

Church of the Immaculate Conception Castlecomer



25th February 2024

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)



+ BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD +

RECENTLY DECEASED: Bill Maher, London & Castlecomer

ANNIVERSARIES:

Sat 24th, 7pm: Alan Kenny, Oak Hill

Sun 25th, 11am: Mary O'Shea (nee Bradley) (MONTHS MIND) & Bertha Swift, Kilkenny Rd.

Mon 26th, 9am: Sally Hetherington & Ned Hetherington Barrack St

Tue 27th, 9am: Thomas & Annie Brennan, Upperhills

Wed 28th, 9am: Michael, Winnie, Danny & John Dunne, Maryville

Thur 29th, 9am: James Downey, Tinalinton

Fri 1st, 9am: Richard & Elizabeth Sheil, Deerpark

Sat 2nd, 10am: John Brennan Knocknadogue (MONTHS MIND)

Shelia Comerford, Kilkenny Rd; Richard, Lizzie & Tommy Dowd, Upper Coolbawn; Gary, Joan, Gary Jnr and Michael O'Dowd, Ballyhemmon; Winnie Dunne, Maryville; Danny & Chrissie Fitzpatrick, Dysart; Michael Kealy, Aughamuckey; Willie Moran, Ardra; Thomas Brennan, Upper Coolbawn; John F. Burns, Chatsworth St; Martin & Lena O'Neill, Kiltown.

ANNIVERSARIES WEEKEND 2ND/3RD MARCH

Sat 24th, 7pm: Mary Dargan (MONTHS MIND) & David Boland, Clonee

Sun 25th 11am: Michael Holden, Love Lane & Mary O'Neill, London/Hillside View

CONTACTS:

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THE PARISH OFFICE:

Parish Office: 056 444 1262

Parish Email: castlecomer@ossory.ie

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 18th Feb: €2,225

Sincere thanks to all.

Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus is transfigured on Mount Tabor in the presence of three of his disciples. It is not a display of self-glory but a manifestation of his true identity. It is not to impress them but to confirm them in faith. His glory is not partial but total, both interior and exterior, as indicated by the glow of his face and clothes respectively. The Transfiguration directs our focus, beyond the cross to the resurrection.

Trócaire 2024

Trócaire is the Irish word for mercy. For the past fifty-one years people have shown great *trócaire* to people who are poor and suffering all over the world. Trócaire boxes are available in all our churches.

Please take a box and use it to support the work of Trócaire this Lent. (www.trocaire.org)

Every little helps to make a difference

Readers at Mass 2nd/3rd March

Saturday 7pm: Martin Walsh

Sunday 8am: Donal Dunne

Sunday 11am: Helena Dowd

Ministers of the Eucharist

Mon-Fri 26th-1st, 9am: John Kelly

Saturday, 2nd, 10am: John Kelly

Saturday 2nd, 7pm: Catriona Brennan

Sunday 3rd, 8am: Noreen Curry

Sunday 3rd, 11am: Teresa Hetherington

The Parish Office Opening Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday Friday 9.30 – 12.30pm

Clean Up Appeal Tidy Towns

Castlecomer Tidy Towns have a Clean-up Day for the town organised for Saturday March 2nd meeting at 3pm in front of the Creamery House. Gloves, pickers, and bags etc. provided. All help appreciated. Further info can be contacted from 087-3154662.

World Day of Prayer Friday 1st March

St Mary's Church, Castlecomer, welcomes you to celebrate world day of prayer on Friday the 1st of March at 7:30 pm. The theme of this years' service is: "*I beg you... Bear with One another in Love*" The service is prepared by the women of Palestine. All welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Monastic Experience Day Poor Clares

The Poor Clares in Galway are holding a Monastic Experience Day for young women who might be interested. in their way of life. Sat 2nd of March. vocations@poorclares.ie.

Erin's Own GAA Lotto

This week's jackpot is €13600. Draw on Tuesday night. BE IN TO WIN.

Fassadinin History Society

AGM Wednesday, 28th Feb 2024, 8.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Castlecomer Hall, followed by poems and stories by members. New members welcome.

50th Anniversary Valley Rovers AFC

Date for the dairy: Fri May 3rd; Avalon Hotel.

The Meaning of Lent

The English word 'Lent' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word Lenten, meaning 'Spring'. In other languages the word comes from the Latin, *Quadragesima* – a period of 40 days. In the Christian tradition the forty days is understood to refer to a time of intense prayer and preparation; we remember the biblical stories of Noah and the flood of 40 days, the forty years the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness and Christ's forty day fast in the desert in preparation for his earthly ministry.

Forms of Friday Penance

The following are suggested as ways of fulfilling Friday penance:

Abstaining from meat or some other food

Abstaining from alcoholic drink or smoking

Making a special effort at involvement in family prayer

Participate in Mass on Fridays

Visiting the Blessed Sacrament

Making the Stations of the Cross

Fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved to the needy

Helping the poor, sick, old, or lonely.

Pope Francis Message for Lent 2024

Lent is a time of conversion and freedom

In his message for Lent 2024, Pope Francis invites the faithful to "pause" for prayer and to assist our brothers and sisters in need, in order to change our own lives and the lives of our communities. Most significantly Pope Francis ends his Lenten message on a hopeful note:

"To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope." He calls on us all to "be ready to take risks," inviting us "to find the courage to see our world, not as in its death throes, but in a process of giving birth; not at the end, but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history."

Date for your Diary – Firoda School

Fundraiser" night in The Avalon House Hotel, Castlecomer, Friday 8th March, Music on the night by "Olivia Douglas". Details from the School. Great night promised.