



Cathedral of the Assumption

Sunday, 4th January 2026

2nd Sunday of Christmas

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

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Diocesan Designated

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Tel: 059 9164087

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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

A thought from Pope Leo as we begin 2026!

Sisters and brothers, responsibility is the sure way to peace. If all of us, at every level, would stop accusing others and instead acknowledge our own faults, asking God for forgiveness, and if we would truly enter into the suffering of others and stand in solidarity with the weak and the oppressed, then the world would change. Jesus Christ is our peace first of all because he frees us from sin, and also because he shows us the way to overcome conflicts — all conflicts, whether interpersonal or International. Without a heart freed from sin, a heart that has been forgiven, we cannot be men and women of peace or builders of peace. This is why Jesus was born in Bethlehem and died on the cross: to free us from sin. He is the Savior. With his grace, we can and must each do our part to reject hatred, violence and opposition, and to practice dialogue, peace and reconciliation.

A PRAYER AS WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, because you are the Almighty Word of God!

All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, because you are the Word made flesh.

You are Emmanuel, God with us!

All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, because you know what it's like to be human.

Thus we can turn to you with confidence, even in our weakness, doubt, and confusion.

All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, because you have shown us the Father through your own life.

Because of you, we know what God is truly like.

All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, because your Incarnation was the first step on the road to Calvary.

Because you were fully human in addition to being fully divine, you were able to identify fully with us, redeem us and become our way, our truth and our eternal life.

All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, Word of God Incarnate, Savior of the world .and our Savior too! **Amen.**

Feast of the Epiphany - 6th January



Tuesday is the Feast of the Epiphany, the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the World. The great feast of the Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his Baptism in the Jordan and the Wedding feast of Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation (CCC 528)

Masses for the Feast of the Epiphany

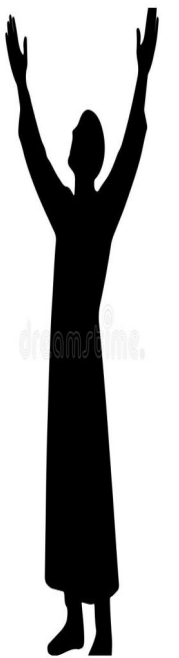
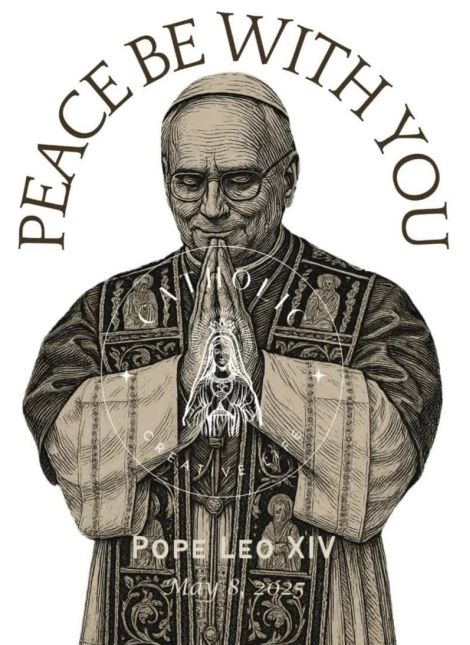
Vigil Monday evening 6.15pm

Masses on Tuesday 7.30am, 10.30am and 7pm

MASSES AT THE CATHEDRAL

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

Weekdays; - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 7.30am and 10am, Saturday 10am



We remember in our prayer

John Ryan, 64 Brownshill Wood

May John rest in peace

May John's loved ones and all who mourn be comforted

Thank You

The Christmas Collection for the Support of the Bishop and Priests of the Parish was taken up at all Masses on Christmas Day.

Thank you for your kindness and generous support.

Bank details,

Carlow Parish Clergy

IBAN; IE55 AIBK 9331 0405 6346 51

BIC AIBKIE2D

Cathedral Collections

Last Weekend

Offertory €1,069.19

Development € 1,718.92

Your kind generosity throughout 2025 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 thank 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.

HUGG Support Group

HUGG is the national suicide bereavement organisation dedicated to supporting adults bereaved by suicide. We provide FREE practical information and emotional support after suicide. HUGG announce the **launch** of a **suicide bereavement support group in Carlow**. The monthly support group will meet on a Tuesday evening 7.30pm to 9.30pm and facilitated by trained volunteers with a lived experience of suicide loss. **To register for a HUGG Support Group** complete the form at <http://www.HUGG.ie/> or email support@HUGG.ie or call 01 513 4048 (monitored answering machine) and a member of the HUGG team will contact you.

The Carlow Stroke Support Group

Meeting next Friday January 9th, 2.30-4pm, at St. Dymphna's Hospital Carlow. Meetings are informative and social, are open to Stroke survivors and carers.

For further information text/ call Lynda 087-7814697.

Give Hope This Christmas with Double the Love:

Mary's Meals provides life-changing school meals to more than 3 million children living in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future. It costs just €22 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year. Thanks to the Tom Cunningham Trust, donations will be doubled until 12th January 2026 or until the match funding limit has been reached. Together, through Double the Love, we can transform the lives of many more

desperately hungry children waiting for Mary's Meals. To donate, go to www.marysmeals.ie or phone 01 853 5163.

Every donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Medjugorjie 2026 Carlow Group.

Traveling 27th May. Spiritual Director : Fr .Yanbo Chen.

September 9 th Spiritual Director : Fr. Theo Tomasik.

To avail of Discount €200 deposit. Before 1st February.

Enquires Noeleen :086 2415986.

New Year's Day Homily

Bishop Denis Nulty—Cathedral of the Assumption Carlow

*"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'.*

And he replied,

*'Go into the darkness and put your hand
Into the hand of God.*

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

The early lines from Minnie Louise Haskins poem *'The Gate of the Year'* used by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas Day Broadcast.

My aunt Mary, Mamma's sister, was a nurse who served on duty during the Second World War. It was never talked about at home. She became ill while on duty and I recently stumbled across the *'Casualty List No. 1925 relating to Officers'*. It contained all the casualties reported to the War Office Casualty Branch for 24 hours, ending 9am, dated 1st December 1945. Her's is included on that list. That's eighty years and one month ago. Auntie Mary died in the 1970's, never speaking of her days involved in someone else's war.

The same *'Casualty List'* is full of abbreviations and war rhetoric that becomes a language of its own, an echo chamber, best understood and probably only understood by those serving on the frontline. The reference to my Aunt Mary reads:

Italy: Dangerously Ill

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service

BALFE Sister BE Previous List Number: 2573751

Date of Casualty: 26.11.45

Mary Balfe was one of many Irish who went to the First and Second World Wars. It could be said they were indeed fighting someone else's war, someone else's battle, but they had that sense of duty, a belief that this was the right and only thing to do. In Mary's case she was a trained nurse, who I think did her nursing training in England and from there went to bandage the wounded, to soothe the fallen.

War never leaves clean records, just destruction. And despite our advancement in knowledge and our capacity for dialogue, there never has been so many wars, battles, disputes raging at the one time. We see the nightly attacks on the Donbas region of Ukraine in urban areas such as Donetsk and Luhansk. We don't always see or tend to put to the back of our memory the ongoing suffering and plight in Gaza, on the West Bank, in East Africa, in Syria, in Yemen and in Myanmar to mention just a few.

Pope Leo in his message for today invites us *"to open ourselves to peace! Let us welcome it and recognise it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach"*. A powerful line later in his message *"even in places where only rubble remains, and despair seems inevitable, we still find people who have not forgotten peace"*. He reminds us of the Easter story and while we are still very much in Christmas, today the eighth day of the Octave, the Prince of Peace, the vulnerable child, who has the ability to disturb, to unsettle, to unnerve the most powerful political caste of his time, not with armour but with a message of peace. It's never too late for us, for any of us. Pope Leo reminds us *"goodness is disarming"*, a goodness revealed in the manger at Bethlehem. He tells us *"when we treat peace as a distant ideal, we cease to be scandalised when it is denied, or even when war is raged in its name"*.

We deserve peace in our homes, the scourge of domestic abuse, the silent ongoing pandemic of our time; in our estates, the plight of drug abuse; in our cemeteries, the desecration of sacred ground; on our streets, the destruction of private property. We deserve peace, full stop. I commend all our guardians of the peace and all who work constructively for peace this day.

The last verse of Minnie Louise Haskins poem goes:

*"So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod
gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills
and the breaking of day in the lone East"*.

May we find the hand of God in 2026 and allow Him to guide and direct our every effort at peace and justice in a world, in a community, so badly in need of both.

Bob's Your Uncle Lotto

Jackpot

Sunday 4th January

€5,000