

Cathedral of the Assumption

Sunday, 1st February 2026

ST BRIGID, ABBESS, SECONDARY PATRON OF IRELAND

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

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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

Happiness That Looks Like the Cross

When we hear the Beatitudes, it's tempting to think that Jesus is describing an impossible ideal—or worse, a list of spiritual clichés.

Happy the poor. Happy those who mourn. Happy those who are persecuted.

If we're honest, none of these sound like happiness as the world understands it.

But notice first where Jesus speaks these words. He goes up the hill and sits down. This is not a casual conversation. It echoes Moses on the mountain. Jesus is teaching his disciples what life in the Kingdom of God really looks like.

The key word here is "happy"—or, more deeply, "blessed." Jesus is not saying these people enjoy suffering. He is saying that God is close to them. God is at work in precisely those places where the world sees weakness, failure, or loss.

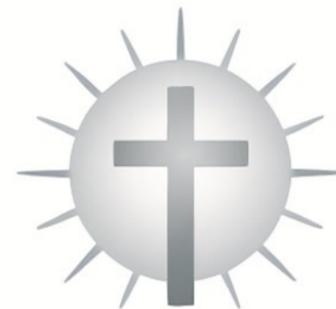
To be poor in spirit is not simply to lack things—it is to know that we depend on God. To mourn is not to be defeated by grief, but to refuse indifference in a broken world. To be meek or gentle is not to be passive, but to live without violence or domination. These are not escape routes from reality; they are ways of inhabiting it truthfully.

The Beatitudes turn our expectations upside down. They tell us that the Kingdom of God does not belong to the self-sufficient, the aggressive, or the comfortable—but to those who remain open: open to God, open to mercy, open to peace, even when it costs them something.

And that last Beatitude brings it home: "Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you on my account." Here Jesus speaks directly to his disciples—and to us. Faithfulness to the Gospel will sometimes place us at odds with the world. But Jesus does not promise that this is meaningless.

He promises that nothing given in love is ever lost.

So the Beatitudes are not rules to master. They are a portrait of Christ himself—poor, gentle, merciful, pure of heart, rejected, yet utterly rooted in the Father. To live them is not to chase happiness, but to walk with him. And that is the deepest happiness of all.



There is **No** Two Hearts Communion of Reparation Vigil this Friday, 6th February, in Carlow Cathedral as Fr. Yanbo is away. The next vigil will take place on Friday, 6th of March

MASSES AT THE CATHEDRAL

Weekend: Vigil Saturday 6.15pm, Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm, and 7pm.

Weekdays; Monday to Friday 7.30am and 10am. Saturday 10am

No 7:30am Mass on Bank Holiday

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday following the 10am Mass

We remember in our prayer

Marie Walsh

Newgardens, Athy Road, Carlow

May Marie rest in peace

May her loved ones and all who mourn be comforted

Cathedral Collections

Last Weekend

Offertory €1,161.84

Development € 1,916.97

Your kind generosity is deeply appreciated

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 therefore request you to 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.

Invitation to Kildare and Leighlin Parishioners: Baptised and Sent in

Lent - Exploring the Lenten Sunday Gospels

Our diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation and Diocesan Synod Committee are inviting parishes, groups and individuals to make this new, short series a centre piece of their Lenten journey this year. Can you give one hour a week, for five weeks, to join with others to reflect on the Sunday Gospel and its links to what it means to be baptised, as well as its links to some of the pastoral priorities that have emerged in synod conversations in our diocese and beyond? Would you like to find out more about being part of, or even running this series locally?

An INFORMATION SESSION will take place in Newbridge Parish Centre on Tuesday, 3rd February. Tea/coffee available from 7pm.

Information session starts promptly at 7:30pm- 9:00pm.

Registration essential through fds@kandle.ie

If you would prefer to attend via zoom, please email fds@kandle.ie to request a zoom registration link.

Bob's Your Uncle Lotto

Jackpot

Sunday 1st February

€7,000

Numbers drawn on 25th January

1-6-8-26

Carlow Monthly Mens Rosary for Peace .

Saturday, 7th Feb, at the Liberty Tree opposite (Mc Donald's)

1.30.p.m. Men please attend, Our World needs Prayer.

All Welcome.

Carlow Active Retirement

Carlow Active Retirement Members' Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11th, at 2.30. in the Cathedral Parish Centre.

New members welcome

Medjugorje

Medjugorje Carlow group. May 27th-June 3rd (€895) Fr Yambo Chen

S.V.D. Deacon Liam Dunne. Sept 9th - 16th (€895)

Fr Theodore Tomasik. Enquires Noeleen (0862415986)

Divine Mercy RDS Bus leaving Carlow, Saturday, 28th February.

To reserve seat Ph Noeleen 086 2415986.

Collectors Required

In order to assist with the weekly Development Fund and Offertory Collections at weekend Masses, we are seeking volunteers to take on this task on a regular basis. This will help to ease pressure on those who are currently carrying on this role without a break from week to week, and to whom we are most grateful. If you can help at our Saturday evening or Sunday Masses, we would greatly appreciate it. Please give your name and contact details to a member of the Parish Clergy, the Sacristan, or the Parish Office. Alternatively, just speak to one of the regular collectors and offer your help. Thank you.

Study Theology Online?

The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before February 10.

Find out more on our

website, prioryinstitute.com

Volunteer Opportunity – Rainbows Ireland, Carlow Town

Rainbows Ireland is seeking volunteers to support children and young people in our long established Rainbows Centre in Carlow Town. The Centre delivers 9 week Rainbows Peer Support Groups for children and young people affected by parental separation or bereavement.

Training & Support

Volunteers complete a 4 day online training with Rainbows Ireland and are paired with an experienced facilitator for support as they begin.

Volunteer Commitment

Small group sizes (up to 8 children)

9 week group cycles, 1 hour per week

Volunteers commit 2 hours weekly, for two cycles per year (Consistency is essential to ensure families can access support.)

More info: Geraldine Kelly – CEO

geraldine@rainbowsireland.ie

Learn more: www.rainbowsireland.ie