



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Parish Newsletter 26th April 2026

Cluster of the Parishes of Clogh, Castlecomer and Muckalee



+BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD+

Anniversaries WEEK BEGINNING 26TH APRIL:

Sat, 7pm: Kieran Brennan, Drumgoole
Dora Dempsey, Marymount
Sat: 10am: Paddy & Kitty Curry, Maryville

ANNIVERSARIES

Liam Dunne, Yellow Rd;
Catherine Carroll, Donaguile;
Julia Shore, John Shore, Firoda;
Deceased of the Kelly Family, Old Rd, Moneenroe;
Lil Deevy, Ballycomey;
Michael, Teresa & Ann Farrell, Love Lane;
Kitty & Danny Dowd, Danny Dowd, Crettenclough/London;

THOUGHT FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY

One day somebody asked French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte: "What was the most important day in your life?" They expected him to say the day he was crowned Emperor or his royal wedding day or the day that he won a battle. But Napoleon answered: "*The most important day of my life was my First Holy Communion Day.*"

ANNIVERSARIES Next Week 18th/19th April

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 Sunday Collection: €1,875.00. *Mile Buiochas.*

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

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Please submit items for the newsletter before 11am on Friday morning; priority is given to Parish Notices, Diocesan Notices, Local News, Wider Community items. The newsletter is generally not a forum for commercial notices.

MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH:

Ministers of The Word:

Sat 7pm: Martin Walsh
Sun 8am: Maria Reyes
Sun 11am: George Mealy

Ministers of The Eucharist:

Mon – Sat: Angela Byrne
Sat 7pm: Ingrid Brennan
Sun 8am: Noreen Curry
Sun 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
Documents & Policies on Diocesan Website.

COELIAC HOSTS

Low gluten hosts are available for parishioners who are gluten intolerant. Please indicate your preference to the minister when you go to communion.

TRÓCAIRE

Don't forget to bring your Trocaire box.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026

This weekend we celebrate First Holy Communion in our Parish. Congratulations and blessings to the 22 boys and girls who will this weekend come before the Altar to receive the Tread of Life for the first time. May this weekend be a weekend of memories and family, of joy and faith for all and their families.

Thanks to all who participated in the preparation for this day at home, at school and in the parish. A special thanks to the teachers and staff of our schools who have assisted in preparing for the day and through their work in our wonderful schools have shaped and deepened the faith of all the boys and girls.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY – 26 APRIL 2026

This Sunday, 26 April, we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This day invites us all to reflect on the call God extends to each of us, and to pray especially for those discerning a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and committed Christian living in the world.

Pope Leo XIV's message for the day reminds us that vocation is not simply a task or duty but "the interior discovery of God's free gift that blossoms in the depths of our hearts." He encourages us to see vocation as a "path of beauty," rooted in a personal encounter with the Risen Jesus "the Good Shepherd", who knows us and calls us by name.

As we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, let us pray that Christ will guide many hearts to recognise and respond generously to God's loving call, and that our parish community continues to support and encourage one another on our journey of faith.

DIOCESAN NURSE

The Diocese of Ossory requires a nurse to provide an advocacy and support service to priests in the Diocese of Ossory. The Diocese comprises of 42 parishes in Counties, Kilkenny, Laois and Offaly. The post will be part-time, flexible and initially for a three-year period. The ideal candidate must be:

- A registered General Nurse (ideally with Community experience).
- Self-motivated and have the ability to co-ordinate care planning in a community-based environment.
- Possess excellent communication skills.
- Competency in time management.
- Full clean driving licence and own transport.

Please email your application to admin@ossory.ie or by post to **The Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Office, James's St, Kilkenny, R95 NH60.**
Closing date for applications is Fri, 29th May 2026.

FIRST FRIDAY OF MAY

Fr Scriven will make his visits on Thursday morning at the usual times and Fr Doyle will visit on Friday. Please contact the parish office if you wish to arrange for a monthly visit with Holy Communion.

POPE LEO REMEMBERS POPE FRANCIS

This week was the first anniversary of the death of Pope Francis; he died on the 21st April and was buried in St Mary Major's Basilica in Rome. Pope Francis had a wonderful affection for this church dedicated to Our Lady visiting it some 126 times as pontiff – often many times before a pastoral visit outside of Rome.

Durin his pastoral visit to Africa Pope Leo recalled Francis' closeness to the poor and discarded people of this world, as well as his emphasis on God's mercy and on human fraternity. Pope Francis "has given so much to the church, with his life, his witness, his words and his gestures, [and] many times, in what he did, truly living close to the poor, to the little ones, to the sick, to children and to the elderly," Pope Leo said.

"We can remember," he said, "his message of mercy [at] that first Angelus, and also in the Holy Mass that he celebrated even before the inauguration of his pontificate on March 17, 2013, when he preached on the woman caught in adultery and how he preached from the heart of the mercy of God." He said Francis "wanted to share this spirit [of mercy] with the entire church," and he also gave us that most beautiful Jubilee of Mercy in 2016.

Pope Leo concluded, "We pray that he is already enjoying the mercy of the Lord, and we thank the Lord for the great gift of the life of Francis to the whole church and to the world." To those gathered in St Mary Majors Basilica in Rome on the anniversary Pope Leo wrote: "*Death is not a wall, but a door that swings wide open onto the mercy that Pope Francis tirelessly proclaimed.*"

GRADUATION MASS

On Tuesday the 6th Year students of Castlecomer Community School will celebrate their Graduation Mass. We wish them well in their final days at school and as they prepare for their examinations. Remember them and their hopes in your prayers at this time.

CASTLECOMER AND PENVÉNAN

Castlecomer is celebrating 25 years of Twinning with Penvénan in Brittany. Everyone is welcome to a public ceremony in Castlecomer Community Hall on Saturday 2nd May at 10.00 am. There is also an evening of Irish and Breton song and dance in the Avalon Hotel on Sat 2nd May at 8.00 pm (Entry €5).