

# Cathedral of the Assumption

Sunday, 21st December 2025.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Parish Facebook.... Carlow cathedral parish  
Parish Twitter @carlowcathedral

### The Parish Team

Fr. Thomas O'Byrne Adm.

Fr Yanbo Chen CC

Fr Theodore Tomasik CC

The Presbytery,

Old Dublin Road,

Carlow.

Tel: 059 913 1227

Priest on Duty

(089)2432663

Deacon David O'Flaherty

### Child Safeguarding Reps

Richard Hoolan

Niamh Brennan

059 9164087

### Diocesan Designated

#### Liaison Person

Ms Ailish Higgins

Email: [dlp@kandle.ie](mailto:dlp@kandle.ie)

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### Parish Centre

Tel: 059 9164087

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

### Newsletter

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

By 4pm Wednesday

### Banking Details

Carlow Parish Account

IBAN; IE66 AIBK 9331

0405 634065

BIC AIBKIE2D

Carlow Parish Clergy

IBAN; IE55 AIBK 9331

0405 6346 51

BIC AIBKIE2D

## ***Cathedral Carol Service***

### **Room at the Inn!**

Our Parish Carol Service will take place in the Cathedral on Sunday 21st at 5pm. The theme of the service is Room at the Inn. The service is an opportunity for each of us to take some space and time to reflect on how the Lord may be calling us to follow, and to live the Gospel at this moment in our lives. The Cathedral Choir will be joined by Carlow Choral Society, Cor an Aifrinn and Schola Cathedralis. Bishop Denis will preside at the Service.

People will be invited to contribute to the Christmas Appeal of the St. Vincent De Paul Society as they leave the Cathedral.

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## ***Christmas Liturgies at the Cathedral***

**Daily Mass:** Monday 22nd to Wed 24th 7.30am and 10am

**Penitential Service:** Monday Evening 22nd 7.30pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation;** Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th following 10am Mass.

**Christmas Eve: Children Mass 6.15pm, Night Mass 10pm**

**Christmas Day Masses:** 8.30am, 10.30am and 12.30pm

**Weekdays:** Friday 26th and Saturday 27th 10am

**Feast of the Holy Family;** Saturday: 6.15pm Vigil, Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm and 7pm

Bishop Denis will mark the closing of ***The Year of Hope at the 10.30am Mass***

**Weekdays;** - Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th, Wednesday 31st, Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd—10am

**New Year's Day** Thursday, 1st January, 12noon Celebrant: Bishop Denis

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## **Christmas Blessings**

### **"Do not be afraid,"**

"Do not be afraid," the words of the angel to Joseph in this Sunday's gospel. Fear cripples and paralyses. Fear prevents us from hearing and responding to the word of God. Fear prevents us from living according to, and proclaiming the Good News of God's love. God's love is for everyone. The Good News is Emmanuel, yes, God with us!

The Gospel episode that we read today shows that Joseph changed his plans and he overcame fear, he was courageous, and he began to live with a deeper appreciation and with a new openness to what God was doing in and through his life.

As we both prepare to celebrate, and celebrate, that "God-is-with-us," Emmanuel, may we take an open stance. Open to discernment and change. Joseph is our ambassador of discernment and change, our model of as he takes a new stance of fearlessness and faith in the possible.

When God is with us, all is possible. possibility is eternal. That is faith!

Our prayer is that our celebration of Christmas may eradicate fear from our hearts, our society and our world. May the peace of the one who is **Peace**, touch all that is broken in our hearts, our relationships and our world. We pray that each of us, like Joseph, may be renewed in our understanding and perception, enabled to live with courage, be fearless in our loving, and be empowered to reach out in love beyond the boundaries that society and our humanity so often impose. God is with us, Emmanuel.... May he be born afresh in our hearts, in your heart this Christmas!

The blessings of Emmanuel... Nollaig Shona...

Thomas, Yanbo, Theo and David.

**We remember in our prayer**

**Joe Morrissey,**

**99 New Oak Estate**

*May Joe rest in peace*

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

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**The Christmas Collection for the Support  
of the Bishop and Priests of the Parish**

This Collection will be taken up at all Christmas Masses. Envelopes in your Envelope Box, they are also available at the entrances of the Cathedral. You are welcome to make a payment on-line or to use our Bank details,

**Carlow Parish Clergy**

**IBAN; IE55 AIBK 9331 0405 6346 51**

**BIC AIBKIE2D**

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**A Moment for Reflection!**

**We are the people of Advent**

We are the people of Advent, for Advent is now, and not just back then. Therefore, we can see all the characters of the Advent that was 'then' in our Advent which is 'now'. Where in our lives is John the Baptist, provoking us to become aware of new things happening in our lives? Where is Zachariah in our lives, not immediately open to what is so new, so hard to understand? Where is Elizabeth, so ready, through the wisdom of living, to appreciate the coming of the Lord? Where is Joseph, so gracious when all was so strange? And where is Mary in us, trusting in the providence given to her, welcoming the word in her heart? For, where we find Mary in ourselves, there we find Christ being born in our souls. (Julie Kavanagh)

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**Cathedral Collections**

Last Weekend

Offertory       €1,1071.61

Development   € 2,164.31

*Your kind generosity is much appreciated*

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**2026 Envelopes**

The Cathedral Parish Envelopes are now available at the entrances to the Cathedral and from the Parish Centre. Thank you for your support of the Parish, the Clergy and the various annual collections, through your use of the Parish Envelope.

Your Envelope Number changes each year, we request that you write your name and address on the first four envelopes you use. This will enable us to ensure that the envelope number is registered to your name.

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**Invitation to Mass for the closing of the Jubilee Year**

Dioceses across the world will mark the closing of the Jubilee Year on the Feast of the Holy Family, December 28. This day coincides with the closing of Holy Doors in the Roman Basilicas of Saint Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Walls. The Jubilee Year will officially conclude with the closing of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome by Pope Leo on January 6. Bishop Denis invites all parishioners across the diocese to join him in giving thanks for the graces of the Jubilee Year in the celebration of the Mass, in the Cathedral of the Assumption Carlow, at 10:30 am Mass.



**Christmas Message 2025**

There is a sameness and a beauty about every Christmas. We send the same people greeting cards, promising to meet in the New Year; we hear the same scripture readings at Christmas Masses, but they don't in any sense lose their freshness; we share in the same rituals, and if we are honest, we wouldn't want to change a thing. I love Christmas. I hope all of you do.

I am conscious there are people who will be on their own for Christmas. Christmas can be a day of contrasts. In one house, several family members will be crowded around the one table wearing their party hats and pulling Christmas crackers. Next door, a solitary figure might be sitting alone with a microwave meal. Let's look out for one another this Christmas. Some of you have suffered bereavements this past year, be gentle with yourself, Christmas mightn't be so easy.

Christmas this year comes as the Jubilee Year of Hope draws to a close. We will gather in the Cathedral on the Feast of the Holy Family to formally close it in the diocese. A year ago, at the launch of the Jubilee Year I made the front door of every home a place of pilgrimage to be reconciled with one another. Last weekend during the Jubilee for Prisoners I designated every cell door in itself a place of pilgrimage, a place where prisoners might pass through renewed, refreshed and reconciled with God, with themselves and with those on the outside. And of course the designation of the Relic of St. Brigid in the church in Kildare Town.

It may look like I didn't designate many Jubilee Places of Pilgrimage around the diocese, but truth be told I probably designated more than anywhere else and that is because of the particular Jubilee it was, the Jubilee of Hope. Hope is a faithful companion through all our ups and downs. Whenever you walk through a door, remind yourself of the hope we have in Christ our Lord.

We have been blessed in many ways this year throughout the diocese; the ceremony last month as I installed the relic of St. Columbanus in the Church in Myshall allowed us to complete the circle of a very memorable few days last July as we hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> International Columbanus Weekend; we have seen lay pastoral ministers commence formal training for ministry in our parishes; the establishment of Pastoral Areas where we can avail of greater opportunity of collaborating with neighbouring parishes has begun and we pray that this may deepen in the coming year.

As always, I warmly thank our priests, our deacons, our religious and lay women and men who are the backbone of every parish and our diocese.

May you all be blessed with the graces Christmas and a New Year bring.

✠Denis Nulty

Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

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**Bob's Your Uncle Lotto**

**Next Jackpot**

**Sunday 21st December**

**€20,000**

**No Jackpot winner**

**10-16-24-29**

**8 Match 3 shared €500**

*Thanks to all who support our Parish Lotto  
Special thanks to all our Promoters  
Seasons Greetings and Good Wishes*