provided refreshments and the children were delighted to leave with their creations and a selection box. Later that evening there was the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols in St Brigid's Church.

Thanks to all who read and our organist Andrew along with our Parish Choir who sang two uplifting Christmas anthems. It was wonderful to have Blanchardstown Brass Band with us to add to the occasion. We gathered after the service in the Parish Centre for festive refreshments.

On Christmas morning a surprise visitor joined our worship as Rev Colin was transformed into the Grinch reminding us that while many try to steal Christmas there is no Christmas without the birth of the baby Jesus, our Saviour.

It was lovely to see so many in church, the children with their toys, families worshipping together.



# CHRISTMAS IN OUR PARISHES



**PARISHES OF CASTLEKNOCK AND  
MULHUDDART WITH CLONSILLA**

**DAFFODIL  
DAY  
COFFEE  
MORNING**

**IN AID OF IRISH CANCER SOCIETY**

**Castleknock Parish Centre  
Friday 20th March  
9.00am - 1.00pm**

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THIS EVENT**