

Church of the Immaculate Conception Castlecomer

29th June 2025

Parish Newsletter

FEAST OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL



+ BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD +

ANNIVERSARIES:

Sat, 7pm: Josie Healy, Firoda – (Months Mind)
Gabrielle Ryan, Maryville
James O'Neill, Hillside View

Sun 11am James Comerford, Coolbawn
Tim & Marie Comerford, Coolbawn
Michael Sexton, Love Lane

Mon: 9am Tom Brennan, Ballycallan

ANNIVERSARIES:

Nancy Shalloe, Hillside View; Canon McNamara PP Castlecomer;
Julia Carroll, Donaguile; Joe & Margaret Morrissey, Deerpark;
George Stone, Skehana; Harold Stone, Kiltown; Kathleen Holohan, Gurteen.

ANNIVERSARIES WEEKEND 5TH/6TH JULY:

Sat 7pm: Liam Conroy, Maryville (Month's Mind)
Sun 11am: Thomas and Margaret Coogan, Firoda

PARISH CONTACTS:

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

THE PARISH OFFICE:

Parish Office: 085 827 8729
Parish Email: castlecomer@ossory.ie
Webpage: www.castlecomerparish.ie

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION:

Week Ending June 22nd: 1,995.00
Sincere thanks to all who contribute to parish funds and to the clergy funds. *Mile Buiochais*.

Please note that when a funeral mass is celebrated on Sunday at 11am the anniversaries can either be included at that Mass or transferred to another date. Please leave a phone number when requesting an anniversary mass to enable contact from the office if and when necessary.

MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH:

Ministers of Word:

7pm: Eithne McKenna
8am: Donal Dunne
11am: Angela Molloy

Ministers of Eucharist

Mon – Sat John Kelly
Sat 7pm: John Holohan
Sun 8am Noreen Curry
Sun 11am Jeannette Harding

Parish & Diocesan Safeguarding

Diocesan Liaison Person: Ailish Higgins
Contact: dlp@ossory.ie or 085 802 1633

Parish Safeguarding Reps:

Eilish Dunne & Ger Comerford
Contact: Parish Email or 085 827 8729

PLEASE RETURN TROCAIRE BOXES

Feast of St Peter and St Paul:

Today we celebrate the memory of Peter and Paul. Peter, a fisherman who spent his days amid boats and nets, and Paul, a learned Pharisee who taught in synagogues. At the heart of their story is not their own gifts and abilities; at the centre is the encounter with Christ that changed their lives. They experienced a love that healed them and set them free. They then became apostles and ministers of freedom for others: Peter preaching to the Jews, and Paul to pagans.

Peter, a skilled fisherman, many times in the heart of the night tasted the bitterness of frustration at having caught nothing (cf. Lk 5:5; Jn 21:5) and, seeing his empty nets, was tempted to pull up his oars. Though strong and impetuous, Peter often yielded to fear (cf. Mt 14:30). Jesus nonetheless loved Peter and was willing to take a risk on him.

Paul, a teacher in the synagogues, a zealous defender of his Jewish traditions and a cruel persecutor of Christians; His encounter with the Lord on the road to Damascus shook him to the core: more than just knocking him to the ground it shattered Paul's illusion of being respectably religious. The proud Saul turned into Paul, a name that means "small". Jesus did not judge them or humiliate them. He supported them by his prayer, and even at times reproached them to make them change. To us Peter and Paul bestow an image of a Church entrusted to our hands, yet guided by the Lord with fidelity and tender love, for it is He who guides the Church, a Church that is weak yet finds strength in the presence of God.

St. Peter was crucified upside down in 64 AD and St. Paul was beheaded in 67 AD. Emperor Nero did not have Paul crucified because the Romans did not crucify their own citizens and, as a result, Paul was beheaded. St. Peter reportedly was crucified upside down since he was not a Roman. Tradition holds that he requested to be crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to be crucified in the same position as the Lord Jesus.

One a fisherman, the other a preacher; one with the keys, the other with the sword; both shared a martyr's death in Rome; two great Apostles of the Gospel and two pillars of the Church.

FIRST FRIDAY OF JULY

Friday, 4th, is the First Friday in July. Fr Doyle and Scriven will visit the housebound at the usual times.

JUNE CATHEDRAL DRAW RESULTS

June Results on the Parish Notice Board – no local winners this month – better luck in July.

ST OLIVER PLUNKETT – BORN 400 YEARS AGO

Born in Loughcrew, Co Meath, 400 years ago on 5 July, 1625, Oliver Plunkett was of Irish Norman ancestry.

Educated at the Abbey of St Marys in Dublin at twenty-two years old he travelled to the Irish College in Rome where he was ordained in 1647.

In 1670, when he was appointed Archbishop of Armagh he returned to Ireland and in 1678 was obliged to go into hiding to avoid anti-Catholic violence. The situation was made considerably worse when Titus Oates declared to the Privy Council that Archbishop Plunkett was raising money for an invasion of French Catholic troops into Ireland. With a substantial price on his head Plunkett was hunted down, arrested and put on trial for treason. The trial was a shambles with even the prosecuting Duke of Ormonde describing his own witnesses as 'silly drunken vagabonds whom no schoolboy would trust to rob an orchard.'

Plunkett was shipped to London to stand a new trial where he was condemned to death and was hanged, drawn and quartered on July 1st, 1681, at the age of 55. He was the last Catholic martyr to die in England and was buried alongside Thomas Whitbread and his companions in the church of St Giles in the Fields. In 1975 Oliver Plunkett was canonised, the first Irish saint in nearly 700 years. In 1997 he was declared patron saint for peace and reconciliation in Ireland.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office, based in the Parish Church, is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please drop in, call or email to book anniversaries or other enquiries re parish business.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday 7pm – 9pm; Wed and Sat after Morning Mass.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

Bus departs for Knock on 17th July leaving from the Square at 8 a.m. Names to Maureen Kelly, 087 770 7846.

GRAVEYARD MASS AND BLESSING OF GRAVES

The Mass and Blessing of Graves in The Parish Cemetery will take place on 4th July at 7pm. Please pass on the word.

PLEASE NOTE

NO MASS ON FRIDAY MORNING