

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Laetare Sunday

Parish Newsletter 15th March 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:

Sat 7pm: Paul O'Connor, Kiltown (MM);

Anniversaries 14th/ 15th March

Sun 11am: Helen Shea, Kilkenny Rd.

Mary O'Meara, John O'Meara and deceased members of the Tyan Family, Skekana.

Tue 11am: Deceased member of the Male Voice Choir

Wed 9am: Brigid Downey, Donaguile Heights

Sat 10am: Michael and Eilis Tynan, Creamery House

ANNIVERSARIES Next Week 21st / 22nd MAR:

Sat 7pm: Michael Brennan (Roe), Marville

Sun 11am: Irene O'Shea, Chatsworth St.

Mary Cadigan, Uskerty, Coon

Go raibh suaimhneas síoraí ag anamacha na ndaoine nach maireann

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday after Mass

No Exposition on Tuesday or Saturday this week.

EASTER CARDS

Selection of Easter Mass Bouquets Cards available in the Parish Office.

LAETARE SUNDAY

Today is Laetare Sunday – the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

Traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration within the austere period of Lent.

This Sunday gets its name from the first few words of the traditional Latin entrance antiphon for the Mass of the day. "Laetare Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem") from the Book of Isaiah 66:10s.

Considered a day of relaxation it is a day of hope with Easter at last within sight; Laetare Sunday is exactly 21 days before Easter Sunday (April 4th).

PARISH CONTACTS:

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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:

Last Sunday's Collection: €

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 email to castlecomer@ossory.ie

MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH:

Ministers of The Word:

Sat 14th 7pm: Martin Walsh

Sun 15th 8am: Maria Reyes

Sun 15th 11am: Teresa Hetherington

Ministers of The Eucharist:

Mon – Sat: Angela Byrne

Sat 7pm: Ingrid Byrne

Sun 8am: Lalaine Brennan

Sun 11am: Angela Byrne

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

ST PATRICK'S DAY – LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG

Lá Fheile Pádraig, St Patrick's Day...the wearing of the green, marching in our national colours, a bank holiday to be enjoyed, a day when all feel a little Irish no matter where they live.

According to Tirechan's Collections (c690) Patrick had four names—(1) Magonus, which Tirechan explains by clarus, (2) Sucat (Succetus), god of war, or brave in war, said to have been his baptismal name; (3) Patricius; and (4) Cothraige (Cothrighe), given because he had been a slave to four masters, He is also called Apostle to the Irish, Patron Saint of Ireland, Pater Civium (Father of the People – a title bestowed on him by Pope Celestine).

Mass on St Patrick's Day will be Monday evening 7pm, Tuesday 8am and 11am. Enjoy the day and put St Patrick at it's centre.

EMIGRANTS' COLLECTION

Part of the collection on St Patrick's Day will be devoted to The Annual Emigrants' Collection. This is a collection for the Irish Bishops' Emigrant Chaplaincy Outreach and will be used to support our emigrants who, for a variety of reasons, have fallen on poor times.

EASTER CARDS

A selection of Easter Mass Bouquets Cards and other cards (Mass Cards, First Communion, Get Well Cards) available in the Parish Office. These cards are signed by Fr Doyle or Fr Scriven and are identified as from the Parish of Castlecomer. The intentions of those who send prayers and greetings using the Shared Mass Cards are remembered monthly at mass in Castlecomer.

Le gra ar lá na Máithreacha Happy Mother's Day

Almighty God,

we ask your blessing on each mother today. Fill their heart with laughter and joy. Surround them with love from family and friends. Grant them health, peace and fulfilment as they pursue their calling. Let them know their value and worth in your eyes and ours. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen



CONFIRMATION 2026

What a Spirit-Filled Day? We had a wonderful celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation last weekend. Well done to all who contributed in any and so many ways to make the celebration such a spiritual occasion for the 52 boys and girls from our parish. A heartfelt and wholesome thanks to the teachers in our schools for their preparation in school over the past few weeks and their help on the day here in the church. Congrats to the boys and girls – as mentioned their names will now be listed in the Parish Register and they become part of the story of Castlecomer Parish.

SCHOOL SECRETARY – FIRODA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Holocross National School, Firoda, invites applications for the position of School Secretary for four days per week: Mon – Wed 9am -1pm. Fri 9am – 3pm. Apply by email to: info@firodaschool.ie To obtain full details of this position please go to educationposts.ie Applicants must submit: Letter of Application CV(Digital), Referees (name, role and contact number) The position is subject to the fulfilment of vetting requirements.

LENTEN TALKS – ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE

Much has been reported in the media in recent times of the use of arms in law enforcement: ICE and immigration; police using arms in the midst of the community; and much more. Sadly, too, we hear more of incidents of shootings in community and school settings. What is the morality of the use of arms? Tobias Winright Professor of Moral Theology at St Patrick's College, Maynooth a former Police Officer in America leads us in reflecting on this matter at St Kieran's College on Monday, 16th March 2026, 7pm.

AMERICAN BISHOPS RESPOND TO THE WAR IN IRAN

Cardinal Robert McElroy of the Archdiocese of Washington, said. "At this present moment, the U.S. decision to go to war against Iran fails to meet the just war threshold for a morally legitimate war" arguing that the requirements for just cause, right intention and clarity that "the benefits of this war will outweigh the harm which will be done," are not present. Cardinal Cupich of Chicago criticised the putting together of clips from popular action movies, cartoons and TV shows "with actual strike footage from their war on Iran." "A real war with real death and real suffering being treated like it's a video game—it's sickening," Cardinal Cupich said. Horrified that the distance between the battlefield and the living room has been drastically reduced the cardinal urged the American people not to "become addicted to the 'spectacle' of explosions."