

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

### Parish of Castlecomer

Parish Newsletter 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Cluster of Clogh, Castlecomer and Muckalee

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

#### +BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD+

##### MONTH'S MIND

Eugene Brennan, Mill Lane, (MM)

Maggie Walker, Deerpark (MM)

##### ANNIVERSARIES 3<sup>RD</sup>/4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

Sat 7pm: Monica Dickenson, Wicklow.

Sun 11am Seearlait Tywang, Skehana.

Tue 11am: Maureen Dowling, Chatsworth Street.

Thurs 9am: John Power, Hillside View.

Sat 10am: The Connery Family, Maryville.

Margaret & Pake Walker, Deerpark; Dick & Kathleen Shortall, Deepark; Margaret & James Morrissy, Deepark; Michael Morrissy, New York & Deepark; Patrick, Annie & Pakie Kelly, Barrack St; Seamus Brennan, Deerpark; Eamon Curran, Yellow Rd; James Murphy, Oak Hill, Carlow; Michael Sheil, Kiltown; Catherine Brennan, Smithstown; Abraham Coady, Kiltown.

##### ANNIVERSARIES NEXT WEEKEND 10<sup>TH</sup>/11<sup>TH</sup> JAN

Sat 7pm: Nicholas Byrne & Rosemary Byrne

Sun 11am: John Comerford, The Square

**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:

25<sup>th</sup> December: €2350.00; Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>: €1170.00

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 and Friday mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm. 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

**OSSORY TIMES AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH- €2**

##### POPE LEO REFLECTS ON 2025:

*The past year has certainly been marked by important events: some of them joyful, such as the pilgrimage of so many of the faithful on the occasion of the Holy Year; others painful, such as the passing of the late Pope Francis, and the scenarios of war that continue to convulse the planet... The Jubilee, through its teaching, its indulgence, its forgiveness and finally its peace, full of tears and joy, has sought to fill our spirit today and our lives tomorrow: God is Love!...At its end, the Church invites us to place everything before the Lord, entrusting ourselves to his Providence, and asking him to renew, in us and around us, in the coming days, the wonders of his grace and mercy.*

Pope Leo XIV

##### MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH:

###### Ministers of The Word:

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> 7pm: Brigid Coady

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 8am: Maria Reyes

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 11am Helena Dowd

###### Ministers of The Eucharist:

Mon – Sat Maria Reyes

Sat 7pm: Catherine Greer

Sun 8am: Margaret O'Neill

Sun 11am: Jeannette Harding

##### 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

##### THANKS

A heartfelt thanks from Fr Scriven and Fr Doyle to all who returned the Clergy Christmas dues. Your generosity is appreciated in these collections from which the priests of the parish receive their monthly stipend. *Mile Buíochas.*

##### PARISH ENVELOPES

DID YOU RECEIVE A BOX? Please contact Fr Scriven if you did not and wish to use the envelopes to support the parish and clergy funds. The envelope system allows the parish 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.

##### MILE BUÍOCHAS TO MANY MANY PEOPLE

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.

##### 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 26<sup>th</sup> June

Parish Graveyard Castlecomer Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Smithstown Cemetery TBC

##### EXPOSITION & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 3pm – 5pm. Exposition also on Wednesday and Saturday after morning mass and on Tuesday from 7pm – 9pm.

##### JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025: HOPE IN THE LORD

Bishop Coll will celebrate the closing Mass of the Jubilee in the Diocese of Ossory in St Mary's Cathedral at 5.30 p.m. on this Sunday. Pope Leo XIV will celebrate the Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year in St Peter's Square on the 6<sup>th</sup> January.

##### EPIPHANY – MARKING THE DOOR 20 +C+M+B+26

A tradition around the 6<sup>th</sup> of January is the writing of a special sign in chalk over the front door, as a reminder of the visit of the Magi – the three wise men. The doorpost of the house is marked with an inscription of the new year separated by C+M+B. In 2026 the inscription will be 20+C+M+B+26.

C+M+B stands for the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house." The letters also stand for the traditional names of the Magi who visited Christ: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

*(gather at the door and after marking the threshold with chalk pray the following prayer)*

God of Light, bless this home.

Make it a haven of rest

for all in need of your warmth and care.

And when we go out from this place, may we never lose sight of the Epiphany star.

May all who enter throughout the year find love and light for Christ has come to dwell in this home

and in our hearts.

May we be like the Maji

and always look for you in our lives.

Be with us, protect us and guide us.

Help us to always show your love to one another and to all in need.

Amen

##### IRISH BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

The Irish Blood Transfusion Service will be in The Avalon Hotel on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 3.45pm – 8.00pm. Check your eligibility & book your appointment at giveblood.ie or call us on 1800 222 111.