

# Church of the Immaculate Conception Castlecomer

5th January 2025

Parish Newsletter

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Annette Kennedy, Castlecomer; Michael Shiel, Kiltown.

## ANNIVERSARY MASSES

11<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10am: John Comerford, The Square.

## ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE

Seamus Brennan, Ardra; Eamon Curran, Yellow Rd, Patrick (Pat) Byrne, Clara., Mark Heffernan, Ardra., Margaret Conroy, 11 Maryville., Margaret Mary Brennan, Donaguile & London; Mary Conway, Mayhora; Dennis O'Brian, 5 Beech Court.; Seamus (Builder) Walsh, Marymount.; Very Rev Edward Aylward., PP

**Due to amber weather warning and Government advice to restrict travel there will not be morning Mass on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Further information will be available as the week progresses.**

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Fr Scriven and Fr Doyle wish an abundance of blessing upon all as we begin a New Year. 25 years on from the new millennium in 2000, as in that year, we enter a Jubilee Year this year: The Year of Hope. The Jubilee Year is a year in which we will have an opportunity to share and strengthen our faith as well as opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences, prayer, and reception of the sacraments. May this new year be a time of peace and prosperity, blessing and abundance for all in our parish. *Athbliain faoi shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh go leir.*

## PARISH CONTACTS:

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

Fr. Doyle 087 966 9223

## THE PARISH OFFICE:

The Parish Office will re-open this week. Please contact the office to add anniversaries to the weekly list or with regard to other parish matters. Anniversary and other notices can be dropped through the letter box at the office, to the sacristy or forwarded through email.

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION:

Christmas Day: €3,845.00  
Week ending 29<sup>th</sup> December: €1,315.00

SINCERE THANKS TO ALL

[www.castlecomerparish.ie](http://www.castlecomerparish.ie)

## MINISTRIES & NOTICES:

### Ministers of Word: 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> January

Saturday 7pm: Maureen Holohan  
Sunday 8am: F Barrett/O McGrath  
Sunday 11am: George Mealy

### Ministers of Eucharist:

Mon (10am)-: Notified directly  
Saturday 7pm: Notified directly  
Sunday 8am: Notified directly  
Sunday 11am: Notified directly

### 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](http://www.towardshealing.ie)

## 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

On the 6<sup>th</sup> January we welcome the Wise men at the crib. Traditionally called 'Little Christmas' or *Nollaig na mBan* we too come to the crib with our gifts. Mass on the Feast will be at 11am. Please note there is no vigil Mass.

## PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of the Parish Finance Committee on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

## JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Bishop Coll launched the Holy Year in our diocese last Sunday evening in St Mary's Cathedral. In his homily *he invited all...to embrace the hope that does not disappoint. Let it inspire us to deepen our faith, to act with love, and to become beacons of hope in our homes, parishes and wider communities. In doing so, we fulfil the very essence of our calling as "Pilgrims of Hope," bringing light to the world and drawing closer to the heart of Christ. Truly the work of the Lord's disciples!*

In Rome on New Year's Day, the Feast of the Mary the Mother of God, Pope Francis entrusted the new Jubilee Year to Our Lady: *"Let us entrust to her our questions, our worries, our sufferings, our joys and all the concerns that we bear in our hearts. Let us entrust to her the whole world, so that hope may be reborn, and peace may finally spring up for all the peoples of the earth."*

## PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2025

The parish envelopes for 2025 are available for distribution in the sacristy this weekend. 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.

## TOWARDS HEALING

Towards Healing is a confidential and free counselling service, Phone 1800 303 416. They provide face to face counselling, structured phone counselling, family counselling and a counselling helpline for people who have experienced institutional, clerical or religious abuse in Ireland.

Parish Office:056 444 1969

Parish Email:[castlecomer@ossory.ie](mailto:castlecomer@ossory.ie)

Parish Web Page:[castlecomerparish.ie](http://castlecomerparish.ie)

## PARISH SCHOOLS

We welcome back to school all in our parish schools this week and pray God's blessing upon all. We remember in our prayers especially the boys and girls who are preparing for First Penance and First Holy Communion this year.

## CASTLECOMER WELLIE RACE

Congrats to the organising committee of the Annual Wellie Race – fantastic commitment from so many and a wonderful day of welcome, *craic agus spraoí* in Castlecomer. Great Weather! Great Fun! Great Family Day!

## COIS NORE OUTREACH – CASTLECOMER

The Castlecomer Cois Nore Outreach Cancer support service returns on Wednesday the 8 Jan 2025. Please call into The Old Courthouse from 10 am to 12 noon. Call in for cancer support or find out how to avail of the free services available at the Cois Nore Centre in Kilkenny City.

## LEST WE FORGET

Once upon a time, there was born a baby a baby whose mother was an unmarried teenager a baby born into poverty and whose birth took place in a shed full of animals and their excrement a baby that grew up until he left home at the age of 30 a humble man who chose to be baptised by a poor man who lived in the desert a homeless young man without any qualifications and "nowhere to lay his head" an unselfish man who was tempted by evil to do wrong and think only of himself a compassionate man who wept when his close friend died a trusting man who was rejected and betrayed by one of his closest friends a kind and caring man who committed no wrong yet became a convicted criminal and imprisoned a frightened man who sweated blood when he knew of his impending death an innocent man who was brutally and painfully executed by a cowardly judge as his mother looked on a man who epitomised love and forgave his executioners as he died for us all The man? Jesus, who - thank God - rose from death and lives today. *Derek Dobson*