

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Parish of Castlecomer

Parish Newsletter 28th December 2025

Cluster of Clogh, Castlecomer and Muckalee

Grupa Paroistí: Chaisleán an Chomair, Maigh Coillí agus An Chloch



+BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD+

RECENTLY DECEASED:

MONTH'S MIND

Tues 10am: Nancy Holman, Coolbaun

ANNIVERSARIES

Sun 11am: Maureen Healy, Donaguile Heights

Mon 10am: Novena Mass

Wed 10am: Annette Kennedy, Kilkenny Rd

Thur 10am: Novena Mass

Fri 10am: Novena Mass

Sat 10am: George & Ina Kelly, Ardra

ANNIVERSARIES

Patrick & Mary Anne Shore, Firoda; Martin Balkin, Love

Lane; Bill Balkin & Brigid Balkin, London & Love

Lane; Helen & Paddy Loughlin, Ardra;

Mary & Peter Walsh, Drumshanbo.

ANNIVERSARIES NEXT WEEKEND 3RD/4TH JANUARY

Sat: 7pm: Monica Dickenson, Wicklow

Eugene Brennan, Mill Lane, (MM)

Sun 11am Maggie Walker, Deerpark (MM)

Seearlait Tywang, Skehana

NEW YEAR GREETINGS AND WISHES

Fr Scriven and Fr Doyle wish all our parishioners the very best for the New Year and 2026. May it be a time of blessing and grace, of success and prosperity, of peace and joy. May the New Year be filled with surprises and adventure, smiles and laughter, a time when dreams dreamt will be fulfilled. In the words of Patrick Kavanagh 'Christ comes with a January Flower' and with Ó Raitfeirí in a few weeks we will greet *teacht an earraigh*, and will bid adieu to winter, these sharp bitter days when the robin turns plumb against the cold and the sun is late in his coming and short in his stay (Tommy Maken).
Enjoy these family days.

*Athbhliain faoi mhaise
daoibh go léir*

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: €2,320.00

Sincere thanks to all who contribute to parish funds and to the clergy fund. *Mile Buíochas.*

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office is open on WEDNESDAY this week. Contact can be made with the Parish Office by leaving a message on the parish phone, drop a written message into the post box in the Church Porch or send an email to castlecomer@ossory.ie

MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH:

Ministers of The Word:

Sat 3rd 7pm: Martin Walsh

Sun 4th 8am: Margaret McGrath

Sun 4th 11am Sheila Pedini

Ministers of The Eucharist:

Mon – Sat John Kelly

Sat 7pm: Sheila Lawlor

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 Representatives:

Eilish Dunne & Ger Comerford

Contact: Parish Email or 085 827 8729

THANK YOU – MILE BUÍOCHAS

Sincere thanks to the many wonderful people who help in our parish. We say thanks to those in our parish office, sacristy and church grounds. We are grateful for those who distributed the envelopes each year and those who collect and count the money: all who are vital to the running of the parish. We are also appreciative of the work of the readers, Eucharistic Ministers, servers, choir members and musicians. Thanks to all who help at Christmas time in preparing the church and those who erect the crib. Thanks to all who serve on parish committees – going forward your work will be most important as we re-imagine what it is to be parish.

Many of you work quietly behind the scenes but please be assured that your important work helps to build up the parish and your efforts are much appreciated.

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025: HOPE IN THE LORD

Bishop Coll will celebrate the closing Mass of the Jubilee in the Diocese of Ossory on Sunday, 4th January 2026 in St Mary's Cathedral at 5.30 p.m. Pope Leo XIV will celebrate the Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year in St Peter's Square on Tuesday, 6th January 2026, The Feast of the Epiphany.

ST CARLO ACUTIS

The relic of St Carlo Acutis will be in the church during the Christmas season. All welcome to visit and pray through his intercession for their needs.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2026

Ash Wednesday	February 18
Confirmation	March 8
St Patrick's Day	March 17
Palm Sunday	March 29
Holy Thursday	April 2
Good Friday	April 3
Holy Saturday	April 4
Easter Sunday	April 5
First Penance	TBC
First Holy Communion	April 26
Feast of Pentecost	May 24
Corpus Christi	June 7

MASS AND BLESSING OF GRAVES

Crosshill Cemetery Fri 26th June

Parish Graveyard Castlecomer Fri 3rd July

Smithstown Cemetery TBC

POPE LEO ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC

Pope Leo spoke recently about the importance of music in our lives naming it as *"a bridge that leads us to God. Music is capable of transmitting feelings, emotions, even the deepest stirrings of the soul, lifting them up and transforming them into an imaginary stairway connecting earth and heaven."*

Music, he continued, does not merely distract from suffering, but reminds humanity of its greater identity: *"We are not just this: we are far more than our problems and our troubles, we are God's beloved children!"*

The Pope also highlighted the strong connection between music and the celebration of Christmas, noting that *"It is not a coincidence that the feast of Christmas is very rich in traditional songs, in every language and every culture. It is as though this Mystery could not be celebrated without music, without hymns of praise."*

Inviting all to prepare for the coming of Christ, the Pope concluded, *"Let us be ready to listen to the song of God's love, which is Jesus Christ. Yes, Jesus is God's song of love for humanity. Let us listen to this song! Let us learn it well, so that we too can sing it with our lives."*

PARISH ENVELOPES

If you would like a box of Parish Envelopes to use during the year please contact the office or one of the priests. The envelope system allows us to maximise your generosity through the Charitable Donations Tax Back scheme – it is of no further cost to you but of great benefit to the parish.

DEENSIDE MAGAZINE – CHRISTMAS 2025

Don't forget to get your copy of The Deenside Magazine. Great Read. Great Buy. Don't miss it!

WELLIE RACE 2026

Best of luck to all on January 1st for the annual Wellie Race. Enjoy the day, make a few memories and relive past days.

A PRAYER OF BLESSING AT CHRISTMAS

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be ours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with us now and in 2026. Amen.