

Church of the Immaculate Conception Castlecomer



31st December 2023

PARISH NEWSLETTER
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



+ BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD +

ANNIVERSARIES

Tues 2nd, 10am: James Maher, Glenmullen
Thur 4th, 10am: Shearlaitt Tywang, Skehana
Sat 6th, 11am: Paddy and Mary O'Neill, Maryville

Dennis O'Brien, Beech Court; Patrick (Pat) Byrne, Clara; Mark Heffernan, The Square;
Seamus Brennan, Ardra;

ANNIVERSARIES WEEKEND 6TH/7TH JAN:

Sat 6th, 7pm: Helen O'Mahony & Tim O'Mahony, Castlecomer
Sun 7th, 11am: John Power, Hillside View

Masses during the Week

Weekday masses will be at 10am during the coming week – No mass on Friday morning.

6th January – Feast of the Epiphany

Mass will be celebrated on Friday evening at 7.30pm (Vigil Mass) and at 11am on Saturday morning. Please note there is no 10am mass on Friday morning. Mass in Moneenroe at 6pm.

New Year's Greetings to One and All *Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go leir*

CONTACTS:

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THE PARISH OFFICE:

Parish Office: 056 444 1262
Parish Email: castlecomer@ossory.ie
Parish Web Page: castlecomerparish.ie

Christmas Dues

This collection contributes to the salary of the priests of the parish. Sincere thanks to all who contribute. Please use envelope supplied.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Day
2747.00

Sincere thanks to all.

PRAYER DURING THE DAY:

The Angelus, Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy every Monday – Saturday at 12(noon) & Sunday at 3pm.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Tuesday: 7pm – 9pm; Rosary at 8pm
First Sunday of the month 3pm – 5pm.

SAFEGUARDING:

The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person is

Ailish Higgins

dlp@ossory.ie or 085 8021633.

The Parish Representatives are:

Eilish Dunne

Ger Comerford

They can be contacted through the parish office telephone number.

Ministry of Readers at Mass

Feast of the Epiphany
7.30pm: Bridgid Coady
11am: John Kelly

Week Ending 6th/7th January

7pm: Eithne McKenna
8am: Maria Reyes
11am: Helena Dowd

Bishop's Pastoral Letter

Bishop Coll has written a Pastoral Letter and it is available on the Diocesan Website (www.ossory.ie) or in print in our churches.

New Year's Greetings

Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go leir

Fr Scriven and Fr Doyle wish all a happy New Year as we greet 2024. May it be a blessed time for you and your families and a time when all your endeavours will be successful. In the parish we pray for all who are preparing for the sacraments in the coming year. First Penance. First Holy Communion and Confirmation in May; and all who are preparing for Marriage. May it be a great time for you and your families.

Cead Mile Failte

A hundred thousand welcomes to all who come to Castlecomer for the New Year's Day Wellie Race. We wish all well as we welcome them to our town. Congrats to the organising committee and all who give of their time to make this day such a success. Let us salute the imagination of the Powley Men that has given us 44 Wellie Races and that has brought young and old together to celebrate a fantastic family day that embraces every generation. *2024 Wellie Race Abú!*

Benemerenti Medals

Teresa Hetherington, Joseph Fitzpatrick and Angela Byrne will receive a Benemerenti Medal at mass on Friday evening, 7.30pm. This papal medal is in recognition of their contribution to the life of the parish over many years. Congratulations to them and their families and heartfelt thanks for their years of dedicated service.

Silent Night – The Story

205 years ago "Silent Night" was first heard by Austrian villagers attending Christmas Eve mass in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf.

The beautiful hymn is about a calm and bright silent night, and the wonder of a tender and mild newborn child and was written in 1816 by a young priest Joseph Mohr.

The backstory is that the priest went for a walk before he wrote it, and as he looked out over a very quiet, winter-laden town - he was inspired...the town was at peace - this was the time of the Napoleonic Wars.

On Christmas Eve, 1818, the now-famous carol was first performed as *Stille Nacht Heilige Nacht*. Joseph Mohr played the guitar and sang along with Franz Xaver Gruber, the choir director who had written the melody.

An organ builder and repair man working at the church took a copy of the six-verse song to his home village. There, it was picked up and spread by two families of traveling folk singers, who performed around northern Europe. In 1834, the Strasser family performed it for the King of Prussia. In 1839, the Rainer family of singers debuted the carol outside Trinity Church in New York City.

The composition evolved and was translated into over 300 languages with many different arrangements for various voices and ensembles.

Over the years, the carol's mystique grew with its popularity. After the original manuscript was lost, for decades, some speculated that the music had been written by Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven. In 1994, an original manuscript was found in Mohr's handwriting, with Gruber named as composer.

Ossory Times

The Christmas edition of Ossory Times is available at the back of the Church. It is packed with news of our diocese. Cost: €2.