ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 22nd February 2026

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First Sunday of Lent

Lent recalls the forty days Jesus spent in the desert, during which time he was tempted by the devil. But through prayer, fasting and fidelity he overcame the tempter. We too face temptations. We reflect for a moment on our own particular weaknesses.

Theme of the Weekend Readings: With Lent we begin a period of special prayer and reflection each year.
First Reading: The fall of Adam and Eve.
Second Reading: Jesus overcomes the power of sin.
Gospe1: Jesus is tempted three times.

Weekend Masses:
Sunday 1st March: 9.30am Mass in Mullinarrigle
11.00am Mass in Rosbercon

Weekday Masses:
Rosbercon:
Wednesday 25th February: 11.00am **Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation**
Friday 27th February: 10am Mass

All Masses from Rosbercon Church will be streamed live through our webcam on www.rosberconparish.ie

Recent Deaths
V.Rev.Odhrán Furlong P.P.V.F. New Ross/Adamstown
Anniversaries
Kathy and Denis Power, Darbystown and the deceased members of the Power and Tobin families
William Long, Ballyveria, Glenmore
Bridget (Biddy) Doyle, Glenpipe
Michael O'Neill, Tinneranny
Joe Doran, Assumption Terrace, Rosbercon
Catherine Maher, Tinneranny

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel every Wednesday morning from 10.30am to 12pm. All are welcome to attend.

Lenten Reconciliation Services: Fr Dan will hear Confessions for Lent after the weekend. Masses beginning on 8th of March 2026.

Lenten Station Envelopes together with Trocaire Boxes have been distributed to the homes of the Parish. Please return Lenten Station Envelopes at your convenience. The Trocaire Boxes should be returned to the Church on Holy Thursday.

We welcome into our Christian Community **Calvin, Crew and Cori O'Neill,** sons and daughter of Gavin and Katrina, Ballinaboola, who were baptised in the Church of the Assumption, Rosbercon, on Saturday 14th February 2026.

We are all looking forward to the **Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in Rosbercon Church** next Wednesday 25th February at 11.00am for the pupils of St.Canice's NS and Shanbogh NS.

A Message from Fr Dan: Lent 2026 – Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent. This is the time every year when we make a special effort to focus on our faith and to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. It is through the events of the first Holy Week that we are redeemed.

On Ash Wednesday we wear ashes on our foreheads to remind us that we came from the earth and to the earth we will, one day, return. As the ashes are placed on our foreheads, we think of the words of Jesus, "**Change and believe in the Good News.''** The Good News is that we are loved by God and by his Son, Jesus Christ.

The ashes remind us that that life on earth is temporary and that the fate of each of us is in God`s hands. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass. This reminds us that earthly glory fades, but God's love endures.

Nowadays, people like to observe Lent by examining their own personal habits that may need to be changed work or to reach out to people in need. The priority always is to be good to others and to grow closer to Christ. We are not asked to be perfect, but to make a good effort. We can pray, fast, or help to people who are poor or in need.

For almost 50 years our people have contributed generously to **Trocaire** during the Lenten Season. Trocaire is the Irish language word for "compassion". Trocaire turns the compassion of the Irish people into life-changing support for some of the poorest people in the world.

From the Ennis Parish Newsletter – Adapted.

To mark the Lenten Season: Spend time with this weekend's Gospel. Be with Jesus in the desert. Ask Him for the grace to listen to Him and spend time with him in prayer during Lent.
Ask for the grace you need most.

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Mass Intentions for Sunday 1st of March, 2026

Mullinarrigle: Sunday 1st of March at 9:30am
Ann Murphy, Darbystown and all deceased members of the Murphy and O'Neill families.

Rosbercon: Sunday 1st of March at 11:00am
Bridget O'Neill, Tinneranny
Joan Molloy, Tinneranny
Michael O'Neill, Ballyknock

Eight ways in which we can love our neighbour during Lent:
- The Love of Listening: But you must really listen. Don't interrupt, don't plan your response. Just listen.
- The Love of Affection: Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handouts.
- The Love of laughter: Share jokes and funny stories. You are saying 'I love to laugh
with you".
- The Love of Solitude: There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of peace to others.
- The Love of a Favour: Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.
- The Love of a Written Note: This can be a simple "Thanks for the help!". A brief handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime.
- The Love of a Compliment: A simple and sincere "You look great in red!". "You did a super job!" or" That was a wonderful meal!" can make someone's day.
- The Love of a Cheerful Disposition: The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, or even just a smile.

From the Ennis Parish Newsletter – Adapted.

Diocese of Ossory Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: Our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place again this May. Package details are for 5 nights, departing May 25th , fares from €995pps. Anyone wishing to travel, bookings for our Pilgrimage, can be now made directly with Joe Walsh Tours Tel: 01-2410800 Email:info@joewalshtours.ie

Trocaire: This year's Lenten Campaign accompanies a three generation family in rural Rwanda, led by Uwamahoro, a young mother supporting her daughter, niece and elderly mother. Through their story, we as a parish community are invited to reflect on themes of resilience, care for our common home, and the dignity of every person in the face of poverty caused by climate injustice. Their lived experience helps bring the Sunday Gospels to life and connects faith with the call to solidarity. We are all asked to play our part! We are asked to do without something each day so that what we save can be donated to charities like Trocaire.

Wisdom: "Lent is a good time for sacrificing. Let us deny ourselves something every day to help others".

Pope Francis

Reflection: Lent: Springtime of the Spirit
Each year the trees give us a lesson in renewal.
First the bud, then the blossom, and finally the shoot.
Spring dresses the trees in a new robe
And makes them young again.
But this is possible only because in autumn
They let go of their old leaves,
And endured a winter of poverty.
Lent is the springtime of the spirit.
Lord, help us not to be afraid to let go of the old habits,
And to face our spiritual poverty,
In order that you may renew us, and so at Easter
We will feel young again in our discipleship.

To Make you smile: Woman to her friend: 'My husband is always travelling and is only home one month in the year'. Friend: 'How very sad for you'. Woman: 'Yes, but a month goes by very quickly!'.

Cois Nore's Cancer Support Outreach Service - Supporting Five Towns in Kilkenny Weekly
Monday: Castlecomer – Castlecomer Community Hall
Tuesday: Callan - Droichead Family Resource Centre, West Street
Wednesday: Ballyragget – Dr. Hogan's Rooms, The Square
Thursday: Thomastown - Thomastown Community Hall
Friday: Urlingford - The Mill, Family Resource Centre, Main Street
Drop in for cancer support for you or the family. Find out how to avail of the free services available at the Cois Nore Centre in Kilkenny City. All are welcome.

Humour: In the Garden of Eden, in the happy time before the Fall, Adam and God would sometimes talk things under the shade of a big tree. "Why did you make Woman so beautiful?" Adam asked. "So, you would love her," God answered. Adam thought about this for a while. "Then why did you have to make her so unthinking?" Adam wondered. "So, she would love you", came the reply.

Music In Kilkenny Upcoming Concerts
Music in Kilkenny's new season brings an inspiring programme of solo recitals, chamber music, and orchestral masterwork featuring acclaimed Irish and international artists across some of the county's most atmospheric venues.
Upcoming Concerts
The Clarion Trio – 1st March
Vanbrugh & Friends – 28th March
Trio Bohémo – 12th April
Pircorlino Trio – 26th April
Paul Gregory & Simon Taylor – 24th May
Explore full details and booking options on the Music in Kilkenny website.

Rosbercon Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Brid Vereker and Anne O' Sullivan. If you have a Safeguarding concern, contact Brid or Anne.

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