



Cathedral of the Assumption

Sunday, 17th May 2026.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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

Parish Team

Fr. Thomas O'Byrne Adm.

Fr Yanbo Chen cc

Fr Theodore Tomasik cc

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Priest on Duty

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Child Safeguarding Reps

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Newsletter

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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

Reflection for the Ascension of Jesus Parting is such sweet sorrow

As we mark and celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, the saying, *'all good things come to an end'* never sounded more suitable and appropriate.

Just before the passion and suffering of Jesus, his friends and followers saw him being betrayed, denied and condemned. They stood at a distance and watched him die a very public and humiliating death. Some of them even deserted him. When they were told by some of the others that they had seen the Lord, they refused to believe them; they doubted. In fact, most of them doubted.

Eventually, after seeing the risen Lord for themselves several times, they believed that he had indeed risen from the dead. And now Jesus is preparing them for his departure and his return to heaven. They thought they had lost Jesus once when he died, now they have to face the reality of life without him again. Jesus is leaving them, but he is not leaving them alone. He is not deserting or abandoning them. In fact, he is going to be with them in a very personal and intimate way forever. In last Sunday's gospel, Jesus told his followers that he would give them another Advocate to be with them forever, the Spirit of truth. Through this Spirit, Jesus will be with them and us forever.

Before Jesus takes his leave of them, he passes on and entrusts them with the responsibility of carrying on his mission of proclaiming the good news of the gospel and of establishing the kingdom of God. This ordinary group of men and women are the ones who were chosen by Jesus to be the heralds and witnesses of the resurrection. Through their words and actions, the world knows that Jesus is alive and more alive and present than ever he was. As Jesus' earthly life ends, theirs and our mission and ministry begins.

Today that responsibility now belongs to us. The first friends and followers of Jesus are our ancestors and we are their descendants. It is now up to each of us in our way to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus. Through us today, the world will know that Jesus is alive, present and active in our world. As Pope Francis said to each of us, *'Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that they have experienced the love of God in Jesus.'*

Even though we are celebrating the Ascension of Jesus, he has not left, deserted or abandoned us. He is with us when we gather and break bread with each other. He is with us when we reach out to help and support each other. These are the signs that Jesus is in us and with us, today and forever.

Michael Moore OMI

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Congratulations.

We congratulate all the girls and boys who join us and receive their First Holy Communion with us over the past three weekends. We are looking forward to next weekend when Children from the Parish will be making their Confirmation on the 23rd of May.

Our prayer is that they may grow in their friendship with Jesus and in their faith in God's love.

Congratulations to their parents and families, to their school

communities and to all who work on the Parish programme. Know that we are here to support your Faith journey in anyway we can.

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday following the 10am Mass

Can you help St Vincent de Paul Carlow?

Saint Vincent de Paul Carlow is looking for new volunteers to help with its work in Carlow. If you have a few hours free per week please text your name to 087 3365886. Vincent de Paul will phone you back with further information. Thank you all.

Fundraiser for Carlow Alzheimers Bethany House Day Care

Anne McDarby (Carlow) is Walking Cork City 10Km on 31st May 2026 for Carlow Alzheimers Bethany House Day Care, Carlow.

Please go to [idonate.ie/fundraiser/annemcdarby](https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/annemcdarby) to support.

Pilgrimage to Knock

Kildare & Leighlin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

Bishop Denis Nulty invites you to join with him and parishioners from across the Diocese at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock on Sunday, 7th June 2026.

Ceremonies begin at 2.30pm in the Basilica

Bus leaving from St. Leo's at 8:00am, subject to numbers.

Booking essential at the Parish Centre.

Price €35 payable by card or cash in the Parish Centre

Retired Priests Collection

This collection takes place at all Masses on the weekend of 24th May. The generosity of parishes and parishioners in supporting this collection is deeply appreciated.

Why Sunday Matters – an Invitation to all parishioners for the Coming Weeks

Bishop Denis and the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation invite parishioners across the diocese to reflect on the letter from the Irish Bishops, 'Why Sunday Matters', for these remaining weeks of Eastertide up to the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ on June 7.

From next weekend we will post a short excerpt from the letter each week for you to think about, with a link to the full text.

Sunday matters – it's good every now and again to stop and remind ourselves why.

Electrical Waste- free Drop off.

Carlow County Council are hosting a free WEEE drop off event in Carlow Mart on Wednesday, 27th May, from 10am -4pm.

(Eircode R93VOR1) Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled for free on the day, from washing machines, TVs, kettles, toasters, power and

garden tools, electronic toys, phones, cables, IT equipment, remote controls, watches, batteries of all sizes – even farm fence batteries. For further information contact

environment @Carlowcoco.ie

Bob's Your Uncle Lotto

Jackpot Sunday 17th May

€14,500

Numbers drawn on 10th May

5-7-11-15

9 Match 3 winners share €500

Pilgrimage to Lodi, Italy

27th International Columban Meeting

Bishop Denis will lead a Pilgrimage from the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin to Lodi in Italy this July to participate in the 27th International Columban Meeting.

Taking place from Friday, July 3rd to Monday, July 6th 2026, the international gathering forms part of a long-standing annual European tradition honouring Columbanus, the 6th century Irish missionary monk born in the shadow of Mount Leinster near Myshall, County Carlow, whose influence extended across Ireland and mainland Europe. For further information or to book, contact Tully's Travel, Carlow at 059-9136100 or visit www.kandle.ie or www.carlowtourism.com/thecolumbanway

Carlow Sugar Factory

Mass will be celebrated in Carlow Cathedral on Thursday, May 21st, at 7pm, for living and deceased employees of Carlow Sugar Factory on this it's 100 Anniversary. A social gathering will take place in the 7 Oaks Hotel after Mass to which all former employees and their partners are invited.

Pioneer Total Abstinence Association Invitation to Consultative Meetings during May and June 2026

For over 125 years, members of the PTAA have been praying daily for temperance and sobriety. In late 2025, the new constitution was passed, making way for the PTAA to move to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). As this new phase of the Association starts, we are keen to meet with members throughout Ireland to consult, to listen and to take action. For more information, please visit <https://www.pioneers.ie/> consultation for details of meetings in your area and an online Zoom meeting if unable to attend in person.

Finding God in Nature and Culture – Saturday 27th June 2026,

Kildare Town

A day of talks, music, storytelling, prayer, and pilgrimage exploring the relationship between Christian faith, Irish culture, imagination, and the natural world. Featuring Paul Vander Klay, Fr. Conor McDonough OP, and Heather Pollington. Hosted at Solas Bhríde Centre with pilgrimage visits to St Brigid's Well and Kildare Cathedral.

Tickets and information:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/finding-god-in-nature-and-culture-tickets-1988447493982?aff=oddtcreator>

Pray for Life Novena

The Pray for Life Novena is an invitation to join thousands of people across Ireland to pray for the protection of human life, from Saturday, 23rd May to Sunday, 31st May. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life in Ireland. Visit www.prayforlife.ie for the daily novena prayers and to sign up for daily reminders.

The prayers will also be posted on

[facebook.com/PrayforLifeNovena](https://www.facebook.com/PrayforLifeNovena) and @prayforlifenovena on Instagram. This is an initiative of the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Cathedral Collections

Last Weekend

Offertory €1,181.74

Development € 1,873.51

Your kind generosity is deeply appreciated.