

25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Parish of Castlecomer

Cluster of Clogh, Castlecomer and Muckalee
Parish Newsletter 21st September 2025



+BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD+

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Fr Liam Shore, Kiltown and Bowden Court;
Ann Houlihan (née Kelly), Portlaoise and Barrack Street;
John Poole, Hugginstown and Coolade.

ANNIVERSARIES SAT 20TH/21ST SEPT

Sat 20th 7pm: Joan Holohan, The Square;
Ned & Molly Brennan, Knocknadogue;
Mon 22nd, 9am: Lillian Lawlor Kilkenny Street;

Wednesday Mass is at 10am (School Mass)

Thur 25th, 9am: Eamon Kenny, Rathkyle &
Stella Lacey, Ballyragget;
Sat 27th, 10am: Michael Brooke, Coolbawn;

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom and Mary Balkin, Love Lane.

ANNIVERSARIES SAT 27TH/28TH SEPT

Sat 27th, 7pm: Joe Collins, Marymount;
Sun 28th, 11am: William Shea, Drumgoole and Kilkenny St

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday 7pm-9pm
Wednesday & Saturday after Morning Mass

THE GARDENER'S PRAYER

I have worked
in the fertile earth
and planted a garden;
so I know what faith is.

I have listened to the birds
carolling in the morning
and at dusk;
so I know what music is.

I have seen the morning
without clouds after showers;
so I know what beauty is.

I have seen
the miracle of spring,
the fruition of summer,
the beauty of autumn,
followed by the sleep of winter;
so I know what life is.

Because I have perceived
all these things,
I know what God is. Amen.

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:

Last Week's Sunday Collection: €1640.00
Sincere thanks to all who contribute to parish funds
and to the clergy fund. *Mile Buíochas.*

Parish Office
Wednesday & Friday Mornings
9.30am – 12.30pm
085 827 8729

MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH:

Ministers of The Word:

7pm: Mary Buggy
8am: Tom Teehan
11am: John Kelly

Ministers of The Eucharist:

Mon – Sat Sheila Loughlin
7pm: Catherine Greer
8am: Noreen Curry
11am: Angela Molloy

PARISH & DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING

Diocesan Liaison Person:

Ailish Higgins

Contact: dlp@ossory.ie or 085 802 1633

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Eilish Dunne & Ger Comerford

Contact: Parish Email or 085 827 8729

Please consult the Diocesan website

www.ossory.ie

for all relevant documents & policies.

Cluster of Parishes

As you are aware our three parishes – Castlecomer, Clogh and Muckalee - are 'clustered' together in the planning for the future in our diocese. A number of meetings have already taken place between members of the three parishes. The next gathering will take place in Castlecomer Community centre on Tuesday night at 7.30pm. One of the first tasks is to choose a name to refer to the collective group of parishes. This work is being assisted by the Diocesan Pastoral Council and similar meetings are taking place throughout the diocese.

PREPARATION FOR THE FIRST SACRAMENTS

Over the next few weeks, the programme of preparation for First Penance and First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin. It is interesting that Pope Leo XIV referred to Family, Parish and School as to where St Carlo Acutis's faith was nourished. The preparation over the next few months will also involve all three: parents and family will be asked to play their part, the wonderful teachers in our schools will assist through the school religious programme and we in the Parish will be asked to participate. We wish all every blessing now as they begin their preparation.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL DRAW

Congrats to winners in the final draw of the 2024/2025 monthly draw. Tickets available locally through Maureen Kelly and the Parish Office.

Freshford Bridge Club

Bridge has resumed on Mondays in Tulla Hall, Threecastles. Classes for beginners will commence on Monday 13th Oct, 2025 at 7.30pm for 8 weeks. Further information: Anne Maria 087 2271136.

ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX – THE LITTLE FLOWER

Mass will be celebrated in honour of "The Little Flower" in St Joseph's Church, Ballyadams on Wednesday 1st Oct, 7.30pm. All welcome.

KILKENNY STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Kilkenny Stroke Support Group meet next Friday, September 26th, 2-4pm, at Tuiscint day services meeting rooms, at St. Canice's Hosp Complex, Old Dublin Road, Kilkenny. Meetings are open to survivors and carers and are social & informative. Further information text/phone Lynda 087-7814697.

Cois Nore Outreach Cancer Support

Cois Nore Outreach cancer support service for individuals diagnosed, families effected, carers, or bereaved family members in the Castlecomer Community Hall every Monday from 11am - 1pm.

Jubilee Year of Hope – Holy Martyrs

Last Sunday Pope Leo presided over an ecumenical prayer service for the Jubilee 2025 commemorating Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants who died for their faith between 2000 and 2025.

The names of 1,624 Christians were remembered: 643 people in Africa; 357 in Asia and Oceania; 304 in North and South America; 277 in the Middle East and North Africa; and 43 in Europe (110 of the total killed on other continents were missionaries from Europe). Pope Leo hopes "the blood of these martyrs will be seeds of peace, reconciliation, fraternity and love."

These are the men and women of whom Jesus speaks of in the Beatitudes the Pope said, pointing out that "according to the world's standards, they have been defeated"; but the Book of Wisdom says differently: "their hope is full of immortality".

He underlined that the witness of these martyrs is "an unarmed hope" as they chose the power of the Gospel over weapons of force and violence. The Pope remembered Sister Dorothy Stang, who had dedicated her life to the "landless in the Amazon". When her attackers asked for her weapon, she showed them her Bible, calling it her only weapon. The Pope also remembered Fr. Ragheed Ganni—a Chaldean priest from Mosul in Iraq—who refused to fight so as to testify to true Christian values.

Fr Ragheed, a priest of the diocese of Mosul in Iraq, was a regular visitor to Kilkenny during his time as a student in The Irish College Rome. He also worked in Lough Derg. He and his three companions were martyred as he returned from Mass on Pentecost Sunday, 2007. At that time, the terrorists asked him: "Did we not ask you not to open the church for prayer?" He replied, "How can I close the House of God in the face of worshipers?" These were the last words uttered by Father Ragheed Ganni, days before he became a martyr for Christ and his Church.

A relic of Ragheed Ganni is placed in the altar of the parish church of Inistioge and his Memorial Card is beneath the altar in St Mary's Cathedral Kilkenny.

A PILGRIMAGE EXPLORING GOD'S GIFTS IN ITALY

Next year the Adult Faith Development Group are holding a pilgrimage to Northern Italy (Padua, Venice & Bologna) March (20th-26th). This pilgrimage will explore faith by means of reflecting upon some of the many wonderful pieces of art scattered throughout these cities. Italy is blessed with a remarkable array of religious art - frescos, paintings, sculptures, mosaics and stuccos. this pilgrimage will explore the religious and catechetical meaning of some of these masterpieces. Further details in parishes on posters or by email afd@ossory.ie or call 057 93 55050.