

CONTACTS:
Fr. Scriven: 087 242 0033
rscriven2009@gmail.com
Fr. Ian Doyle 087 966 9223

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 17th March: €1,875
SINCERE THANKS TO ALL

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

Prayer during the Day:
The Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy every Monday – Saturday at 12pm & Sunday at 3pm: (NOT GOOD FRIDAY)

The Parish Office Hours for Holy Week:
Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30am – 12.30pm

Advance Notice:
Crosshill Cemetery mass on the 28th June at 7pm
Parish Cemetery on the 5th of July at 7pm

Advance Notice:
Daily Mass during Easter Week will be at 10am

Palm Sunday:
Blessed Palm will be available from Sunday until Wednesday at the front of the altar.

The local churches offer an abundance of opportunities for people of faith to celebrate this Holy Week. Please see notice in porch detailing times, dates and churches

TRÓCAIRE FAMILY FAST BOXES:
It is time to return your Lenten Family Fast Box. Please remember to return your Trócaire envelopes or box to the Church on Holy Thursday. Thank you.

CHY4 Tax Forms:
Thanks to all who have returned the CHY4 Tax Refund Forms to the Parish Office. A gentle reminder to those who received the forms to return them over the next week or two. This government scheme is of great benefit to the parish as it adds to what you have already given.

Lenten Envelopes:
Please return the Lenten Envelopes at this time this collection is for the stipend of Fr Scriven and Fr Doyle.

Save the Date...
Castlecomer Male Voice Choir will hold their 40 year concert in the church on Friday on May 3rd. Guests will include Harpist Mary Kelly, The Castlecomer Community School Choir and St Patricks Brass Band, Kilkenny. The choir will be led by organist James Rice. All proceeds will go towards the church. More information will be available closer to the date.
The choir will also dedicate the Easter Sunday mass at 11am to the deceased members of the Male Voice Choir.

Annual Cake Sale – Community Hall:
Castlecomer Community Hall we will host the 7th annual cake sale on Saturday 30th March 10.00am - 1.00pm in aid of Aoibheann's Pink Tie. Raffle on the day – All welcome

Chapter House Bookshop:
Now open 5 days a week Monday to Friday from 9:30 am until 5:00 pm. In the wide range of products you can find religious gifts, for any occasion including Confirmation and Communion, selection of Parish supplies, and religious books. We have a large variety of Candles, Holy water fonts, Crosses, pictures and statues of the saints.

Church of the Immaculate Conception Castlecomer

24th March 2024

PARISH NEWSLETTER

PALM SUNDAY & HOLY WEEK

+ BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD +

RECENTLY DECEASED
Nicholas Deevy. Newcastle-Upon Tyne & Formally Kilkenny St, Castlecomer;
Catherine Murphy (nee Dwyer), Clane & formally Ballyhemmon, Castlecomer;
Lorcan Brennan, Killiney, Dublin

ANNIVERSARIES & MASS INTENTIONS:
Sat 23rd March; 7pm: Michael Brennan (Roe), Maryville; Johanna Comerford Kelly;
Michael & Mary Comerford, Coolcullen/Leitrim
Sun 24th March; 11am: Thanksgiving Mass for Parish Benefactors; esp. Croagh Patrick
Mon 25th March; 9am: Mass for Peace in the World
Tue 26th March; 9am: Mass for the Youth of our Parish
Wed 27th March; 9am: Thanksgiving Mass for Parish Community Members
Thur 28th March 7.30pm Thanksgiving Mass for parishioners with Liturgical Ministries
Sat 30th March 8pm Mary Hole (nee Reeves)
Sun 31st March 11am Thomas, Alice & Michael Walsh, & Fiona O'Carroll

Anniversaries: Patrick (Paddy) Simms, Chatsworth St;
Bridget Crennan, Knocknadogue

HOLY WEEK MASSES & SERVICES:
CONFESSIONS:
PALM SUNDAY 24th March 2:30pm
GOOD FRIDAY 29th March 12 (noon)

HOLY WEDNESDAY 27th March: Mass of Chrism at 7.30pm, at St. Mary's Cathedral. Kilkenny

EASTER TRIDUUM
HOLY THURSDAY 28th March: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY 29th March Veneration of the Cross at 3pm, and Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm

HOLY SATURDAY 30th March. Solemn Easter Vigil at 8pm

THE CHRISM MASS: Bishop Niall invites all to the Chrism Mass which will be celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 27th March. The Sacred Oils to be used throughout the Diocese for Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Ordination to Priesthood will be consecrated and blessed. All welcome.

Day of Fasting and Abstinence: Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence; it is also recommended that Holy Saturday be so observed, 'so that the Church, with uplifted and welcoming heart, be ready to celebrate the joys of the Sunday of resurrection (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 110).

Minsters for Holy Week, Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday

Readers:

Thursday 28th 7.30pm: John Kelly
Friday 29th 3pm: George & Fonsie Mealy, T. Hetherington
Saturday 8pm: Martin Walsh, Sheila Pedini, Teresa Hetherington, Eithne McKenna
Sunday 8am: Donal Dunne
Sunday 11am: Margaret Kavanagh

Ministers of the Eucharist

Monday 25th, - Weds 27th 9am: Maria Reyes
Thursday 28th - 7:30pm: Maria Reyes
Friday 29th - 3pm: Maria Reyes
Saturday 23rd - 8pm: Catherine Greer
Sunday 24th, 8am: Margaret O'Neill
Sunday 24th, 11am: Eoin Stowe

DATES OF PASSOVER AND EASTER

At the Council of Nicea in 325, the date for Easter was fixed as the Sunday after the full moon after the spring equinox, Sunday, 31st March 2023 is the feast of Easter. Eastern Christians calculate the date of Easter according to the Julian calendar, the Calendar in general use before the Gregorian reform of 1582. One of the reforms was the removal of ten days from the Calendar and this discrepancy, now thirteen days, between the Julian and Gregorian Calendars resulted often in a difference in the date for Easter in East and West as they follow the two Calendars. This happens in 2024 when the date of Easter for Eastern Christians is Sunday May 5th. The feast of Passover is a seven-day feast, beginning at sundown on the evening of Monday 22nd and ends on April 30th (14 Nisan 5784).

HOLY WEEK IN THE HOME: Holy Week is not only a time for activities and attendance in churches, it is an opportunity for faith renewal in the home also. Consider possible activities to do as a family to make Holy Week special. What about grace before meals? How about turning off the TV for a few minutes and light a candle to be thankful of family shared love. How about observing abstinence on Good Friday & sharing soup together - being mindful of those with little or nothing? Parents, tell the story of Jesus' to your children. There are a number of good films about Jesus' life on the internet - why not choose to watch one - be mindful of film content when selecting.

CAOINEADH NA DTRÍ MUIRE / MUIRE (LAMENT OF THE THREE MARY'S): This Irish-language hymn is an old lament in the style of a conversation between the three Mary's, Jesus Christ and St. Peter during the events of the Crucifixion on Calvary. Many slightly different versions have been noted in use - and scholars do not appear to have identified any of them as the original or definitive version. The identity of the three Mary's is unknown: obviously Mary the mother of Christ, likely Mary Magdalene, but the other is unidentified - perhaps even intended to be the listener. Some singers treat the song as the laments of Mary mother of Christ alone, despite the traditional title. You can find it by following this link: [HTTPS://WWW.GODSONGS.NET/2021/02/CAOINEADH-NA-DTRI-MUIRE-MUIRE-LAMENT-OF-THE-THREE-MARYS.HTML](https://www.godsongs.net/2021/02/caoineadh-na-dtri-muire-muire-lament-of-the-three-marys.html)

SCHOOLS EASTER BREAK: we wish all our pupils and students, teachers and school staff a blessed and peaceful break. May our families grow in faith and love this Holy Week and Easter. *“Lord, Jesus, prince of peace and joy, give us hearts that our overflowing with love for you and our neighbour. Keep us safe and bring us renewed back to school after the break. Amen.”*

Easter Ceremonies on RTE

This year RTE will broadcast the Easter Ceremonies from St Mary's Cathedral in Kilkenny. These ceremonies will be live on Good Friday at 3pm and for the Easter Vigil at 11pm on Holy Saturday night. We thank all those who are working to prepare for these celebrations. These promise to be special celebrations in our Diocese. We invite people to join with us by watching on TV or if you like to come along.

Reflection for Holy Week

“Hosanna to the Son of David” – our welcome to the Lord as He enters Jerusalem is a welcome to the One Who brings hope to a very broken world. With conflict raging in so many places across our world, the Lord comes to suffer, die and rise from the dead that we might know His peace – the peace that only He can bring. As we follow Him into our churches this Palm Sunday – and as we walk with Him in the events of His life-giving passion, death and resurrection – may we walk with our suffering sisters and brothers, wherever they may be. Let us accompany them in their suffering as we accompany the Lord in His suffering. Today, we shall listen to the Passion account given us by St Mark. Do not, as it were, leave this text at the church door when you leave. Take it with you in mind and heart. Read it again over the coming days. Allow the inspired words that are an account of our salvation to find a home in you. The more we dwell in the Gospel, the more we dwell in Christ, in the One who suffered, died and rose again for us. The more we dwell in Christ, the more open we shall be to His gift of peace – a gift that is for the whole world.

Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land:

By Archbishop Hosam, Jerusalem

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.

Be with those who need you in these days of suffering we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end of violence and the establishment of peace, we also call to you to bring justice and equality to the peoples.

Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

