

Church of the Immaculate Conception Castlecomer



11th February 2024

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



+ BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD +

ANNIVERSARIES

Sat 10th, 7pm: Seamus Walsh, Maryville
Sun 11th, 11am: Thomas (Theo) Finnegan, Kilkenny St; Eamon Kelly, Kilkenny St; Elizabeth Bollard, Barrack St
Mon 12th, 9am John & Emer Kelly, Ardra/Dublin
Tues 13th, 9am: Jimmy & Margaret Farrell, the Square
Wed 14th, 9:30am: Joe & Nellie McNulty, Kilkenny St
Thur 15th, 9am: Patrick Brennan, Mayhora
Sat 17th, 10am: Pat Byrne, Barrack Hill & Margaret Kavanagh, Marymount

Brigid Breen, Knocknadogue; Kathleen Dwyer, Ballyhemmon; Mary Brophy, Mayhora; Tom Ryan, Moneenroe/Aughamuckey; Josephine Hayes, Coon

ANNIVERSARIES WEEKEND 17TH/18TH FEBRUARY

Sat 17th, 7pm: Sean Smith, Ballyhemmon
Sun 18th 11am: Patrick, Chrissie & Bridget O'Brien, Maureen Vassallo (nee O'Brien) Ellen Preston (nee O'Brien), Castlecomer

CONTACTS:

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THE PARISH OFFICE:

Parish Office: 056 444 1262
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Parish Web Page: www.castlecomerparish.ie

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.

ENVELOPE AND OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Week ending 4th Feb: €1,775
The Lenten Stations – Next Weekend

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, 14th Feb

(Day of Fast and Abstinence)

Mass times:
Castlecomer Parish: 9:30am & 7pm
Moneenroe Parish: 11am
Clogh Parish: 7:30pm

The Ashes will be available in front of Altar.

*Lord clean and strengthen me
in body, spirit and soul
as I set out on my Lenten Pilgrimage.
Bring me ever closer to the
Father's heart.
Amen*

**Trocáire Family Fast Boxes will be
available in the Church Porch.**

**The Parish Office
Tues, Wed and Fri, 9.30am – 12.30pm**

Readers at Mass 17th/18th Feb

Saturday 7pm: Maureen Holohan
Sunday 8am: Margaret McGrath
Sunday 11am: John Kelly

Ministers of the Eucharist

Mon-Fri, 13th – 16th: 9am: Maria Reyes
Saturday, 17th 10am: Maria Reyes
Saturday 17th, 7pm: Ingrid Brennan
Sunday 18th, 8am: Margaret O'Neill
Sunday 18th, 11am: Shelia Loughlin

Our Lady of Lourdes

Friday, 11th February is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. In 11 February 1858 Our Lady appeared for the first time to Bernadette Soubirous a poor girl. The apparitions continued during that year and when asked by Bernadette on March 25 who she was Our Lady declared that she was the Immaculate Conception. In 1908 Pope Pius X declared that the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes would be celebrated all over the world on the 11th of February. Bernadette was declared a saint by Pope Pius XI in 1933. Bernadette left Lourdes and lived in Nevers as a member of the Sisters of Charity until her death on 16 April 1879.

Lourdes itself has become a centre of pilgrimage welcoming around 4 million pilgrims each year.

While the feast will not be celebrated this year – the Sunday takes priority – we will include special prayers for those who are sick and the pilgrims who will travel to Lourdes this year. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. St Bernadette, pray for us.

International Day of the Sick 2024

Pope Francis has taken "It is not good that man should be alone" as the theme for this year's International Day of the Sick. Assuring the sick, the vulnerable and the poor that they are at the 'heart of the church' it calls on the whole world: 'They must also be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention. May we never forget this! And let us commend ourselves to Mary Most Holy, Health of the Sick, that she may intercede for us and help us.'

Feast of St. Valentine - 14th February

The First Valentine Before he was killed, Valentine wrote a last note to encourage Julia to stay close to Jesus and to thank her for being his friend. He signed the note: "From your Valentine." That note inspired people to begin writing their own loving messages to people on Valentine's Feast Day, February 14th, which is celebrated on the same day on which Valentine was martyred. Valentine was beaten, stoned, and beheaded on February 14, 270. People who remembered his loving service to many young couples began celebrating his life, and he came to be regarded as a saint through whom God had worked to help people in miraculous ways. By 496, Pope Gelasius designated February 14th as Valentine's official feast day. Happy Valentine's Day to all couples in our parish.

Confirmation 2024

We welcome those receiving confirmation to their Mass of Enrolment this Sunday. At the Mass the candidates, their parents/guardians and we the people of the parish are asked to commit to undertake the journey to the sacrament together. The boys and girls publicly indicate their wish to receive the sacrament and we – parents and parish – agree to pray for them and help them along the way. As part of their preparation, they will continue to receive instruction in class, they will participate in the parish programme, will celebrate the sacrament of Penance, write a letter to the bishop, and celebrate the Ceremony of Light before the Bishop visits in May for the celebration here in the parish church on May 19th.

Croagh Patrick Climb 2024

With just one week to our annual climb of the famous reek please take note of the following: We are collecting money this coming WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY night from 8 - 9PM in Ballycomey. If everyone could return their Sponsorship card and the money collected at these times it would be great. Support for the climb has been brilliant and big numbers are travelling up next weekend. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed. ERIN'S OWN GAA LOTTO this week's jackpot is €13200. Will take place on Tuesday night. Tickets are available around the town or you can play online.