



Castlecomer Parish Newsletter 19th July 2026

*Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Year A (II)*

Cluster of Clogh, Castlecomer and Muckalee

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

THE PARISH OFFICE

(Open Wednesday & Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm)

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+ BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD +

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.*

RECENTLY DIED: Billy Ryan. Aughamucky

ANNIVERSARY MASS AND MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat. 7pm: John Dowling. Donaguile.
Terry McCaughey. Castlecomer/Monaghan
Sun. 8am: For the people of the parish.
Sun. 11am: Julia Rochford. Marymount.
Tue. 9:00am: Increase of vocations to the Priesthood
Wed. 9:00am: Special Intention
Thur. 9:00am: Intention of the Priest
Fri. 9:00am: Jim, Alice, PJ, Billy Dooley. Smithstown &
Crettyard. Bill & Helena Brennan. Smithstown.
Sat. 10am: Billy Ryan. Aughamucky.

ANNIVERSARIES OCCURRING AT THIS TIME: Annie Brennan. Mayhora. Molly, Tom, & Sean Comerford. Deerpark. Doc Byrne. Kilkenny City. Kathleen Joyce. Aughamucky. Jonie Nolan, Marymount. Patricia Shiel. Kiltown. Jim Byrne. Kiltown. Kathleen Ryan. Deerpark. Very Rev. Thomas Murphy (1975). Castlecomer. Requiescant in pace.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEKEND 25TH/26TH JULY

Sat 7pm: John Brennan (Roe). Hillside View
John & Nancy Keating. Aughamucky
Sun. 8am: For the People of the Parish
Sun. 11am: Sean Phelan. Smithstown

MARY MAGDALENE - JULY 22ND

Mary Magdalene was a follower of Jesus and one of the most prominent women in the New Testament. She is remembered above all for witnessing Jesus' crucifixion, discovering the empty tomb, and, in the Gospel of John, becoming the first person to encounter the risen Jesus.

The Gospels describe Mary Magdalene as a devoted disciple who had been healed by Jesus after seven demons were cast out of her, a phrase that many scholars understand within the cultural and religious context of the time rather than as a modern medical description. She is consistently portrayed as supporting Jesus' ministry, remaining present at the crucifixion when many others had fled, and playing a central role in the resurrection narratives.

One of the most enduring misconceptions is that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. The New Testament never identifies her as such. This association arose centuries later when, in 591 Pope Gregory the First merged Mary Magdalene with other women mentioned in the Gospels, including an unnamed "sinful woman" and Mary of Bethany. Modern biblical scholarship, and the Roman Catholic Church since the twentieth century, generally distinguish these figures from one another. A more contemporary misconception, suggested in Dan Brown's book, *The Da Vinci Code*, is that Jesus and Mary were married. There is no scriptural or theological tradition for this view.

Mary Magdalene is venerated as a saint in many Christian traditions, with her feast day on 22 July. Early Christian writers referred to her as the "Apostle to the Apostles" because she announced the resurrection to Jesus' disciples. Beyond the New Testament, later writings such as the Gospel of Mary portray her as a prominent spiritual leader, though these texts are not part of the biblical canon and reflect later theological traditions rather than the earliest Gospel accounts.

Prayer:

O Father, in the spirit of Mary Magdalene, I seek Your divine guidance. Illuminate my path with Your wisdom and grace, that I may discern Your will in my life. Help me to embrace the journey of faith, trusting in Your presence and love. May I find strength in my devotion and courage in my pursuit of truth. Amen.

NOTES & NEWS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. Tuesday, 7-9pm; Wed & Sat after morning Mass. 1st Sunday of each month at 3pm. Rosary/Chaplet recited in church Monday-Saturday 12 noon and Sundays 3pm. All are welcome.

ANNUAL JENKINSTOWN CAMINO WALK will take place on Sunday, July 26th. The walk will begin at 2.30 p.m. at Jenkinstown Church car park. This reflective Camino-style walk is open to everyone and offers a meaningful opportunity to step away from the busyness of daily life, enjoy the outdoors and join others for a time of quiet contemplation and shared journey. All are welcome.

THE PAINTED GOSPEL: A Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

The Ossory Adult Faith Development Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, will take place in March 2027. An invitation for pilgrims to reflect on the art and architecture in these cities. For further information see the poster in the church or visit the Ossory website. For bookings, please contact Myriam Tours 057 93 55050.

PERSONAL FINANCE The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is a free, confidential and independent Money Management & Advice Service. MABS assist people in dealing with their existing debt problems, who have difficulty paying a mortgage, or those facing legal action because of debt. They also provide information and access to Insolvency Services including free Debt Relief Advice under the Personal Insolvency options. For more information or an appointment, contact Kilkenny MABS on 0818 072610.

MINISTRIES IN OUR PARISH:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." - 1 Peter 4:10

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

Sat. 25th July 7pm: Martin Walsh
Sun. 26th July 8am: Maria Reyes
Sun. 26th July 11am: Fonsie Mealy

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:

Sat. 25th July 7pm: Ingrid Brennan
Sun. 26th July 8am: Noreen Curry
Sun. 26th July 11am: Teresa Hetherington
Tues. - Sat: (Daily Mass): Maria Reyes

COLLECTIONS:

Cemetery Gate:
€2500.

Parish Collection:
€1840

The support to cover the running cost of your parish and church is always much appreciated.

Mile Buíochas.

PARISH & DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING

DIOCESAN LIAISON PERSON : Ailish Higgins; dlp@ossory.ie or 085 802 1633. PARISH REPRESENTATIVES: Eilish Dunne & Ger Comerford; Parish Email or 085 827 8729. HSE: 061 461 165. TUSLA: 059 912 9502 (Carlow/Kilkenny). AN GARDA 0564440650 (Castlecomer). All Documents & Policies on Diocesan Website. (www.ossory.ie)

