

# Church of the Immaculate Conception Castlecomer



**17th March 2024**  
PARISH NEWSLETTER  
**LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG**



## + BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD +

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Joan Fogarty, Chatsworth St; Mary Cadigan, Uskerty; Margaret Power, Newpark Close

### ANNIVERSARIES

Sat 16th, 7pm: John & Mary O'Mara, Chatsworth Street

Sun 17th, 11am: Lawrence (Larry) Callery, Barrack Hill

Tue 19th, 9am: Jack & Glenn Brooke, Yorkshire

Wed 20th, 9am: Thomas and George Murphy, Firoda

Sat 23rd, 10am: Michael & Eilish Teehan, Creamery House, The Square

Jimmy McKay, Holycross/Castlecomer; Margaret & Jimmy Farrell, The Square.

### ANNIVERSARIES WEEKEND 23RD/24TH MARCH

Sat 23rd, 7pm: Michael Brennan (Roe), Maryville;

Johanna Comerford Kelly; Michael & Mary Comerford, Coolcullen/Leitrim

### PRAYER DURING THE DAY & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:

The Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy every Monday – Saturday at 12pm & Sunday at 3pm:

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

### THE PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm; **Bank Holiday Monday Mass at 10am**

### 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](mailto: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 10th March: €2,046

SINCERE THANKS TO ALL

### Trocáire

Ms Lorraine O'Shea will speak on behalf of  
Trocáire at mass this weekend. About the need  
and impact that climate change in Malawi.

### Palm Sunday Mass (24th of March)

Young people and families invited to blessing of  
palms and journey to church for 11am Mass on  
Palm Sunday. Starting at Convent NS, Kilkenny  
Rd at **10:45am**. Follow the donkey to Mass  
waving palms and singing Hosanna! Palm will  
be available to take home after.

### 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.

### Readers for Palm Sunday

Saturday 7pm: Mary Buggy, Maureen Holohan,  
Brigid Coady

Sunday 8am: Margaret Mcgrath; Tom Teehan,  
Maria Reyes

Sunday 11am: Angela Molloy, Shelia Pedini,  
John Kelly

### Ministers of the Eucharist

Mon- Sat: Sheila Loughlin

Saturday 23rd, 7pm: Eoin Stowe

Sunday 24th, 8am: Noreen Curry

Sunday 24th, 11am: Teresa Hetherington

### St Brigid's Crosses

Thanks to all who gave of their time to make or to  
sell St Brigid's Crosses at the beginning of  
February. A sum of €3,320 was given to the  
parish from the proceeds. *Mile Búiochais* to one  
and all. The money is gratefully received but  
perhaps more important is that you through your  
work you have facilitated a very significant  
display of our faith in so many houses. You are  
spreading the message of the Lord in a most  
creative and traditional way.

### Thanks

A word of thanks to all associated with the  
Croagh Patrick Climb and their generous gift to  
the parish of €27,000. Mr Billy Moran, Chair of  
Erin's Own GAA, presented the cheque to Fr  
Scriven on Friday night. Well done to one and all  
and many many thanks for your commitment and  
generosity to your parish.

### Why do we wear Shamrock?

It might surprise people to learn that St Patrick  
was born not in Ireland. Some claim he was  
born in Wales. Others say Scotland or  
Brittany. But we do know that he was an  
immigrant to Ireland, who, it is believed, came  
here as a slave. St Patrick felt a call from God  
to spread the message of Christianity in Ireland.  
To help people understand better the mystery  
of the Triune God (Three person in one God)  
he used a piece of shamrock with three leaves.  
One leaf representing the Father, the other leaf  
representing the Son and the third leaf  
representing the Holy Spirit. This is why we  
wear shamrock today as a sign of our belief in  
the most Holy Trinity who also is worthy of all  
our praise and thanksgiving.

### Did you know?

Hail Glorious St Patrick was written by Sister Mary  
Agnes McSweeney a native of Cobh. Born in 1823  
she entered the Mercy Convent in Charleville in 1843  
and in 1866 she and seven other Mercy Sisters went  
to Bathurst, Sydney. There they established schools  
in the new diocese of Bathurst. Her death was  
recorded in the Australian Press as the 'Death of a  
Pioneer Sister of Mercy' and she was referred to as  
the 'one of the oldest Sisters of Mercy in the world'  
when she died in 1905. The hymn appears to have  
been written at the beginning of the 1850s (c1853)  
and the nationalist reference to ever bless and defend  
the sweet land of our birth come just a few years after  
the Great Famine. The first reference to the hymn  
was about 1853 when it was published as No. 14 in  
Easy Hymns and attributed to Sr. Agnes, of the  
Convent of Charleville, Cork. In the convent archives  
there are a number of letters dating to 1854 when  
Rev. Leslie Bunn, Presbyterian Archbishop of York,  
and Hon. President to the Hymn Society of Great  
Britain and Ireland requested biographical data on Sr.  
Agnes, author of the Hymn Hail Glorious St. Patrick.  
He wanted to include it in an updated edition of a  
dictionary of Hymns. The historical documents in  
Australia make reference to her proficiency in French  
and English Literature that she had a great interest in  
ancient and ecclesiastical history but no reference to  
her interest in music.

Hail, glorious St. Patrick,  
dear Saint of our Isle,  
On us thy poor children  
bestow a sweet smile;  
And now thou art high  
in thy mansions above,  
On Erin's green valleys  
look down in thy love.

**On Erin's green valleys,  
On Erin's green valleys,  
On Erin's green valleys,  
Look down in thy love.**

Ever bless and defend  
the sweet land of our birth,  
Where the shamrock still blooms  
as when thou were on earth,  
And our hearts shall yet burn,  
wherever we roam,  
For God and Saint Patrick  
and our native home.