

FEAST OF THE EXALATION OF THE CROSS

Parish of Castlecomer

Cluster of Clogh, Castlecomer and Muckalee
Parish Newsletter 14th September 2025



+BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD+

ANNIVERSARIES SAT 13TH/14TH SEPT

Sat 13th, 7pm: Paddy Doyle, Hillside View, (MM);
Sun 14th, 11am: Kathleen Simms, Chatsworth St;
Mon 15th, 9am: Malachy Tynan, Bowden Court & Skehana
Wed 16th, 9am: Jim Shortall, Yellow Rd;
Fri 18th, 9am: Kit & Dick Holohan, Anne Holohan
Fr Liam Holohan, Marymount;
Sat 19th, 10am: Eddie & Ellen Kelly, Barrack Street.

ANNIVERSARIES

MaryAnne & Patrick Shore, Firoda;
Catherine Carroll, Jenkinstown;
Julia & William Shore, Firoda;
Maurice Ryan, Aughamucky.

ANNIVERSARIES SAT 20TH/21TH SEPT

Sat 20th 7pm: Joan Holohan, The Square.

Parish Office

Wednesday & Friday Mornings 9.30am – 12.30pm

Parish Office: 085 827 8729

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 Aug 31st: €2,570.00
Sincere thanks to all who contribute to parish funds
and to the clergy fund. *Mile Buíochas.*

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN

*The four Evangelists are men who remembered
the same truth in four different ways.*

ST CARLO ACUTIS PRAYER

O God our Father,
we thank you for giving us Carlo,
a model of life for young people,
and a message of love for all.
He made the Eucharist
his "highway to heaven."

You gave him Mary
as a beloved mother,
and with the Rosary you made him
sing the praises of her tenderness.

Accept his prayer for us.
Attend especially to the poor,
whom he loved and helped.

Through his intercession
may I receive
the grace that I need...
(mention your intention).

And make our joy full,
raising Carlo among
the saints of your Church,
so that his smile
may shine again for us
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH:

Ministers of The Word:

7pm: Martin Walsh
8am: Margaret McGrath
11am: Teresa Hetherington

Ministers of The Eucharist:

Mon – Sat Maria Reyes
7pm: Ingrid Brennan
8am: Margaret O'Neill
11am John Kelly

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.

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Today, the cruelty of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross: "Who, though in the form of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. This is the glory of the Cross of Jesus!" (Pope Francis)

- When we look to the Cross where Jesus was nailed, we contemplate the sign of love, of the infinite love of God for each of us and the source of our salvation.
- The mercy of God, which embraces the whole world, springs from the Cross.
- Through the Cross of Christ the Evil One is overcome, death is defeated, life is given to us, hope is restored. This is important: through the Cross of Christ hope is restored to us.
- The Cross of Jesus is our one true hope!
- That is why the Church "exalts" the Holy Cross, and why we Christians bless ourselves with the sign of the cross.
- Thus, we don't exalt crosses, but the glorious Cross of Christ, the sign of God's immense love, the sign of our salvation and path toward the Resurrection. This is our hope.

We adore you,
Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches
throughout the whole world,
and we bless you,
for by your holy cross you
have redeemed the world.

(Saint Francis of Assisi)

SMITHSTOWN GRAVEYARD

Mass and blessing of Graves in Smithstown Graveyard on Sunday 21st September at 12.30pm. Please pass on word to family, friends and neighbours.

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.

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.

ST CARLO ACUTIS

In front of the sun, you get a tan. In front of the Eucharist, you become a saint! (St Carlo Acutis)
Mile Buíochas to Bishop Coll for his visit last Sunday to celebrate the 11am mass. With the whole church, we the Parish of Castlecomer, rejoiced at the declaration by Pope Leo of the canonisation of Carlo Acutis. What a wonderful celebration in St Peter's Square in Rome where Carlo's family participated in the celebration during which Carlo was officially pronounced a saint by the Church. How strange it must have been for them to witness their son and brother elevated to the company of saints – their son and brother who lived in their house, worked on their computer, celebrated birthdays and Christmases: an ordinary teenage boy who lived an ordinary life. Thanks to all who participated here in Castlecomer. We now will transfer the relic of St Carlo Acutis to the Community School and will joyfully welcome it back to the Parish Church during school holidays. Speaking in his homily in St Peter's Square Pope Leo XIV remarked that "*Carlo, for his part, encountered Jesus in his family... and then at school, and above all in the sacraments celebrated in the parish community. He grew up naturally integrating prayer, sport, study and charity into his days as a child and young man*".

He quoted St Carlo: "*In front of the sun, you get a tan. In front of the Eucharist, you become a saint!*" And again: "*Sadness is looking at yourself; happiness is looking at God. Conversion is nothing more than shifting your gaze from below to above; a simple movement of the eyes is enough.*"

Referring also to Pier Giorgio Frassati, who was declared a saint with Carlo, Pope Leo XIV said that both young saints are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upwards and make them masterpieces.

PREPARATION FOR THE 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.