

Parish of Castlecomer

Cluster of Clogh, Castlecomer and Muckalee

20TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Parish Newsletter 17th August 2025



+BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD+ ANNIVERSARIES 16TH/17TH

Sat 7pm: Jim Carroll Donaguile
Jim, Alice and PJ Dooley, Smithstown;
Helena and Bill Brennan, Smithstown; Billy
Dooley, Crettyard
Bridget O'Shea; Hillcrest
John Rothwell, Firoda

Sun 11am: Anna & Danny Dooley, Lower Firoda
John Dowling, Donaguile (Month's Mind)

Tues 9am: Michael Doogue, Nancy Doogue, &
Anne Doogue, Chatsworth St

Wed 9am: Chris Weldon, Marymount

ANNIVERSARIES:

Eileen Flood, Donaguile; John Rothwell, Firoda;
James Dormer, Deerpark;

ANNIVERSARIES SAT 17TH/18TH

Sat 7pm - Breda Shortall, Maryville
Patrick Tyrell, Marymount

Sun 11am Noel Dowling, Moneenroe
Mary Hole (Nee Reeves) Kilkenny St.

Prayer for those receiving Exam Results

Father, may your presence be
felt as young people receive
their examination results at
this time.

May they know that their
worth and value is not based
on academic achievement
but on your unchanging love
for them.

Help them to trust in your
goodness.

Fix their eyes firmly on you
and guide their steps along
the path before them
knowing that this moment is
just one step in their unique
journey. Amen.

PARISH CONTACTS:

Fr. Scriven: 087 242 0033
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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 Aug 10th: €2,015.00
Sincere thanks to all who contribute to parish
funds and to the clergy fund. *Mile Buiochais.*

Coeliac Hosts

Low gluten hosts are available for parishioners who
are gluten intolerant. Please indicate your
preference to the minister when you go to
communion.

Parish Office: 085 827 8729

MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH:

Ministers of Word:

7pm: Mary Buggy
8am: Tom Teehan
11am: Angela Molloy

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

**ADORATION OF
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**
Tues Evening (7pm-9pm)
Wednesday & Saturday
after Mass

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office, based in the Parish Church, is
open on Wednesday and Friday mornings, 9.30am
– 12.30pm. Please drop in, call or email to book
anniversaries or other enquiries re parish business.

AD MULTOS ANNOS

We offer congratulations to priests of our diocese
who are celebrating jubilees of their ordination at
this time: Rev Sean O'Doherty (Durrow) and Rev
Pat Duggan (Bennetsbridge) both celebrate 60
years of ordination; Fr A O'Connor (Kilkenny) and
Mgr Liam Bergin (Boston) celebrate 40 years; Fr
Sean O'Connor (Ballyhale) and Fr Mark Condon
(Danesfort) celebrate 25 years. Prayerful
congratulations and best wishes to them and their
families at this time.

CANONISATION OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Bishop Coll will join us on September 7th to
celebrate mass on the day of canonization of
Blessed Carlo Acutis. Please visit the relic in the
Parish Church seeking his intercession.

GAZA –AUGUST 24TH: DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

The Irish Bishops have asked that August 24th as a
day of prayer and reflection in the Middle East: 24
hours of prayer and reflection in parishes and
homes: light a candle, say the rosary, make some
small personal penance or sacrifice; that the light of
hope may radiate from Ireland for peace, for Gaza
and for the future of its people

THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA

THE CREED - at the heart of the Church's faith
Has the Creed changed since 325? Yes. In 381 the
First Council of Constantinople reaffirmed the
Council of Nicaea and updated the actual Creed
by adding text about the Holy Spirit and the
Church.

Did the Council discuss anything else? Yes.

Another objective of the gathering was to establish
a common date for Easter. They failed to establish
this. Pope Leo XIV commented on this failure
earlier in June: "*Sadly, differences in their
calendars no longer allow Christians to celebrate
together the most important feast of the liturgical
year, causing pastoral problems within
communities, dividing families and weakening the
credibility of our witness to the Gospel*".

PARISH CHURCH 16TH AUGUST 1844

Canon Carrigan's History and Antiquities of the
Diocese of Ossory, published in 1908, simply
records: "*The foundation of the present parish
church was laid August 16th, 1844, during the
pastorship of Father Joseph Butler. The work
begun by him continued and brought to
completion by his successor, Father Aylward.*"
Father Joseph Butler was born in Pheberstown,
March 17th and was baptised the same day by Rev
Martin Bergin, CC. Having made his preliminary
studies elsewhere he was admitted to Maynooth for
Humanities, September 1807. After his ordination he
was CC Castlecomer, St Patrick's, &c., and was
collated to Castlecomer in Feb 1838. Desiring to
devote himself exclusively to his own sanctification,
this venerable priest resigned the pastoral charge in
1847. He soon after set out for the Eternal City,
where he intended passing the remainder of his life.
Acting, however, on the advice he received there,
viz., that he should return to his late parishioners,
live in their midst, and continue to edify them by his
good example, he came back to Castlecomer, and a
few years later closed his last day, in in the odour of
sanctity, in Mr Heath's House, in Kilkenny Street.
He died Dec 12th 1851, and is buried in Castlecomer
parish church.

Fr Alyward was appointed PP of Castlecomer in
June 1847. A native of Knockmoylan, he was
ordained in Maynooth in 1832 and appointed
professor to Birchfield College. (Birchfield College
predated St Kieran's College – the college was
founded in 1782 but was on a number of different
sites in Kilkenny before 1838). In 1838 he was
Acting President of the new college, St Kieran's
College on the Callan Road, Kilkenny. In 1843 he
was appointed curate in The Rower and came to
Castlecomer in 1847. "*The completion of the
church, the foundation stone of which had been laid
in 1844, was Father Alyward's first care, after his
appointment to the parish; and the task, though
herculean at the time, was accomplished, in the
course of a few very few years through his zeal and
energy, and the generosity of his ever faithful flock*".
During his 18 years of his pastoral charge he led his
people to god by word and example; he was,
moreover, their tower of strength in their battle
against landlord oppression and tyranny, against
souperism and proselytism, and the other evils under
which they suffered since the terrible famine of '47
had swept over the land." In 1854 he was appointed
chancellor of the diocese and died, after a lingering
illness, on the 9th January, 1865.