

Church of the Immaculate Conception Castlecomer



24th December 2023

PARISH NEWSLETTER

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



+ BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD +

RECENTLY DECEASED:

George Mealy, Clogh Rd

ANNIVERSARIES:

Sat: 23rd: Dec: 10am: Con & Tess O'Sullivan, Callan

Mary & Frank Byrne, Crosshill; Michael & Margaret Nolan, Deerpark; Margaret Walker, Deerpark; Thomas Fogarty, Chatsworth St; Patrick & Maryanne Shore, Firoda; Mary Dunphy, Kilkenny St.

Christmas Greetings

Fr. Scriven and Fr. Doyle wish all the people of the parish every blessing for Christmas and the New Year. Together we welcome the Christ Child anew into our hearts. Standing at the crib allow the story of Christmas speak to you for the nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of the Bible.

Welcome to all who have travelled home for Christmas – we wish all a pleasant stay and safe travelling on the return journey.

Make sure to visit the cribs in our area. Why not make it a pleasant family activity by visiting three or four churches in our area? Encourage the young members of your family to tell you the Christmas Story and who did what in their school plays.

Enjoy a little rest after the hustle and bustle of the past few weeks. Visit a neighbour. Drop into the church to visit our crib. Light a candle.

PARISH OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN ON JANUARY 8TH

CONTACTS:

Fr. Scriven: 087 242 0033

rscriven2009@gmail.com

Fr. Ian Doyle 087 9669223

THE PARISH OFFICE:

Parish Office: 056 444 1262

Parish Email: castlecomer@ossory.ie

Parish Web Page: castlecomerparish.ie

Please use office number and office hours for parish administrative business, and for booking Masses, marriages and baptisms. You can submit anniversaries etc. also through the parish email.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY & ENVELOPE COLLECTION

Week ending 17th Dec €1,840

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.

Christmas Mass Times

Parish of Castlecomer

Christmas Eve: 5pm & 8pm

Christmas Day: 8am & 10am

Parish of Clogh

Moneenroe: 6.30pm (Christmas Eve)

Clogh: 11am (Christmas Day)

Ministry Of Reader at Mass

Christmas Masses 24th/25th

Sunday 8pm: Maureen Holohan

Monday 8am: Tom Teehan

Monday 10am: Fonsie Mealy

Weekending 30th/31st December

Saturday 7pm: Martin Walsh

Sunday 8am: Tom Teehan

Sunday 11am: Theresa Hetherington

Ministers of the Eucharist

Christmas Masses 24th/25th

Sunday 5pm: Catherine Greer

Sunday 8pm: Ingrid Brennan

Monday 8am: Sheila Loughlin

Monday 10am: Eoin Stowe

Week beginning 26th December

Tuesday- Friday, 9am: Angela Byrne

Saturday, 30th 10am: Angela Byrne

Saturday 30th, 7pm: Louise Walsh

Sunday 31st, 8am: Noreen Curry

Sunday 31st, 11am: Eoin Stowe

Christmas Dues – this weekend

Contributions will be gratefully received this weekend, Christmas Day and the following Sunday. Sincere thanks to all who contribute. Please use envelope supplied.

A WORD OF THANKS

A word of thanks and appreciation for some significant donations that the parish have received in recent weeks. These generous donations have greatly assisted the work that has recently been undertaken in the church. *Míle Buíochas.*

Ossory Times

The December edition of Ossory Times is available in church; it is packed with news from the various parts of our diocese. Price €2

PRAYER AT THE CRIB

(Pope John XXIII's Prayer at the Crib)

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of all families - men,
women, and children this peace for which
we seek so desperately and which you
alone can give.

Help us to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.

Reveal to us also your beauty,
holiness and purity.

Awaken in our hearts love and gratitude
for your infinite goodness.

Join us all together in your love.

And give us your heavenly peace.

Amen.

The Crib: 800 Years Celebration

This year, 2023, we celebrate 800 years since St Francis recreated the events of the first Christmas. He did this in a cave near Greccio which is 90 km south of Assisi. On Christmas Eve 1223 St. Francis had the first Nativity scene -- a live one -- staged for the people when they came to Mass. Two weeks before Christmas in 1223 St Francis called on a man known only as John and asked him to help him build his crib. So it was, that on 25 December that year, in the presence of many Friars who had made their way to Greccio, St Francis, when he saw the crib with the straw, the ox and the ass, was filled with joy. According to Franciscan sources St Francis described his desire to represent the Nativity in a way that everyone could experience and take in with a glance what happened on the first Christmas: "I would like to represent the Baby born in Bethlehem, and somehow let people see him with their own eyes ... how he was laid down in a feeding trough and how he lay there on the straw between the ox and the ass."