



Cathedral of the Assumption

Sunday, 7th December 2025.

SECOND 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

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Parish Centre

Tel: 059 9164087

info@carlowcathedral.ie

Newsletter

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

Preparing the Way Within

John the Baptist appears every Advent like a fierce and necessary friend.

He does not whisper comforting words; he calls out across the wilderness: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

His message is not meant to frighten but to wake us up. Advent is a season not of panic, but of honest preparation.

John reminds us that preparing for Christ is not only about external things—lights, carols, or Christmas lists. It is a work of the heart. He invites us to clear away the clutter that has slowly gathered: old resentments, tired excuses, habits that drain life rather than give it. "Produce the fruit of repentance," he says, because faith is not a family inheritance nor a cultural identity, but a living relationship that shapes how we act, speak, and treat others. The image of the winnowing fan is especially powerful. Christ comes to separate wheat from chaff—not to condemn us, but to free us. The wheat is what is true and good in us: our generosity, compassion, and hope. The chaff is what weighs us down: bitterness, fear, selfishness, or indifference. Advent invites us to let the Lord gently clear our inner field so that something new can grow.

In a world that often feels restless and noisy, John's voice offers a different path—simplicity, honesty, and readiness. The One who comes after John brings not fear but the Holy Spirit and fire: the fire that purifies, warms, and rekindles what we thought had died. As we enter this second week of Advent, perhaps we can ask:

What needs straightening in the path of my heart?

What fruit is Christ inviting me to cultivate?

What "chaff" am I ready to let go of?

May this season help us prepare a space where Christ can be welcomed with joy, peace, and renewed purpose.



Mass at the Cathedral

Monday - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass: 7.30am, 10.30am and 7pm

Tuesday to Friday: 7.30am and 10am

Saturday: 10am Vigil Mass: 6.15pm

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday following the 10am Mass

We remember in our prayer

***Peter O'Connor, 21 New Oak Estate and 7 The Plots,
Rathnapish, Carlow***

May Peter rest in peace

May his loved ones and all who mourn be comforted

Christmas Collection for Vincent de Paul

The Vincent de Paul Christmas collection will be held next weekend December 13th and 14th.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Vincent de Paul Carlow

**Message from Bishop Denis re Department of Education
survey on school patronage**

The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important in that it will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout the Republic of Ireland. It is important that those who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard. It is equally important that those who wish for a Catholic Education for their children and for those who would wish for sacramental preparation within school would have their voice heard also. For those reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges, please participate in this survey if you are a parent or a prospective parish of a primary school student.

The survey can be accessed at <https://www.gov.ie/en/departments-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey/>
The survey closes on 16th December 2025.



Legion of Mary

Meeting every Tuesday, 7:30pm-8:30pm,
in the Cathedral Parish Centre for prayer and talk
about our Faith. All Welcome!!

Family Carers Ireland

Family Carers Ireland have launched their Christmas Raffle and you could win €1,000 cash, €500 select hotels voucher or a hotel voucher.

Please support family carers in your community by purchasing a ticket at www.familycarers.ie/christmas - thank you!

Medjugorje 2026 Carlow Group

Traveling 27th May. Spiritual Director: Fr .Yanbo Chen.
September 9th Spiritual Director: Fr. Theo Tomasik. To avail of
Discount €200 deposit. Before 1st February.
Enquires Noeleen: 0862415986

Cathedral Collections

Last Weekend

Offertory €1,070.90

Development € 2,034.14

Your kind generosity is much appreciated

Pain Relief

A therapeutic, arts+health+music resource, to support people living with chronic pain to optimize mental and physical health and well-being. This self-care programme is particularly tailored to support people with musculo-skeletal pain conditions; connect and socialise with others with similar experiences to benefit your physical, mental and social wellbeing.

No special musical ability required

DATES: Saturdays: NOV. 29, DEC. 6, & JANUARY 10, 17, 24 & 31.

TIME: 11.30 am to 1.00 pm. VENUE: Cathedral Parish Centre,
The Old School, College St, Carlow

Facilitated by Marian Gaynor, specialist in singing for health musicking and sound experiences to optimise mental and physical health and wellbeing.

COST: €5.00/session (Funded by Carlow Arts Office & Carlow County Council) REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY TO ATTEND.

Marian on 087 668 9943 marian_gaynor@outlook.com

TeamHope

Teamhope Christmas Shoebox appeal 2025 is celebrating 15 years, delivering shoeboxes filled with gifts, hope and love to less fortunate children. Every shoebox makes a child's Christmas brighter.

If you would like to make a shoebox or get involved this year, please

contact www.teamhope.ie or Lily Kavanagh 0864014428.

Advent Retreat for Children

Camp Pio presents "The great ADVENTure"

Taking time out to prepare for Christmas,
6th and 13th December, in Bloom HQ, Mountrath, R32D29F
from 12pm – 2pm. For children aged 5-13 years.

To Book, please email camppio2024@gmail.com

or contact Laura 087-6313370 or Caroline 085-2430529

Bob's Your Uncle Lotto

Next Jackpot

Sunday 7th December

€20,000

No Jackpot winner

9-14-260-28

4 Match 3 shared €500