

Church of the Immaculate Conception Castlecomer

29th December

Parish Newsletter

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat 28th 7pm: People of the Parish

Sun 29th 11am: William Walsh,
Moonenroe (Month's Mind)

Sat 4th 10am: Shearlait Tywang, Skehana;
John Power, Hillside View.

ANNIVERSARY INTENTIONS Patrick and
MayAnne Shore, Firoda

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND BLESSINGS

Fr Scriven and Fr Doyle pray that the Christ Child will bless you and your families as we celebrate his birth in Bethlehem and enter a new year. *Céad míle fáilte* to all who are home for Christmas, *Nollaig shona agus athblain faoi mhaise daoibh go leir.*

If you look for me at Christmas

You won't need a special star –
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of Me.
Amid the celebrations –
You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.
But if you take a moment
From our list of things to do
And listen to your heart,
you'll find I'm waiting there for you
You're the one I want to be with
You're the reason that I came,
And you'll find me in the stillness
As I'm whispering your name.

PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2025

The parish envelopes for 2025 are available for distribution in the sacristy. Thanks to all who help with distribution the Parish Envelopers in the Parish and Mile Buíochas to all who contributed generously to the parish during the year. Distributors for the following areas are asked to collect the Parish Envelopes for the following areas: Ballymoney, Firoda Upper, Mayhora, The Acorns, Oakhill, Smithtown, Dromgoole, Clogh Rd, Knockadogue, Donaguile, Donaguile Heights, Deerpark, Loon, Skehana, Ballylinnen, Kiltown, Clashduff, Ballyhemmon, Ballyragget Rd.

KILKENNY NATIVITY PLAY ON RTE

The Kilkenny Nativity Play - a beautiful telling of the story of Christmas and a wonderful visual display of Kilkenny city and county - can be viewed on Youtube and Twitter. Don't miss it and send on the link to all your family and friends, particularly those who are overseas.

CASTLECOMER WELLIE RACE

The organising committee are seeking stewards and collectors for New Year's Day. All volunteers to meet at the Community Hall at 12 noon on New Year's Day. Sponsor cards available in local shops and from committee members.

SCOIL ÍOSAGÁIN CASTLECOMER

Mary McCarthy was appointed Manager of Scoil Íosagáin Castlecomer by Bishop Coll. The decision to locate Scoil Íosagáin in Kilkenny Street has been made. Ms McCarthy will continue to manage the process that will facilitate the opening of Scoil Íosagáin in September 2025.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, 24th December thus beginning the Holy Year of Hope. In Ireland, and around the world, each diocesan bishop will celebrate Mass on Sunday, 29th December, Feast of the Holy Family, to mark the solemn opening of the Holy Year.

Bishop Niall Coll invites the priests and people of the diocese to attend the 5.30pm Mass in St Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny on Sunday 29th when the Diocese of Ossory, in communion with the whole Church, will solemnly begin our celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope.

SOME INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT POPE FRANCIS AS HE TURNS 88

Did you know Pope Francis was a nightclub bouncer, he is missing a lung and that he prays regularly for good humour? On his 88th birthday, some interesting facts about Pope Francis are highlighted below.

When he found his vocation. On Sept 21st 1953, the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle, Pope Francis discovered his vocation to the priesthood after going to confession when he was 16 years old.

A passion for tango! Before being ordained a priest, especially during his youth, Pope Francis enjoyed tango, one of the most emblematic dances of Argentina.

He was a bouncer in a nightclub. Like any young man, Jorge Bergoglio worked various jobs to earn his first salary in 2013 he confessed to a group of young people that he was also a bouncer at a nightclub.

He's missing a lung. When he was 21, he had to have a lung removed due to an infection, which has caused him to suffer from some breathing difficulties in recent years.

He has refused forgiveness only once. On more than one occasion, Pope Francis has encouraged priests to forgive "everything" in the confessional but stated that in more than 50 years as a priest he has refused forgiveness only once, "because of the hypocrisy of the person."

The prayer he says every day to keep his good humour. To be good-humoured, he says a prayer from St. Thomas More every day: "Lord, give me a sense of humour. Grant me the grace to understand a joke, to discover in life a bit of joy, and be able to share it with others."

An 'incognito' pope on the streets of Rome. In 2013, the year he was elected bishop of Rome, a Vatican source confirmed that Pope Francis went out at night dressed as a priest to give alms and help the poor on the streets of Rome.

Parish Office: 056 444 1969

Parish Email: castlecomer@ossory.ie

Parish Web Page: castlecomerparish.ie

DAILY MASS THIS WEEK AT 10AM

PARISH CONTACTS:

Fr. Scriven: 087 242 0033
rscriven2009@gmail.com

Fr. Doyle 087 966 9223

THE PARISH OFFICE:

The Parish Office will be closed during the coming week and will re-open on January 6th. Please contact Fr Scriven or Fr Doyle with regard to office business during the two-week holiday period. Drop in anniversary and other notices through the letter box at the office, to the sacristy or by email.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION:

Week ending 21st December: €2,530.00

SINCERE THANKS TO ALL

www.castlecomerparish.ie

MINISTRIES & NOTICES:

Ministers of Word: 4th/5th Jan

Saturday 7pm: Mary Buggy

Sunday 8am: Maria Reyes

Sunday 11am: Helena Dowd

Ministers of Eucharist:

Mon (10am): Angela Byrne

Saturday 7pm: Ingrid Brennan

Sunday 8am: Lalaine Brennan

Sunday 11am: John Kelly

SAFEGUARDING IN OUR PARISH AND DIOCESE:

Diocesan Liaison Person: Ailish Higgins
Contact: DLP@OSSORY.IE OR 085 802 1633.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS:

Eilish Dunne & Ger Comerford
Contact: Parish Email or 056 444 1969

TOWARDS HEALING CONFIDENTIAL HELPLINE

1800 313 316 - www.towardshealing.ie