



# Cathedral of the Assumption

Sunday, 5th January 2025.

**2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

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## The Parish Team

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## Diocesan Designated

### Liaison Person

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## Newsletter

[info@carlowcathedral.ie](mailto:info@carlowcathedral.ie)

By 4pm Wednesday

## **"Brothers and sisters, this is the Jubilee Year." Pope Francis January 2015**

**What is a holy year?** We celebrate a Holy Year every 25 years. Those who participate in a Holy Year pilgrimage are granted a plenary indulgence; those who are unable to attend are invited to participate spiritually, "offering up the sufferings of their daily lives, and participating in the Eucharistic celebration."

**How often does it happen?** Every 25 years, unless a Pope calls an extraordinary one to call attention to a particular issue or celebrate a momentous event. The last ordinary Holy Year was held in 2000 under Pope John Paul II. The last extraordinary Holy Year was called by Francis in 2016 to emphasise his desire to present the Church as merciful and welcoming rather than moralizing and remote. The start of the year is marked by the opening of the "Holy Door."

**What's the significance of the Holy Door?** The Holy Door is an actual door which remains closed from one Holy Year to the next. It's deemed 'Holy' since it calls all those who enter through it to walk in holiness in their life. In the footsteps of the Pope, representatives of the People of God crossed its threshold, as a prelude to the countless pilgrims of hope from every country and language who will visit St. Peter's Basilica and celebrate the mysteries of salvation during the Holy Year.

**When did this tradition start?** The custom goes back to Pope Martin V who, for the Extraordinary Jubilee of 1423, opened a Holy Door to enter the Lateran Basilica. In St. Peter's Basilica it was first used for the Jubilee of 1450. This tradition remained virtually unchanged over the centuries. The last opening of the Holy Door for an Ordinary Jubilee was when Pope St. John Paul II opened it in 2000. Then out of sequence Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in 2015 calling for an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

**Why have a Jubilee Year?** A Jubilee year is to strengthen faith and recognize Christ in our midst. Pope Francis prayed, "may the light of Christian hope illumine every man and woman, as a message of God's love addressed to all! And may the Church bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world!"

The Holy Father invites us to pray, so that this Jubilee may "strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope."

**What the Holy Father says about the Holy Year.** The Holy Father reflects on how "God, has become one of us to make us like Himself; He has come down to us to lift us up and restore us to the embrace of the Father."

"The infinitely great, made Himself tiny" he said and "the glory of heaven appeared on earth as a little child." He continued, "If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a lowly manger, we can truly say: Hope is not dead; hope is alive, and it embraces our lives forever!" "There is hope for you"

When he was opening the "Holy Door" Pope Francis said, "Tonight, the door of hope has opened wide to the world God speaks to each of us and says: there is hope also for you!"

Pope Francis underscored, the Jubilee "is a summons not to be tarry, to be kept back by our old habits, or to wallow in mediocrity or laziness."

He recalled Saint Augustine's having suggested, "that hope calls us to be upset with things that are wrong and to find the courage to change them". With this in mind, as disciples of the Lord, the Holy Father encouraged, "we are called to find our greater hope in Him, and then, without delay, carry that hope with us, as pilgrims of light amid the darkness of this world."

"Brothers and sisters," the Pope reminded, "this is the Jubilee."

"This is the season of hope in which we are invited to rediscover the joy of meeting the Lord," he "calls us to spiritual renewal and commits us to the transformation of our world, so that this year may truly become a time of jubilation. "Pope Francis concluded by saying, "Dear sister, dear brother, on this night the 'holy door' of God's heart lies open before you. Jesus, God-with-us, is born for you, for us, for every man and woman. With him, joy flourishes; with Him, life changes; with Him, hope does not disappoint."

**We remember in our prayer**

♦ **Brian Harding**

Enniscorthy, Wexford, Carlow Town, Carlow

♦ **Mairead Farrell**

Cois Dara, Chapelstown, Carlow and Gowran

*May Brian and Mairead rest in peace*

*May their loved ones and all who mourn be comforted*

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**Matt Talbot Monthly Mass**

Feast of Epiphany Cathedral of the Assumption

January 6th, 10:30am. Bishop Denis will celebrate the Mass and the relics of Venerable Matt Talbot Relics will be present for veneration.

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**Marriage and the Jubilee of Hope**

Bishop Denis and Accord will mark the Jubilee of Hope, celebrating with engaged and married couples this Monday evening, the Feast of the Epiphany, 6th January, in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow, at 7pm.

All are invited; those preparing for marriage, all married couples – particularly those celebrating Jubilees, and those remembering the love of their departed spouses, who are with God in heaven. Come along, pray, celebrate and give thanks. After Mass all are invited to refreshments in the Cathedral Parish Centre.

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**Invitation to Meditation:**

Carlow Meditation Group meets on Monday evenings from 7 pm to 7:45 pm in the Cathedral Parish Centre, College Street, Carlow - excluding bank holidays. Meditation, the universal practice of silent contemplation, can awaken the heart, deepen our spiritual sensitivity and promote our wellbeing. All are welcome - no experience needed. No need to book – just turn up on any Monday evening! (Noel Keating, 087 2251183)

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**Dana's Cross & Cloak Concert – Abbeyleix Co Laois**

Dana's Cross & Cloak Concert in aid of the All-Ireland Sacred Heart Crusade, takes place on Sunday, 2nd February 2025, in The Manor Hotel, Abbeyleix, Co Laois R32 VE24 (featuring local artists).

Ticket €25.00 (Book on Eventbrite.ie).

For more information, contact Antoinette- 086 0803047.

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**Masses in the Cathedral**

**Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm and 7pm**

**Monday, Feast of the Epiphany Masses 7.30am, 10.30am and 7pm**

**Tuesday to Friday: 7.30am & 10am**

**Saturday 10am Mass and 6.15pm Vigil**

**Cathedral Collections**

Last Weekend

Offertory € 1,345.32

Development € 2,137.07

*We are very grateful for your generous support*

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**Cathedral Parish Boxes of Envelope 2025**

Many thanks for your support of the Cathedral Parish. Our Boxes of Envelopes for 2025 are now available at the Cathedral and in the Parish Centre. Your continued support of the Parish is essential. We request that you write your name and address on the first few envelopes which you use, this allows us to keep a track of your donations during the year. If you donate more than €250 in any one year the parish can claim back the tax from revenue on this amount. For further information on participating in the tax back scheme, please contact the Parish Office.

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**Carlow Active Retired**

Members meeting on Wed 15th Jan @ 2.30pm in the Cathedral Parish Centre

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We have limited numbers of free Cathedral of The Assumption Calendars available in The Parish Centre and the Cathedral

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**May God Bless you All in 2025.  
May each day of 2025 bring you  
peace, joy, and prosperity.  
Happy New Year!  
Parish Team**



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**Bob's Your Uncle Lotto  
Next Jackpot  
Sunday 5th January 2025**

**€19,500**

**No Jackpot Winner  
6-11-26-30  
7 Match 3 Winners share €500**