

Church of the Immaculate Conception Castlecomer



8th June 2025

Parish Newsletter

FEAST OF PENTECOST

+ BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD +

RECENTLY DECEASED:

James Campion Upper Chatsworth, Clogh

ANNIVERSARIES MASSES WEEKEND 7TH/8TH JUNE

Sat 7th, 7pm: James and Mai Kenny, Firoda

Sun 8th, 8am: Statia Maher, Rathkyle

Sun 8th, 11am: Margaret O'Neill, England
Gabrielle (Gay) Conroy, Maryville
Edward Holland Ardra

Mon 9th, 9am: Mary (Min) Kennedy, Mayhora

Thurs 12th, 9am Jake Brennan, Lyntown Grove, Kilkenny.

Fri 13th, 9am Maureen Townsend, Southampton, Kilkenny St.
Philomena Moran. New York, Kilkenny St.
Fr Jim Moran, New Jersey, Kilkenny St.

Sat 14th, 10am Martin & Tessie Power, 35 Maryville.

ANNIVERSARIES

Margaret McKay (nee McNulty) Holycross/Castlecomer; Thomas, Mary & Brian Kelly, Firoda; Alice Campion, Chatsworth, Clogh; Mary O'Shea, Chatsworth, Clogh.

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 10th May: €1745.00

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: Martin Walsh

8am: Tom Teehan

11am: Teresa Hetherington

Ministers of Eucharist

Mon – Sat Shiela Loughlin

Sat 7pm: Catherine Greer

Sun 8am Lalaine Brennan

Sun 11am John Kelly

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 PENTECOST - THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

The Power of the Holy Spirit working in us is powerful and gentle. The wind and the fire do not destroy or reduce to ashes whatever they touch: one fills the house where the disciples are, and the other rests gently, in the forms of flames, on the head of each of the disciples. The Holy Spirit descended upon them and remained at their side, transforming their hearts and instilling in them 'a serene courage which impelled them to pass on to others their experience of Jesus and the hope which motivates them' (Pope John Paul II)

All of us need hope. Hope is not optimism; no, it is something else. Look at the image of the boat for the Jubilee Year on the banner in our church. Hope is depicted as an anchor, there at the shore, and in clinging to its rope, we move towards hope. The path of life is not always easy, rather it can be a path that is winding and uphill. Yet we know that we are not alone. We have the certainty that, by the help of the Holy Spirit and by his gifts, we can walk together and help one another.

*Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten our minds
fill our hearts with your grace, guide our steps,
grant your peace to the world. Amen.*

THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Paschal Candle traces its roots to early Christian practices, emerging as a prominent symbol by the 4th century. The candle represents Jesus as the light of the world, a theme drawn from *John 8:12*.

The lighting of the Paschal Candle occurs during the Easter Vigil. The ceremony begins in darkness, symbolizing the world before Christ's resurrection. The Easter Fire is blessed and the candle lit from it. The candle is carried into the darkened church and the priest proclaims "The Light of Christ" three times. Parishioners light their own candles from its flame, spreading light throughout the space. This act recalls the resurrection breaking the darkness of sin and death. The candle is placed beside the Ambo, where it remains for seven weeks of the Easter season.

The Paschal Candle is signed with specific markings that carry deep meaning. A cross is inscribed on its surface, representing Christ's sacrifice and triumph. Above and below the cross, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega are added, signifying Christ as the beginning and end (Revelation 22:13). The current year is also marked; five grains of incense are inserted into the cross, symbolizing the wounds of Christ. The candle's white wax signifies purity and new life; the wax symbolising the humanity of Christ and the flame his divinity.

After the season of Easter, the candle is placed at the baptismal font and is stood by the coffin during the celebration of a funeral linking our celebrations to the Resurrection and our Easter faith.

JUNE STATION ENVELOPES

The June Collection for the support of the priests of the parish are due at this time. Thanks to all who constantly support Fr Doyle and myself through these collections throughout the year. Your generosity towards our monthly salary is much appreciated.
Fr Scriven.

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.

PADRE PIO GLOVE

A Padre Pio Glove will be in Athy (Fitzpatrick House, Kilberry, Athy) on Saturday 14th June from 11am to 5pm.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – SCAIP AN SCÉAL

Cuireadh Oscailte - An open invitation to celebrate Education in Castlecomer Boys' School. June 23, 6.30 – 8.30pm. All are invited – Pass the word.

BRIDGE

Freshford Bridge Club will host Open Summer Bridge at Tulla Hall, Threecastles, commencing on Monday 8th June, 2025 at 7.30 p.m. All bridge players are welcome.

SVP CASTLECOMER

The monthly SVP collection will take place this weekend. Thanks to all for their generosity.

WALK THE LONGEST DAY FOR TEAC TOM

Every day can feel like the longest day for someone struggling with their mental health. On 21st June, you are invited to gather your group, club, or workplace for a 30-minute walk to support Teac Tom. Every €10 donated funds Teac Tom's vital mental health and suicide prevention services. - To get your group involved, email events.teactom@gmail.com. - Let's walk for hope.

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE MAYNOOTH

St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth has a range of postgraduate programmes for those interested in Theology, Philosophy, Youth Ministry and more. Visit their website for more details at www.sppu.ie/courses

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Tues 7pm – 9pm; Wed and Sat after Morning Mass.