



PALM SUNDAY (A)

Parish Newsletter 29th March 2026

Cluster of Clogh, Castlecomer and Muckalee
Grupa Paroistí: Chaisleán an Chomair, Maigh Coillí agus An Chloch



+BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD+

Anniversaries 28th/29th MARCH

Sat 7pm: Joe & Nancy Brennan, 7 Maryville
Danny & Kitty Dowd, 18 Hillside View
Rachel Brennan, Smithstown
Sun 11am: Shared Mass Intentions
Mon 10am: Shared Mass Intentions
Tues 10am: Special Intention
Wed 11am: John Doyle, Kiltown

Edward (Joy) Byrne, Maryville; Elizabeth & Edward Nolan, Barrack St; Martin & Mary Ann Brennan, Drumgoole; John & Anne Holohan, Skehana; Edward & Mary Brennan, Skehana

ANNIVERSARIES Next Week 4th/5th April

11am: Tom, Alice & Michael Walsh, Donaguile
Fiona O'Carroll, Swords Dublin
Margaret (Peggy) Shortall, Marymount
Robert Shore, Kiltown

Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday is at 10am.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Tuesday 7pm-9pm.

HOLY WEEK- THE GREAT WEEK

The name Holy Week was first used in the 4th century by St. Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, and St. Epiphanius of Constantia. In the Greek and Roman liturgical books, it is called *The Great Week* because great deeds were done by God during this week. In 1955 the Holy Week observances in the Roman Missal were revised by Pope Pius XII restoring services to the time of day of the events as discussed in scripture.

PARISH OFFICE
085 827 8729

PARISH CONTACTS:

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THE PARISH OFFICE:

Parish Office: 085 827 8729
Parish Email: castlecomer@ossory.ie
Webpage: www.castlecomerparish.ie

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION:

Last Sunday's Collection: €1,980.00
Sincere thanks to all who contribute to parish funds and to the clergy fund. *Mile Buíochas.*

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Contact can be made with the Parish Office by leaving a message on the parish phone, drop a written message into the post box in the Church Porch or email to castlecomer@ossory.ie

MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH:

Ministers of The Word:

Sun 5th 8am: Dick Mullins
Sun 5th 11am: George Mealy

Ministers of The Eucharist:

Mon – Thur: Maria Reyes
Fri 3pm: Teresa Hetherington
Sat 8pm: Maria Reyes
Sun 8am: Noreen Curry
Sun 11am: Angela Molloy

PARISH & DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING

Diocesan Liaison Person:
Ailish Higgins
Contact: dlp@ossory.ie or 085 802 1633
Parish Safeguarding Representatives:
Eilish Dunne & Ger Comerford
Contact: Parish Email or 085 827 8729

Documents & Policies on Diocesan Website.

First Friday April

Fr Doyle will visit the housebound on Thursday morning and Fr Scriven on Friday morning - at the usual times.

LOURDES PETITIONS

Fr Scriven travels to Lourdes in Easter Week with The Rise and Shine Trust (IHCPT). If you wish to have a petition placed at the grotto please leave petitions in the box marked LOURDES 2026.
Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

The collection on Good Friday will be for the work of Trocaire and the Holy Shrines of the Holy Land.

TROCAIRE

You are invited to return the contents of your Trocaire Box at the ceremonies during Holy Week. Envelopes available at the back of the church if you wish to contribute. There is also a box, marked Trocaire, in the Church Porch through which you can give ongoing support this Irish Church agency who care for those in great need in our world. **The Trocaire Box: It's not just a box, it's a lifeline.**

RELIC OF ST CARLO ACUTIS

The relic of St Carlo Acutis will be in Castlecomer Parish Church during the Easter season. All are welcome to visit and pray through his intercession for their needs.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK

Good Friday Walk Led by: Bishop Ger Nash, Apostolic Administrator of Ossory. Beginning at St Canice's Catholic Church Kilkenny at 7.00 p.m. The prayerful walk through Kilkenny City will conclude in the Capuchin Friary for Taizé Prayer around the Cross. Each walker will receive a Holy Land Cross. All are welcome.

Erins Own GAA Lotto

This week's jackpot is €16,600. The draw will take place Tuesday night.

In the words of St Augustine

Holy Week invites us to

Trust the past to the MERCY of God;

Leave the present to his LOVE;

And the future to his PROVIDENCE.

Holy Week – The Church's Great Week

"Let us look at the crucifix ... our hope is there."
Speaking last year, just a few days before he returned to the Father's House, Pope Francis encouraged all to enter Holy Week with faith and hope noting that *it is a time of grace that the Lord gives us so that we may open the doors of our hearts...going out to meet Jesus and others.* Stressing that Holy Week is an important opportunity to devote time to prayer, listening to the Word of God, and following the example of the Good Samaritan care for our brothers and sisters, he noted *"Love of God and love of neighbour are one love...In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another."*

He encouraged everyone to go forth with love and with God's tenderness, respect and patience, *"knowing that we offer our hands, our feet, our hearts, but that it is God who guides us and shows us the way."*

In his last public audience Wednesday before the start of the Paschal Triduum, Pope Francis commented how many people who walk down the street appear sad, focused "only on their cell phones, but without peace, without hope."

He urged people to eliminate "useless things that are substitutes for hope" during Holy Week to focus on the true source of hope found in Christ.

"During these holy days, let us draw near the Crucified One. Let us place ourselves before him ... to take an honest look at ourselves, removing whatever is superfluous. Let us let Jesus regenerate hope in us,"

"This is needed: to go back to the heart, to the essentials, to a simple life, stripped of many useless things, which are substitutes for hope. Today, when everything is complex and we risk losing the plot, we need simplicity, to rediscover the value of sobriety, the value of renunciation, to clean up what pollutes the heart and makes us sad."

By offering forgiveness and love from the cross, Jesus "converts evil into good" and "sorrow into love," he said.

"So today, let us look at the tree of the cross so that hope might germinate in us, that we might be healed of sadness ..."

**"Brothers and sisters,
let us look at the crucifix ...
our hope is there."**