

# Church of the Immaculate Conception Castlecomer

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

Parish Newsletter

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Michael Joseph Holland, Dublin/Barrack St; Joseph Joseet, London; Thomas Deevy. Belfast/ Kilkenny St; Paul Scanlon, Southampton.

### ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat 1<sup>st</sup>, 7pm: Mary Dargan, Ballycomey  
Edward (Ned) Healy, Firoda  
Sun 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11am: Annette Kennedy, Kilkenny Rd (Month's Mind Mass)  
Tues 4<sup>th</sup>, 9am: Abraham & Maureen Dowling, Castlecomer/Carlow;  
Eileen Ryan, Chatsworth St  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup>, 9am: Eddie Fenlon, London/Mill Lane  
Sat 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Pat Byrne, Barrack Hill & Peter Salter, Ballyhemmon

### ANNIVERSARY INTENTIONS

John & Annie Love, Clonee; Sean McSweeney, Maryville; Very Rev Thomas Phelan, Castlecomer. Denis (Dinny) Nolan, Bernadette, Kathleen & Vincent Nolan, Kilkenny Rd., Liam & Ann Dowd, Ballylinnen; Helen Lynch, Kilkenny Rd; Martin Morrissey, Hillside View & Ballylinnen; Teresa McGrath, Kilkenny

### ANNIVERSARY MASSES FOR 8<sup>TH</sup>/9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Sat 8<sup>th</sup>, 7pm: Gearoid Moran, Marymount/Kilkenny  
James O'Shea, Hillcrest/Donaguile  
Eddie Holohan, Donaguile  
Sun 9<sup>th</sup>, 11am: Eamon Kelly, Kilkenny St  
Betty (Elizabeth) Bollard, Barrack St

### PARISH CONTACTS:

Fr. Scriven: 087 242 0033  
rscriven2009@gmail.com  
Fr. Doyle 087 966 9223

### THE PARISH OFFICE:

Parish Office: 056 444 1969  
Parish Email: castlecomer@ossory.ie  
Parish webpage:  
www.castlecomerparish.ie

### WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION:

Week Ending 26<sup>th</sup> Jan: €1,445.00  
SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE.

### THE PARISH OFFICE:

The office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.30am – 12.30pm.

### MINISTRIES & NOTICES:

#### Ministers of Word: 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>February

Saturday 7pm: Brigid Coady  
Sunday 8am: Dick Mullins  
Sunday 11am: Angela Molloy

#### Ministers of Eucharist: 3<sup>rd</sup> /9<sup>th</sup>February

Mon (9am)- Sat (10am): Chrissie Brooke,  
Saturday 7pm: Sheila Lawlor  
Sunday 8am: Margaret O'Neill  
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

### CANDLEMAS DAY

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February is the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, also known as Candlemas Day. The blessing of candles will take place at 7pm (Eve Mass) & 11am Mass.

### FEAST OF ST BLAISE

Mass will be at 10am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of Feb, The Feast of Saint Blaise. The blessing of throats will take place at this Mass. *'Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, Bishop, and Martyr, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen'*

### FIRST FRIDAY

Next Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, is the First Friday of February. The sick and housebound will be visited at the normal times. Please inform the Parish Office or one of the priests if you have a relative or neighbour who would like a call.

### CROAGH PATRICK CLIMB 2025

This year's Annual Croagh Patrick climb organised by Erin's Own GAA Club is in aid of Vision Sports Ireland takes place on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Sponsorship cards are now available.

### "LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF WOMEN IN THE BIBLE"

This Conference will be on 15<sup>th</sup> February in The Pembroke Hotel, Patrick Street, Kilkenny from 10.00am to 4.30pm. The speaker is Dr. Gráinne Doherty and the cost is €20 (includes tea/coffee) pay on the door. Booking essential: Contact Sara or Catherina @ 056 772 2870 from 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday or e-mail regionaloffice@ssjg.ie before 11<sup>th</sup> February.

### OSSORY PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025

The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025 will take place, 19<sup>th</sup> until 24<sup>th</sup> May. 5 nights from €949 per person. please contact: Joe Walsh Tours 01 241 0800. Email info@joewalshstours.ie Booking procedure for special assisted/sick section: contact Fr. Anthony O'Connor 087 251 7766.

### VOCATIONS FOR PRIESTHOOD

If you are interested in learning more or simply have some questions you would like answered regarding Vocations, contact by getting in touch with Very Rev. Mark Condon, Ossory Vocations Director, 086 6005402

### World Day of the Sick

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> is World Day of the Sick, an observation introduced by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. Pope Francis emphasized how suffering can become "an occasion for a transformative encounter" with God in a new message released Monday, describing three distinct ways the divine draws close to those experiencing illness and hardship. In his message for the 2025 World Day of the Sick, the pontiff pointed to presence, gift, and sharing as profound paths of providential companionship during times of trial.

He also addressed all those "who are ill or who care for the suffering," telling them: "Your journey together is a sign for everyone: 'a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope.'" "In times of illness, we sense our human frailty on the physical, psychological, and spiritual levels," the pope wrote. "Yet we also experience the closeness and compassion of God, who, in Jesus, shared in our human suffering."

Pope Francis concluded that God's first way of being close is through presence, noting that suffering "becomes an occasion for a transformative encounter, the discovery of a solid rock to which we can hold fast amid the tempests of life."

### THE CREED IS 1700-YEAR-OLD

The Creed that we say almost every Sunday is 1700 years old this year. It was written at the Council of Nicea which took place in 325AD. The Roman Emperor Constantine called together over 300 bishops and after their meeting an agreed text was issued for the whole Church. This creed was based on earlier creeds and confirmed Jesus as 'Light from light, true God from true God', that Jesus was 'begotten, not made' and that Jesus is 'of one substance with the Father'. Pope Francis has expressed his wish to travel to Iznik, Turkey, the site of the ancient city of Nicea to celebrate the anniversary. In celebrating the anniversary Pope Francis hopes that it can help Christians today put Christ back at the centre of their lives.

**MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY PUBLIC HOLIDAY MASS AT 10AM**