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DECEMBER 2025

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A Taste of Home

The Luxury Irish Christmas Pudding

An indulgent blend of Bushmills, stout and Irish butter that brings back the magic of a real Irish Christmas

By the time December rolls around, every Irish kitchen worth its salt has that unmistakable scent of Christmas: whiskey-soaked fruit, orange zest, and warm spices that linger in the air for days. The humble Christmas pudding — once the star of the Irish festive table — is making a well-deserved comeback, this time with an artisan twist.

Forget the stodgy shop-bought versions; this next-level pudding is pure luxury. It's made the Irish way — slow, rich, and a little bit cheeky with a generous pour of Bushmills. A splash of Guinness gives it depth, while grated apple, butter, and treacle keep it wonderfully moist. The longer you let it mature, the better it gets — like a fine whiskey or a well-told family story.

So, gather your mixing bowl, pour yourself a dram, and get stirring. Tradition says everyone in the house should have a go and make a wish. Just don't tell anyone you've added dark chocolate chips — that'll be your secret.

Luxury Irish Christmas Pudding

Serves 8–10 | Prep: 30 mins | Steam: 6 hrs | Mature: 4–8 weeks

Ingredients

Irish spirit & fruit mix:

- 150g sultanas
- 150g currants
- 100g raisins
- 75g chopped dried figs or prunes
- 50g mixed peel
- 50g chopped glacé cherries
- Zest of 1 orange & 1 lemon
- 100ml Bushmills Black Bush whiskey (or Jameson Black Barrel)
- 100ml Guinness Extra Stout
- 1 tbsp black treacle
- 1 tbsp Seville orange marmalade

Dry mix:

- 100g dark brown Muscovado sugar
- 100g fresh breadcrumbs
- 100g self-raising flour
- 125g Kerrygold butter, frozen and grated
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground cloves

- Pinch of sea salt

To finish:

- 2 large free-range eggs
- 1 small Bramley apple, grated
- 1 small carrot, grated
- Optional: 50g dark chocolate chips

Method

1. Soak the fruit: Combine all the fruit, peel, zest, whiskey, stout, treacle, and marmalade. Cover and leave overnight (or up to two days) to plump up beautifully.

2. Add dry ingredients: Stir in the sugar, breadcrumbs, flour, butter, spices, and salt until fully combined.

3. Add wet ingredients: Mix in the eggs, grated apple, and carrot until glossy.

4. Make a wish: Let each family member give it a stir for good luck — an old Irish tradition.

5. Steam: Grease a 1.2L pudding basin, line the base with parchment, spoon in the mix, cover with parchment and foil, and tie securely with string. Steam gently for 6 hours, topping up the pot as needed.

6. Cool and store: Replace the parchment, wrap tightly, and store in a cool, dark press for 4–8 weeks. Feed weekly with a spoon of whiskey if you like.

7. On Christmas Day: Steam again for 2 hours, flame with warm whiskey, and serve immediately.

To Serve

- Bushmills Cream: Whip cream lightly with whiskey and icing sugar.
- Brandy Butter: Beat butter with icing sugar and a dash of Bushmills.
- Or go modern with a scoop of Murphy's Irish Cream ice cream.

The Irish Touch

A true Irish Christmas pudding carries more than flavour — it carries memory. The smell of stout, the flicker of the blue flame, the laughter around the table. This pudding brings that all back, with a little extra shine.

As they say in Donegal, “Nollaig shona dhuit” — Merry Christmas to you — and may your pudding be as rich as your stories.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to our December edition and thank you to all our readers for your support in 2025.

We end the year with light-hearted articles about Christmas and a Christmas recipe.

On a more serious note, we delve into a few current affairs issues and ask a few questions about the future of electric vehicles and what would happen if all the multi-nationals left Ireland.

Join us again in 2026 for more topical news.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Little Village News Team.

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Bring a Bit of Gaeilge into Your Day

Everyday Irish You'll Actually Use with Pronunciation Tips!

We all learned a cúpla focal (a few words) in school, but too often they're left behind with the textbooks. Yet the Irish language isn't just for classrooms or Gaeltacht signs — it's a living, breathing part of who we are. You don't have to be fluent to use it; a few words here and there can bring a lovely rhythm of identity and pride into your day.

Here's how to start weaving Gaeilge naturally into everyday life.

Morning Moments

Begin your day with a greeting that feels truly Irish.

- “Dia duit!” (dee-uh gwit) — Hello!
- “Maidin mhaith!” (mwid-in wah) — Good morning!

When you leave the house:

- “Slán!” (slawn) — Goodbye!
- “Go n-éirí an lá leat!” (guh ny-ree on law lat) — May your day go well!

Even if you just say it to the mirror, it's a start!

Coffee & Chat

Next time you're in a café, sprinkle in a few friendly words.

- “Cupán caife, le do thoil.” (koo-pawn kaff-eh leh duh hull) — A cup of coffee, please.

- “Go raibh maith agat.” (guh rev mah agut) — Thank you.

- “Tá sé go hálainn amuigh inniu.” (taw shay guh haw-lin uh-moo-ee in-yoo) — It's lovely out today.

You might just make someone smile — or even get a “Slán leat!” back!

At Home

Add Gaeilge to your routine:

- Stick notes on household items: fuinneog (window), doras (door), cathaoir (chair).

- When you sit down to dinner, say “Bain taitneamh as!” (bahn tat-nev oss) — Enjoy it!

- After a long day, a simple “Tá mé tuirseach.” (taw may tur-shakh) — I'm tired — feels right.

Irish Weather Talk

If there's one thing we love to discuss, it's the weather!

- “Tá sé fuar.” (taw shay foor) — It's cold.

- “Tá sé ag cur báistí.” (taw shay egg cur bawsh-tee) — It's raining.

- “Tá sé grianmhar inniu.” (taw shay gree-un-war in-yoo)

— It's sunny today.

It's also perfectly fine to mix languages:

“Tá sé baltic today!” — and just like that, you're speaking Béarla agus Gaeilge side by side.

A Friendly Finish

Irish doesn't have to be perfect to be powerful.

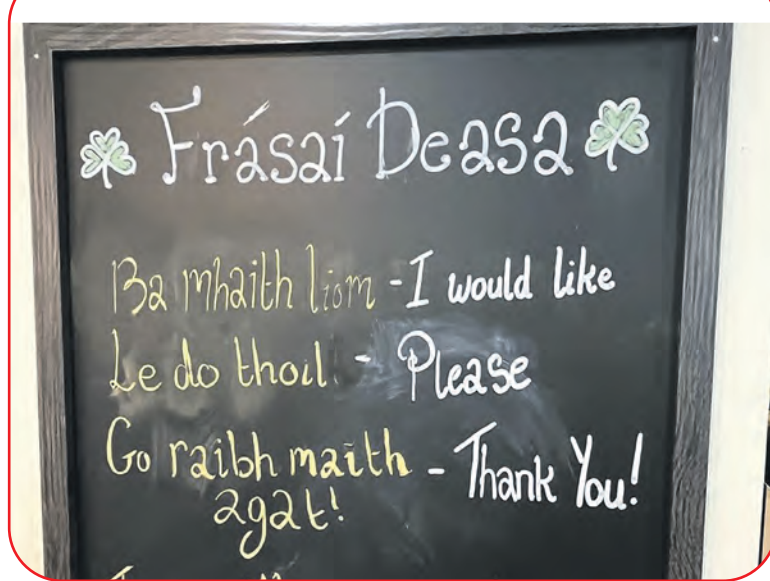
A “go raibh maith agat” instead of “thanks” or a “slán” instead of “bye” keeps the language alive in daily life.

As President Michael D. Higgins once said, “Is í an Ghaeilge croí an chultúir.”

(Iss ee on gwale-guh kree on khul-toor — “Irish is the heart of the culture.”)

So why not let a bit of that heart beat through your day?

Start small, smile often — and before long, you'll be saying “Tá sé go hiontach!” (taw shay guh hee-un-takh) — It's wonderful!





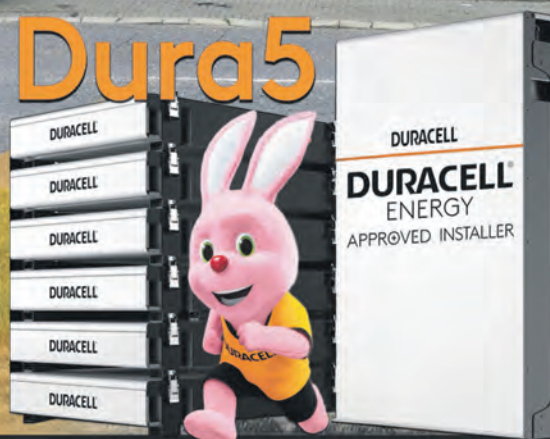
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Jul 4, 2024

A lovely company to deal with couldn't...

A lovely company to deal with couldn't fault anything, they arrived early on the day of installation and got straight to work. explained everything they were going to do. Very polite and friendly. The company ran through everything from the BER cert to the install, filled out all the forms for me to claim my grant back and to set me up to export back to the grid. They were very helpful and knowledgeable. Could not recommend them enough.

Date of experience: July 03, 2024

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I would be very happy to recommend AK...Solar Panel Ins

I would be very happy to recommend AK Solar. The whole process from the initial proposal to the installation. I was very impressed with the kit which took less than six hours. Everyone involved really enjoyed what we were doing. Everything was explained very well by Alan and Franki organisation by Clare and Rose was excellent with the BER arrangement the SEAI grant application made. I literally had to do nothing.

Date of experience: April 22, 2024



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Kildare County Council Announces the Opening of New Inclusive Playground at Station Road, Leixlip

Kildare County Council is delighted to announce the opening of a newly developed, fully inclusive playground at Station Road, Leixlip. Designed to welcome children of all ages and abilities, this vibrant play space will officially open with a ceremony in the coming weeks.

As part of this project, existing play equipment has been relocated and refurbished at The Wonderful Barn, creating an additional high-quality play area for the community.

Additionally, the construction of a new car park featuring Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), demonstrates Kildare County Council's commitment to climate-resilient infrastructure and green design through the Path Finder initiative.

The playground at Station Road has been carefully designed to promote inclusive play, ensuring that all children can enjoy and benefit from the play experience. It features a wide range of equipment and sensory elements that support imaginative, physical, and social play in a safe and welcoming environment.

Celina Barrett, Director of Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces, Kildare County Council said: "The opening of this new inclusive playground at Station Road, alongside the refurbished play area at The Wonderful Barn and the new SuDS car park, reflects Kildare County Council's commitment to providing high-quality, accessible and sustainable recreational spaces for our communities. We are proud to deliver facilities that support families, promote well-being, and enhance the quality of life for all residents".



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New Location Coming Soon!!!!

We are excited to announce we are opening our 6th location in Lucan.

A new physiotherapy clinic isn't simply a new building, it's a pathway to healthier bodies, happier lives, and a more vibrant community. As doors open, so do opportunities for people to move better, feel better, and live better.



As part of our growing chain of physiotherapy clinic, the Lucan location brings our commitment to professional, patient-centered care to one of Dublin's most vibrant and rapidly expanding communities.

At PhysioCare, our mission has always been simple, the help people live better, move better and feel better.

Our new Lucan clinic is equipped with modern treatment rooms, state of the art equipment and rehabilitation equipment and a dedicated team of physiotherapists who are passionate about helping patient recover from in jury, manage pain and reach their full physical potential.

Whether you're dealing with sports injury, chronic discomfort, post surgical rehabilitation or simply want to improve your mobility and strength, our Lucan team is here to support you.

We look forward to welcoming new patients and becoming a trusted part of the Lucan community.

Be the Hero of your Own Recovery!!!

For more information, please call us on 01 5310007

The Hidden Metals Powering Your Life

Inside the World of Rare Earths

These glowing metals might not look like much, but they power your smartphone, your car, and even your wind turbine.

“They’re the invisible ingredients of modern life — hidden in our phones, our cars, and even the clean air we breathe.”

What Exactly Are Rare Earths?

They sound mysterious, don’t they? Rare earths. Yet these 17 metallic elements are quietly woven into almost everything we use. Despite their name, they’re not particularly rare — just difficult to find in pure form. You’ll find them scattered in soil and rock from Australia to Africa, but extracting and refining them takes a delicate (and often dirty) process.

They include tongue-twisters like neodymium, cerium, and yttrium — elements that wouldn’t be out of place in a sci-fi movie but are, in fact, right in your pocket.

Why We Can’t Live Without Them

Take a quick glance around you: your phone, laptop, car keys, TV remote — they all depend on rare earths.

- Neodymium powers the magnets inside electric car motors and wind turbines.

- Terbium and europium light up your TV screen in dazzling colour.

- Lanthanum helps polish your camera lens.

- Dysprosium keeps electric engines cool and efficient.

Even your local hospital relies on holmium and erbium for laser surgery and MRI scans.

They may be hidden, but they’re essential — the silent engine behind modern life.

Did You Know?

- > Your phone contains up to a dozen rare earth elements.
- > Wind turbines can use over 200kg of rare earth magnets each.

- > Recycling e-waste could one day meet 20–25% of global rare earth demand.

Where Do They Come From?

It’s a global treasure hunt with one clear winner: China. Around two-thirds of the world’s rare earths are mined there, mainly from Inner Mongolia’s Bayan Obo mine — a vast,



lunar-like landscape of red earth and steel mills.

Other players include Australia, the United States, Myanmar, and Vietnam, all vying for a piece of the strategic pie. But while mining brings economic opportunity, it also raises environmental questions.

Some of these elements occur alongside radioactive materials — meaning careless extraction can leave a toxic legacy.

The Race for Tomorrow

As the world goes green, the demand for rare earths is skyrocketing. Electric vehicles, offshore wind farms, and high-efficiency electronics are driving what many call the “new gold rush.”

Governments across Europe, the US, and Asia are now racing to secure supply chains and invest in cleaner extraction methods — and in recycling the rare earths already spinning inside our old gadgets.

The next frontier? A circular economy where yesterday’s smartphone becomes tomorrow’s wind turbine.

“They may be buried deep in the earth, but rare earths are the heartbeat of modern technology.”



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The TikTokification of Ireland

From Turf Cutting to Trends

Once upon a time, Irish culture was passed down through stories by the fire, Sunday Mass whispers, and the odd chaotic family wedding.

Now? It's being broadcast in 15-second videos — complete with jump cuts, sea-swim selfies, and the soundtrack to *The Wellerman*.

Welcome to the TikTokification of Ireland, where turf cutters, Gaeilgeoirí, farmers, makeup artists, and hyper-local comedians are racking up millions of views and doing more for Irish visibility than a decade of tourism ads.

From Old Traditions to New Trends

There's something wonderfully Irish about our sudden takeover of TikTok.

Instead of falling into generic global trends, we've reshaped the platform to suit our own quirks — and the results are pure gold.

Want to see a farmer shear a sheep while explaining EU grants?

There's a TikTok for that.

Need a tutorial on how to make a proper cupán tae (with opinions strong enough to start a civil war)?

There are hundreds.

Fancy watching a lad in a hi-vis argue passionately about roundabouts in Navan?

Millions already have.

Irish TikTok has become our new national storytelling stage — funnier, faster, and with significantly more filters.

The Rise of the Farming Influencer

Move over *Love Island* stars — the real influencers walk behind tractors.

Rural creators have exploded on TikTok, turning everyday farm life into must-watch entertainment.

There are cows who've become household names.

Sheepdogs with more followers than local TDs.

And farmers who can explain soil regeneration one minute and dance the next.

It's wholesome, educational, and often unintentionally hilarious.

As one Mayo farmer put it:

"I never thought people in New York would be watching me feed calves. But sure, here we are."

Gaeilge Is Cool Again (We Knew It All Along)

If TikTok has done one thing for Ireland, it's made the Irish language trendy.

Young creators are filming skits, poems, comedy sketches and daily vlogs — all through Gaeilge — and audiences are loving it.

From Connemara to Cabra, you'll now find:



- Gaeilge makeup tutorials
- Irish slang lessons
- "My day in the Gaeltacht" mini-vlogs
- Songs in Irish going properly viral

It's a whole new generation claiming the language with confidence and creativity — something even the most optimistic *múinteoir* didn't see coming.

Local Comedy Goes Global

No one does observational humour like the Irish — and TikTok has handed us a megaphone.

Creators are turning small-town dramas, GAA politics, Irish mummies, and bus stop chaos into bite-sized comedy gold.

If you've ever shouted, "I KNOW HIM!" at your phone while scrolling, you're not alone.

Irish TikTok has made celebrities out of people you could easily meet in Centra.

And that's the magic of it — it feels familiar, even when it goes viral.

Music, Dance, and the New Irish Aesthetic

Irish musicians have embraced TikTok like it was invented for sessions.

From trad players posting reels from pubs in Clare to singers harmonising from box rooms in Belfast, the platform has become an unexpected launchpad.

Add in hurling trick-shot videos, GAA dance trends, and ASMR turf-cutting clips (yes, that's a thing), and you've got a uniquely Irish flavour of the app that's unmistakable.

Ireland, Unfiltered (Mostly)

Tourism boards could never have predicted this — TikTok is giving the world a real, raw, and relatable look at Ireland:

- Rainy days on Inis Mór
 - Sunrises over the Cliffs of Moher
 - Seagulls stealing chips in Howth
 - Endless "come with me to my tiny Irish village" videos
- It's Ireland not as a brochure — but as a mood.

And people can't get enough.

The 5 Biggest Irish TikTok Vibes

1. FarmTok:

Cows, tractors, and farmers with comic timing that defies logic.

2. GaeilgeTok:

Short, sharp, proud, and impossibly charming.

3. GAATok:

Skills, spills, and politics — plus county pride turned up to 100.

4. MammyTok:

Where guilt, advice, and sandwiches meet performance art.

5. Cottagecore Irish:

Candlelit cottages, brown bread, woolly socks, and turf fires filmed aesthetically.



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NEW YEARS MESSAGE

I want to start by wishing all my constituents a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

2025 has been an eventful year. I left People Before Profit in June and have been continuing to work hard as a local councillor, now a member of the Red Network.

The government got a bloody nose this year in the Presidential election with opposition-backed candidate Catherine Connolly winning by a huge vote. But because the President is a ceremonial role rather than a political one the government can continue to pursue their policies of housing and cost of living crisis for ordinary workers and tax breaks for the developers and the rich.

In 2026 we want to see a fightback on housing and cost of living. The school secretaries and caretakers showed the way forward when they took strike action for better pay and conditions.

COUNCIL ISSUES



Standing with school secretaries and caretakers on strike in September

I've been raising a lot of issues on the council this year including:

- Motion passed calling on the Government to defend Irish Neutrality
- Motion passed at area committee in support of the school secretaries and caretakers
- **Voted AGAINST the increase in the Local Property Tax**
- Local issues such as tree pruning, road maintenance, traffic and more
- Representing constituents with housing issues

COMMUNITY ADVICE CLINIC

Ronanstown Youth Service Fridays 11am-12noon

THE BORDER THAT BREATHES

Life Along Ireland's Invisible Line



Drive a few miles outside of Blacklion, County Cavan, and you might cross the border into Northern Ireland three times before you've even finished your cup of tea. There's no wall, no fence, no checkpoint — just an invisible line that bends and weaves its way through lakes, fields, rivers, and even living rooms.

For many who live along the 499-kilometre border, the divide between North and South is not a line of politics but a fact of daily life — something that runs through their back gardens, their barns, and their memories.

A River, a Bridge, a Border

The River Foyle, silver and slow, separates Donegal from Derry — a border marked by water, but also by friendship. Fishermen cast their lines from both sides, waving across to each other, their accents blurring the boundary. On the narrow bridge at Lifford–Strabane, schoolchildren once queued for customs checks on their way to class. Today they glide across without noticing, their parents remembering the days when a loaf of bread or a litre of petrol could mean a different price and a different currency just a few hundred yards apart.

A House in Two Countries

Near Pettigo, County Donegal — one of the quirkiest border towns in Ireland — the boundary cuts right through people's homes. In one farmhouse, the front room is in the Republic and the kitchen in Northern Ireland. The family used to joke that they cooked in sterling and ate in euros. During the Troubles, it was no joke at all — soldiers once stood outside one door while the other side of the house was officially in a different jurisdiction.

Even the village itself is split: one side in County Donegal, the other in County Fermanagh. A bridge in the centre of Pettigo is the symbolic meeting point between two police forces, two phone codes, and once, two postal systems. Yet to locals, it's all one place — they still describe themselves simply as “from Pettigo.”

Fields of Two Nations

In South Armagh and Monaghan, farmers tell stories of fields that straddle the border. One half of a cow grazing in the North, the other half in the South. A tractor could, in theory, rack up cross-border mileage without ever leaving the field. During the EU single-market years, the line faded to a legal curiosity — but during Brexit debates, those same farmers feared the return of checkpoints among the hedgerows where hares still dart between two flags.

The Border in the Water

Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough are watery borderlands with their own quirks. For decades, neither Dublin nor London could quite agree who owned the Foyle. Fishermen quietly ignored the issue, while politicians politely avoided it. Today, the cross-border



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Loughs Agency manages the shared waters — a rare example of cooperation that turns geography into partnership rather than division.

Lines on Maps, Not in Hearts

There are cottages where the phone rings with a +44 code, but the postman arrives with an “Éire” stamp. There are sports clubs that draw players from both sides, and pubs where euros and pounds mingle in the till. On summer evenings, it’s not unusual for someone to buy a pint in the North and step outside to drink it in the South.

For border communities, the boundary is not a barrier but a backdrop — something they live with, laugh at, and occasionally curse when broadband providers can’t decide which country they’re in.

A Living, Breathing Border

The border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland isn’t just a line on a map — it’s a living thing. It winds through bogland, hugs rivers, climbs hills, and passes through the everyday stories of the people who call it home. It is both invisible and unforgettable, quietly reminding anyone who crosses it that identity, like geography, can be a beautifully complicated thing.



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Kildare's Great Estate Enters a New Era

There's a fresh sense of excitement in Celbridge these days — the kind you can feel on a crisp morning stroll through the Demesne or while chatting over a coffee on Main Street. After years of uncertainty, Castletown House, the jewel of Kildare's heritage crown, is finally entering a new chapter.

In what many locals are already calling a “homecoming,” the Office of Public Works (OPW) has purchased 235 acres of surrounding estate land, reuniting Castletown's historic grounds for the first time in decades. Combined with the 227 acres the OPW already owned, it means the entire landscape — the sweeping lawns, woodland trails, riverside walks and the essential access routes — are once again securely in public hands and make no mistake, this is a turning point.

A Landmark Moment for Celbridge

This move ends the long-running access dispute that frustrated visitors and locals since 2023, when the main entrance off the M4 and its vital car-park were closed after private ownership changed hands. What followed were detours, blocked routes, a near-silent courtyard, and a noticeable drop in footfall.

But now?

There's a renewed sense of possibility.

Community groups, heritage lovers, dog-walkers and Sunday strollers all share the same sigh of relief: Castletown is back.

Local representatives have hailed the reunification as “transformative,” and it's hard not to agree. Castletown isn't just a house — it's a shared space, a green lung, a symbol of Celbridge's identity.

What This Means for Visitors

Over the weeks ahead, the OPW will begin preparing the lands for full public reopening:

The M4 car-park is set to return

After two years of closures and temporary measures, the familiar, convenient access point will be restored. Safety checks, repair works and signage updates are

expected before official reopening, but the intention is clear: easy access is coming back.

Courtyard life returns

The café and visitor facilities — so important for families, older visitors and community events — are expected to reopen once operational logistics are finalised.

A unified parkland

The paths, meadows and riverside trails will soon benefit from a single management approach, meaning better maintenance and improved long-term planning.

Castletown's landscape has always been more than the sum of its parts, and having the entire estate under one owner breathes new life into future conservation, events and educational programmes.

Why Castletown Matters

For Kildare people, Castletown House is woven into the rhythm of daily life:

- Morning jogs through the woods
- Picnics by the lake
- Children chasing ducks near the river
- Wedding photos under the ancient yews
- Weekend wanderers setting off from Celbridge village

It's our local sanctuary — an 18th-century masterpiece that still serves a 21st-century community.

The reunification of the estate doesn't just protect a historic house; it protects memories, traditions, and the simple joy of having such an extraordinary amenity on our doorstep.

A New Chapter Begins

With the land now back under public ownership, the OPW is working closely with Kildare County Council and the local community to set timelines, coordinate works and plan for a busy, vibrant future.

Soon, the grand gates will reopen fully, the courtyard hum will return, and Castletown House will once again feel like the living, breathing heart of Celbridge.

For now, there's one thing everyone agrees on:

Castletown is ours again — and it's ready to shine.

Unit 7, Captain's Hill, Leixlip

China Kitchen

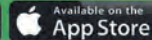
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Fri - Sun: 5:00pm - 12:30am

Delivery Service

Mon - Sun:
5:30pm - Close

FREE

Prawn Crackers with order over €45
or Large Bottle Drink and Prawn
Cracker with orders over €100

(does not include Munchies Box/any meal deal/online order)



Please note all dishes are standard, any extras may cost extra

Closed 25th December
Re-Open 26th December



Accept Debit & Credit Cards



THAI MENU

Authentic Thai Cuisine

Tom Yum Soups (Hot & Sour)

(Contain Soya Bean, Fish Sauce) 1,10,11

Chicken €6.90 King Prawn €7.90 2 Mushroom €4.90

Curry (Contains Shrimp Paste, Fish Sauce) 2,11

Green Curry: Cooked with Onion, Green Peppers, Peas

Red Curry: Cooked with Onion, Green Peppers, Bamboo Shoots

Massaman Curry: Cooked with Onion & Peanuts

Ren Dang Curry: The Most Flavouful Curries in the world
cooked in and Authentic Malaysian Spices.

Choice of:

Mixed Meat €14.95 King Prawn €15.95 Roast Duck €16.95

Chicken / Pork €13.90

Vegetables €12.95

Noodles Box

Phad Thai (Contains Fish Sauce, Rice Flour, Peanut, Egg) 3,4,5,11
(Traditionally Thai Stir fried Flat Rice Noodles in Tamarind Sauce,
Served with Fresh Lime & Crushed Peanuts)

Choice of: Mixed Seafood €15.95 Chicken €13.95

King Prawn €15.95 ToFu €12.95

Spicy Rice Noodle 5,14 Chicken €13.95 Beef €14.95

(Stir Fried Rice Noodles with Onion, Green Peppers, Chilli, Garlic,
Mushroom, Beansprouts, Asian Green, Light Soya, Oyster Sauce
& Sweet Basil)

Munchies Box 12" 3,5,9

Chicken Balls (4)
Salt & Chilli Chips
Salt & Chilli Chicken Pieces
& Chilli Chicken Wings Salt &
Chilli Ribs
Curry Sauce 8oz
with 2 FREE Cans of Coke

€33.95

Munchies Box 9" 3,5,9

Chicken Balls (2)
Salt & Chilli Chips
Salt & Chilli Chicken Pieces
Salt & Chilli Chicken Wings
Salt & Chilli Ribs
Curry Sauce 8oz
with 1 FREE Can of Coke

€19.95

China Mega Box 14" 3,5,9

Chicken Balls (8), Crispy Shredded Chicken, Crispy Chicken
Pieces, Salt & Chilli Chips, Curry Sauce 8oz (2), Egg Fried
Rice, Stir Fried Noodles, Large Bottle of Coke

€41.95

Munchies Box Junior 3,5,9

A personal size box (16cmx25cm), packed with crispy chick-
en pieces, shredded chicken, 2 chicken balls, chicken wings,
ribs, chips & small tub of curry sauce

€14.95



PLEASE NOTE: ALTHOUGH WE MAY NOT HAVE ADDED
ALLERGENS TO SOME DISHES, ALL ALLERGENS ARE PRESENT
IN OUR KITCHENS AND CROSS CONTAMINATION IS POSSIBLE

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Soya Bean | 2. Crustaceans | 3. Eggs | 4. Peanuts |
| 5. Wheat | 6. Nuts | 7. Sesame | 8. Celery |
| 9. Milk | 10. Sulphur Dioxide | 11. Fish | |
| 12. Mustard | 13. Lupin | 14. Molluscs | |

Pattaya 5,14

(Duck Egg Noodle Stir Ried with Hoi sin Sauce, Chilli, Asian Green,
Peppers, Onion, Beansprouts)

€16.95

Spicy Seafood Egg Noodles 1,2,14

(King Prawn, Squid, Mussels with Onion, Green Peppers, Chilli, Garlic,
Mushroom, Beansprouts, Asian Green, Light Soya & Sweet Basil)

€15.95

Stir Fried

Bangkok Stir Fried (Contain Fish Sauce, Soya Sauce) 1,11,14
Chilli Lemon Leaf & Sweet Soya with onion, Asian Green, Green Peppers, Mushrooms

Choice of:

Mixed Meat €14.95 King Prawn €15.95 Roast Duck €16.95

Chicken / Pork €13.95

Vegetables €12.95

Chilli Sweet Basil 1,14

with Onion, Asian Green, Peppers, Oyster Sauce, Light Soya & Mushroom

Choice of:

Mixed Meat €14.95 King Prawn €15.95 Roast Duck €16.95

Chicken / Pork €13.95

Vegetables €12.95

Seafood Combination 1,2,14

King Prawn, Squid, Mussels with Garlic, Chilli, Onions,
Peppers, Light Soya & Sweet Basil

€15.95

Mekong Duck (half a duck) 1,14

with Onion, Garlic, Chilli, Chinese Leaf, Beasprout & Sweet Basil

€16.95

Bang Bang Chicken 14

Crispy Shredded Chicken & Black Pepper with Onion, Garlic, Broccoli & Carrot

Large €14.95

Fire Cracker

Stir fried with onion, carrot green pepper, dry chilli, scallion in hot spicy

Choice of:

Chicken / Tofu €13.95 Beef €14.95

Prawn €15.95 Duck €16.95

All main dishes (except fried rice & noodle dishes) served with boiled
rice 50c extra, chips or fried rice 90c extra. Fried noodles or young
chow fried rice €2.60 extra.

CHINA KITCHEN LEIXLIP | 624 5578
www.chinakitchenleixlip.ie

Appetisers

- A1. House Combination for 2 2,7,11,1,5,9 €15.55
(Honey Spare Ribs, Spring Roll, Sesame Prawn Toast & Chicken Skews Satay)
- A2. Aromatic Duck 5 (1/4) €14.10
(Served with Pancake, Hoisin Sauce & Fresh Vegetables) (1/2) €22.90
- A3. Skewered Chicken Satay (3) (sauce on side) 1,2,4,5,6,9,11 €8.60
- A4. Skewered King Prawn Satay (4) (sauce on side) 1,2,4,5,6,9,11 €8.90
- A5. Sesame Prawn Toast (2) with Sweet & Sour Dip 1,2,7,11 €8.90
- A6. Pork Spare Ribs (3) €7.85 (4) €9.95
(Choice of: BBQ, Sweet & Sour, Salt & Chilli or Honey Sauce)
- A7. Chicken Wings Small 1,3,5,7 €7.50 Large €9.95
(Choice of: BBQ, Sweet & Sour, Salt & Chilli or Honey Sauce)
- A8. Smoked Shredded Chilli Chicken (Dry) 3,5 Small €6.95 Lrg €11.95
- A9. Crispy Spring Roll (3) (with Plum Sauce Dip) 5,9 €7.90
- A10. Crispy Spring Roll (2) (with Plum Sauce Dip) 5,9 €4.85
- A11. Vegetarian Spring Roll (3) V 5,9 €6.40
with Sweet & Chilli Sauce Dip
- A12. Chicken Cheese Roll (3) with Sweet & Sour Sauce Dip 5,9 €7.60
- A13. Salt & Chilli King Prawn 2,3 €9.70
- A14. Yuk Sung (Chicken/Pork) (Contains Peanuts) for 1 €9.70
(Served with iceberg lettuce) 1,4,6,7,5,10 for 2 €14.10
- A15. Crispy Won Tons (5) with Sweet & Sour Dip 2,5,11 €8.60
- A16. Crispy Chicken Curry Puff 1,5,8,9,12 €8.15
- A17. Lollipop Chicken 3 €8.40
(Skewered Crispy Chicken Pieces Glazed in Honey Sauce)
- A18. Gyoza (Crispy Dumpling in chicken or veg with soya sauce) 1,5,7 €8.60
- A18a. Salt & Chilli Crab Claws 2 €8.60
- A18b. Tempura King Prawn (6) 2,3,5,7 €9.95

Spice Bag Selection

- A19. Spicy Bag 3 Small €7.90 Large €10.90
Large with Free Bottle Water (Except online orders)
- A20. Primary Spicy Bag 3 €11.90
(No Chilli Spicy Bag Suitable for any age)
- A21. House Special Spicy Bag 3 €13.90
(2 Chicken Balls, Crispy Shredded Chicken & Chips)
- A22. Tofu Spicy Bag V 1 €11.35
(Mixed of deep Fried Tofu & Chips in Salt & Chilli)
- A23. Boneless Spicy Box 3 €15.95
(2 Chicken Balls, Crispy Shredded & Piece of Chicken, Chips and Small Curry Sauce, all Salt and Chilli)
- A24. The Grand Vegan Spicy Box V 1,5,7,9 €15.85
(with Tofu, Chips, Mushroom, Broccoli, Onion, Carrot, Green Pepper 2 Pieces of Vegetable Gyoza & Small Curry Sauce Dip)
- A25. Munchies Box Junior 3,5,9 €14.95
A personal size box (16cmx25cm), packed with crispy chicken pieces, shredded chicken, 2 chicken balls, chicken wings, ribs, chips & small tub of curry sauce
- A26. Spicy Bag Chicken Nuggets 3,5,9 Small €7.95 Large €10.95
Chicken nuggets, chips, onion, carrots with salt & chilli seasoning
- A27. The Grand Spice Bag 3 €13.95
The usual Spice bag in a box with small tub of curry sauce
- A28. Crispy Chicken Honey Spice Bag 3 €13.95
- A29. House Special Honey Spice Bag 3,5 €15.95
- A30. Fried Chicken Wings Spice Bag 3 €11.95
- A31. Spice Bag in King Prawn 2,3 Small (6) €12.99
Mix of king prawn, chips in salt & chilli, onion & carrots Large (10) €15.95
- A32. Spice Bag Sausage 5,10,12 €10.95
Mix of sausage, chips in salt & chilli, onion & carrots
- A33. Chicken Ball Spicy Bag 1,3,5,8,9 €13.90
- A34. Jumbo Bag 3,5,9 €14.95
Chicken ball, chicken wings, shredded chicken, chips, choice of sauce from: curry, satay, king do, BBQ, sweet sour sauce

Soup

- S1. Chicken & Sweetcorn Soup 3 12oz €6.35 32oz €14.40
- S2. Crab Meat & Sweetcorn Soup 2,3 12oz €6.90 32oz €15.60
- S3. Chicken Mushroom Soup 12oz €6.35 32oz €14.40
- S4. Chicken Noodle Soup 12oz €5.90 32oz €11.80
- S5. Hot & Sour Soup 3 12oz €6.35 32oz €14.40
- S6. Won Ton Soup 2,11 12oz €7.50 32oz €16.95
- S7. Mixed Vegetables Soup V 12oz €5.95 32oz €13.45
- S8. Gyoza Soup (Chicken/Vegetable) 1,5,7,12oz €6.35 32oz €14.40
- S9. Seafood Ramen Soup 32oz 2, 11, 14, 5, 1,7 €14.95

Noodle Box

Choice of Noodle

- Thin Noodle
- Thick Noodle
- Udon Noodle (extra €1.50)
- Flat Rice Noodle (extra €1.50)
- Ramein (extra €1.50)
- Vermicelli (extra €1.50)
- Chicken / Pork €12.95
- Mixed Meat 2 €13.95
- King Prawn 7 €14.95
- Mixed Seafood 2,11 €14.95
- Mixed Vegetable €11.95



Choice of Sauce

- Oyster Sauce 5,14
- Sweet Chilli Sauce
- Black Bean Sauce
- Black Pepper Sauce
- Satay Sauce 4,5,9
- Curry Sauce 5,9
- Szechuan Sauce 1,7
- Sweet & Sour Sauce

SINGAPORE BOX 1,3,4,5,8,11,12 €14.95

Thin Rice Noodle Roast Pork, Chicken & Vegetable
(Contain egg, peanut sauce, soy sauce wheat flour shrimp paste)

HOT BOX 2,3,5,14 €15.95

Thick Egg Noodles, Chicken, Beef, Roast Pork, King Prawn and Green Vegetables, Wok Tossed in our Secret Chilli Sauce

TERIYAKI CHICKEN BOX 1,3,5,14 €15.95

Thick Egg Noodles, Chicken and Asian Green Vegetables, Wok Tossed in our Teriyaki Sauce

Chef's Recommended

- C1. Shredded Crispy Chicken in King Do Sauce 1,5 €13.95
- C2. Shredded Crispy Chicken with Sweet Chilli Sauce 1,3 €13.95
- C3. Shredded Crispy Chicken in Szechuan Sauce 1,3 €13.95
- C4. Crispy Shredded Chicken with Sweet & Sour Sauce €13.95
- C5. Sesame Shredded Chicken with Honey Chilli Sauce 9 €13.95
- C6. Crispy Shredded Chicken with Honey Chilli Sauce 3 €13.95
- C7. Crispy Shredded Beef with Chilli Sauce 1,3 €14.95
- C8. Salt & Chilli Chicken (Piece or Shredded) €13.95
- C9. Spicy Samba Chicken / Pork 1,5,11 €13.95
Beef / Spicy Sambal King Prawn / House Special 1,2,5,11 €15.95
(Samba) sauce contains soybean fish sauce shrimp paste)

Sweet & Sour Dishes 5

1. Sweet & Sour Chicken (Hong Kong Style) 3 €13.95
2. Sweet & Sour Chicken Balls (8) (sauce on side) €14.95
3. Sweet & Sour Pork (Hong Kong Style) 3 €13.95
4. Sweet & Sour King Prawn (Hong Kong Style) 2,3 €15.95
5. Sweet & Sour King Prawn Balls (sauce on side) 2,3 €16.95
6. Sweet & Sour Duck (half of duck) €15.95
7. Sweet & Sour Mixed Vegetables V €11.95

Curry Dishes (Contains Flour) 5,9

8. Chicken with Curry Sauce €12.95
9. Beef with Curry Sauce €13.95
10. Pork with Curry Sauce €12.95
11. King Prawn with Curry Sauce 2 €14.95
12. House Special with Curry Sauce 2 €13.95
13. Duck with Curry Sauce (half a duck) €15.95
14. Fillet Beef with Curry Sauce (steak) €19.85
15. Breast of Chicken with Curry Sauce (Diced) €13.95 (Whole) €14.95
16. Mixed Vegetables with Curry Sauce V €11.95

*Sauce Allergy Advice: (Curry 1, 5,9,8,12) (Hoi Sin 1,5,7) (Bbq 1,5,7) (Black Pepper 14,5,9,1,7) (Sweet and Sour 5) (Black Pepper 1,5,7,9,14) (Samba 1,2,11,5,7,9,14,10) (Red Curry/Green Curry/Masaman)

5
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MALAYSIA BOX 1,3,4,5,6,11 €14.95

Egg Noodle & Vegetable, Chicken stir fried in a fragrant hot Malaysia satay paste
(Contains egg, peanut sauce, soy sauce wheat flour shrimp paste)

YAKI SOBA 3,5,11,14

Choice of: Chicken €13.95 King Prawn 2 €15.95
Tofu & Vegetable 1 €12.95
(Soba Noodles with Beansprouts, Pepper, Onion, Spring Onion, Carrot and Soba Sauce, Garnished with Shallots, Ginger & Sesame Seeds)

House Special Dishes 2

(Chicken, Beef, Pork, King Prawn, Mixed Meat)

17. House Special with Honey & Black Pepper Sauce 14 €13.95
18. House Special with King Do Sauce 5 €13.95
19. House Special with Black Bean Sauce €13.95
20. House Special with Satay Sauce 1,5,6 €13.9
21. House Special with Ginger & Scallions €13.95
22. House Special with Szechuan Sauce €13.95
23. House Special Kung Po with Cashew Nuts 6 €14.45
24. House Special with Hot Garlic Sauce €13.95
25. House Special Chop Suey in Oyster Sauce 5,6 €13.95
26. House Special Cashew nuts in Oyster Sauce 5,6 €14.95
27. House Special with Black Pepper Sauce €13.95
28. House Special with Macau Curry Sauce 5,9 €13.95

Chicken Dishes

100% Fresh Chicken Fillet

29. Chicken with Satay Sauce 1,5,6 €12.95
30. Chicken with Mushroom in Oyster Sauce 5,14 €12.95
31. Chicken with Chop Suey in Oyster Sauce 5,14 Lrg €13.95
32. Chicken with Cashew Nuts in Oyster Sauce 5,14 €13.95
33. Chicken with Lemon Sauce 10 €12.95
34. Chicken with Orange Sauce 10 €12.95
35. Chicken with King Do Sauce 5 €12.95
36. Chicken with Szechuan Sauce 1 €12.95
37. Chicken Kung Po Sauce with Cashew Nuts 6 €13.45
38. Chicken with Ginger & Scallions 14 €12.95
39. Chicken with Hot Garlic Sauce €12.95
40. Chicken with Black Pepper Sauce 14 €12.95
41. Chicken with Broccoli in Oyster Sauce 5 €12.95
42. Chicken with Honey & Black Pepper Sauce €12.95
43. Chicken Green Pepper Black Bean Sauce €12.95
44. Chicken Mushroom Black Bean Sauce €12.95
45. Chicken with Macau Curry Sauce 5 €12.95
46. Mexico Chicken Contains Flour Soybean 1,5 €12.95
47. Chicken Pineapple €12.95

Bean 1,9,5,14,7) (Satay 4,5,9,1,2,11) (King Do 5,1,8,11) (Szechuan 1,5,7,9)
Hot Chili 1,5,8,11) (Kung Po 1,5,8,11,4) (Hot Garlic 1,5,7,9) (Plum Sauce 5)
n 2,11) (Ren Dang 1,9) (Garlic Mayo 3,12) (Chilli Oil 1,5,7)

Beef Dishes



(Fillet Beef with €5.90 Supplement)

48. Beef with King Do Sauce 5 €13.95
49. Beef with Mushroom in Oyster Sauce 5 €13.95
50. Beef with Satay Sauce €13.95
51. Beef with Chop Suey in Oyster Sauce 5 Lrg €13.95
52. Beef with Cashew nuts in Oyster Sauce 5 €14.95
53. Beef with Ginger & Scallions 5 €13.95
54. Beef with Szechuan Sauce €13.95
55. Beef with Kung Po Sauce with Cashew Nuts 6 €14.95
56. Beef with Hot Garlic Sauce 1,5 €13.95
57. Beef with Black Pepper Sauce €13.95
58. Beef with Broccoli in Oyster Sauce 5 €13.95
59. Beef with Honey & Black Pepper Sauce €13.95
60. Beef with Green Pepper Black Bean Sauce €13.95
61. Beef with Mushroom Black Bean Sauce €13.95
62. Beef Pineapple €13.95

Roast Pork Dishes (100% Irish Pork)

63. Roast Pork with Mushroom in Oyster Sauce 5 €12.95
64. Roast Pork with Satay Sauce 6 €12.95
65. Roast Pork with Chop Suey in Oyster Sauce 5 €12.95
66. Roast Pork with Cashew Nuts in Oyster Sauce 5 €13.50
67. Roast Pork with Ginger & Scallions 5 €12.95
68. Roast Pork with Szechuan Sauce 1,5 €12.95
69. Roast Pork Kung Po Sauce with Cashew Nuts 6 €13.95
70. Roast Pork with Hot Garlic Sauce 1,5 €12.95
71. Roast Pork with Black Pepper Sauce 5 €12.95
72. Roast Pork with Broccoli in Oyster Sauce 5 €12.95
73. Roast Pork Green Pepper Black Bean Sauce 5 €12.95
74. Roast Pork Mushroom Black Bean Sauce 5 €12.95

Roast Duck Dishes (Half of Duck)

75. Roast Duck Cantonese Style Soya Sauce on side €15.95
76. Roast Duck with Satay Sauce 1,5,6 €15.95
77. Roast Duck with Chop Suey in Oyster Sauce 5 €15.95
78. Roast Duck with Cashew Nuts in Oyster Sauce 5 €16.95
79. Roast Duck with Ginger & Scallions 5 €15.95
80. Roast Duck with Szechuan Sauce 1,5 €15.95
81. Roast Duck Kung Po Sauce with Cashew Nuts 6 €16.45
82. Roast Duck with Plum Sauce €15.95
83. Roast Duck with Lemon Sauce €15.95
84. Roast Duck with Orange Sauce €15.95
85. Roast Duck Green Pepper Black Bean Sauce 5 €15.95
86. Roast Duck Mushroom Black Bean Sauce 5 €15.95
87. Glazed Duck €16.45

Roast Duck with Green Veg and Honey Cashewnuts

Seafood Dishes 2,5

88. Mixed Seafood with Ginger & Spring Onions (King Prawn, Squid, Mussels) 2,5 €14.95
89. King Prawn with Satay Sauce 1,5,6 €14.95
90. King Prawn Chop Suey in Oyster Sauce 5 €14.95
91. King Prawn Cashew Nuts in Oyster Sauce 5,6 €15.45
92. King Prawn with Ginger & Scallions 5 €14.95
93. King Prawn with Szechuan Sauce 1,5 €14.95
94. King Prawn Kung Po Sauce with Cashew Nuts 6 €15.45
95. King Prawn with Hot Garlic Sauce 1,5 €14.95
96. King Prawn with Black Pepper Sauce 5 €14.95
97. King Prawn Green Pepper Black Bean Sauce 5 €14.95
98. King Prawn Mushroom Black Bean Sauce 5 €14.95
99. Squid with Salt & Chilli €14.95
100. Squid with Ginger & Scallions 5 €14.95
101. King Prawn with Salt & Chilli €14.95
- 101a. Salt & Chilli Crab Claws €14.95



Vegetarian Dishes

102. Hot & Spicy ToFu V 1,5	€11.95
103. Szechuan Style ToFu V 1,5	€11.95
104. Salt & Chilli ToFu (Long Tray) V	€11.95
105. Mixed Vegetables with Choice of Sauce V (Curry, Black Bean, Black Pepper, Cashew Nuts, Satay, King Do, Szechuan etc)	€11.95

Fried Rice Dishes

106. House Special Fried Rice 2	€13.95
107. King Prawn Fried Rice 2	€14.95
108. Chicken Fried Rice	€12.95
109. Pork Fried Rice	€12.95
110. Beef Fried Rice	€13.95
111. Vegetables Fried Rice V	€11.95
112. Yung Chow Fried Rice	€13.95
113. Singapore Fried Rice 1,3,4,5	€14.95
114. Nasi Goring Chicken Fried Rice 1,3,4,5	€14.95
115. Samba! Chicken Fried Rice 1,3,4,5	€14.95
115A. Roast Duck Fried Rice 1,3,4,5	€15.95

(113-115 Contains peanut sauce, soy sauce wheat flour shrimp paste)

European Dishes

116. Roast Breast of Chicken with Onion & Mushroom	€14.95
117. Special Omelette or Foo Young 2,3	€14.95
118. King Prawn Omelette or Foo Young 2,3	€15.95
119. Chicken Omelette or Foo Young 3	€13.95
120. Mushroom Omelette or Foo Young V 3	€12.95
121. Fish & Chips Box 2	€12.95

Extra Dishes (Change sauce €1.50 extra)

Salt & Chilli Chicken Balls 1,3,5,8,9	(6) €9.95 (8) €12.95
Salt & Chilli Chips in Long Tray	€6.85
Chicken Balls (3)+Chips & Curry Sauce (in Long Tray) 1,3,5,8,9	€9.85
Sausages (3), Chips & Curry Sauce (in Long Tray) 5,10,12	€8.85
Shredded Crispy Chicken+Chips & Curry Sauce 1,3,5,7,9	€8.85
5 in 1 (Shredded Chicken, Chicken Ball (2), 1,3,5,7,8,9	€10.85
Curry Sauce, Fried Rice & Chips)	
4 in 1 (Chicken Balls (2)+Chips+Fried Rice & Curry Sauce) 1,3,5,7,8,9	€8.85
3 in 1 (Fried Rice+Chips+Curry Sauce) 3,5,9	Small €5.85 Large €6.85
Chicken/Beef Curry with Fried Rice 1,3,5,7,9	Small €7.85 Large €9.95
2 in 1 (Chips with Curry Sauce) 5,9	Small €4.85 Large €6.85
French Fried Onion Rings 1,3,5,7	Small (4) €4.85 Large (8) €7.95
Fried Plain Onion 1,5,7,14	€7.95
Fried Soft Noodles 1,5,7	Small €6.90 Large €8.95
Egg Fried Rice 1,3,7	Small €4.95 Large €6.25
Boiled Rice	Small €3.80 Large €4.95
Chips	Small €4.85 Large €6.35
Sauce Options	8oz €3.65 12oz €5.25
Curry/Sweet And Sour/Bbq/Satay/Szechuan/Black Bean/ Black Pepper/King Do/Sweet Chilli/Kung Po/ Hot Garlic/ Plum Sauce/Macau Curry/Oyster Sauce/Samba Sauce/ Red Curry/ Green Curry/Masaman/Ren Dang	
Sauce Options	4oz €3.00 8oz €5.70
Garlic Mayo/Honey Sauce/Chilli Oil/Soy Sauce/Hai Sin Sauce	
Chicken Balls (8) 1,3,5,8,9	€11.55
Chicken Balls (6) 1,3,5,8,9	€8.65
Chicken Balls (4) 1,3,5,8,9	€6.90
Chicken Balls (3) 1,3,5,8,9	€5.40
Chicken Nuggets (12) with Curry Sauce 5,9	€7.95
Chicken Tenders (6) with Curry Sauce 5,9	€8.95
Sausage (each) 5,10,12	Plain €1.65 in Batter €2.95
Beansprouts	€7.95
Mixed Vegetables	€9.95
Mushrooms	€8.95
Cashew Nuts (8oz)	€5.50
Prawn Crackers	€3.50
Sushi Ginger (4oz)	€2.50
Soft Drinks (Coke, Coke Zero, 7up, Diet Coke, Orange) Can	€2.00
Large Bottle	€5.50
Water (500ml)	€1.85

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For 2 People €41.00

House Combination for 2

- Beef with Black Bean Sauce
- Chicken Curry
- Egg Fried Rice
- 2 Cans of Coke

SAVE
€11.40

For 3 People €61.50

House Combination for 3

- Beef with Black Bean Sauce
- Chicken Curry
- Sweet & Sour Chicken (Hong Kong Style)
- Egg Fried Rice
- Bottle of Coke

SAVE
€12.90

For 4 People €82.45

House Combination for 4

- Beef with Black Bean Sauce
- Chicken Curry
- Roast Duck Cantonese style
- Sweet & Sour Chicken (Hong Kong Style)
- Egg Fried Rice
- Bottle of Coke

SAVE
€16.37

Happy Kid €9.95

- Popcorn Chicken
- Sausages (2)
- Chips
- Honey Dip
- Can of Fizz Drink
- Tayto Crisps or Haribo



Snack Box €9.50

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The 12 Crimes of Christmas

Ireland's Worst Unwanted Presents



Every Christmas morning across Ireland, living rooms glow with fairy lights, scented candles, and the faint, unmistakable whiff of disappointment. It's not that we're ungrateful—sure didn't our mummies raise us right?—but the nation has collectively suffered enough terrible Christmas presents to fill an entire warehouse in Longford.

Here are the worst offenders—those gifts that make you stare into the middle distance and question your life choices while muttering, “Ah... you shouldn't have. No really. You shouldn't have.”

1. The Infamous Lynx Africa Gift Set

The undisputed heavyweight champion of unwanted Irish gifts.

Scientifically proven to be bought by uncles who remembered at 10pm on Christmas Eve.

It says: “I saw this beside the till.”

2. Socks – But Not the Good Kind

Irish people actually love socks now—premium, thick, fluffy, alpaca wools...

But no. These ones are:

- thin as a communion wafer
- covered in Santa's face
- guaranteed to bobble by St. Stephen's Day

They are a cry for help wrapped in festive paper.

3. The Emergency Hamper from the Petrol Station

Contains:

- dusty chocolates
- crackers that taste like regret
- instant coffee sachets
- a wicker basket so small a leprechaun couldn't picnic in it

Always wrapped in cellophane that could withstand a hurricane.

4. The Calendar of Somewhere You've Never Been

“Ah, Sean likes boats... doesn't he? Or was it birds? Or beef farming?”

Cue a 12-month journey through the scenic tractor pulls of County Monaghan. Lovely, but no.

5. Novelty Underpants

Guaranteed to surface at least once in every Irish household.

If you haven't unwrapped underpants shaped like a reindeer, you're either lying or under 12.

6. A Random Kitchen Gadget You'll Never Use

Electric egg scramblers.

Mini waffle makers.

Banana slicers.

Ireland is full of presses containing €12 gadgets still in their original boxes, waiting to be re-gifted in 2043.

7. The Gift Voucher... For the Wrong Shop

Someone gives you:

- a voucher for a shop that closed down in 2018
- a spa in Leitrim (very relaxing, but you live in Dingle)
- €15 for Argos... may it rest in peace

It's the thought that counts, apparently.

8. Perfume That Smells Like the Back of a Charity Shop

Imported from a stall, labelled something like “Moon Essence No. 9”.

One spritz and you're transported to a carpeted hallway from 1976.

9. The Unwanted Book

Usually, a celebrity autobiography from someone you've never heard of.

Or worse—“1001 Garden Sheds of Europe.”

Thanks. Truly.

10. Random Tech from a Middle Aisle

A “smart” torch.

A tablet with 2GB of storage.

Bluetooth gloves that only work inside a 3-foot radius.

We all appreciate Aldi and Lidl—but sometimes those gifts were definitely a bet.

11. The Homemade Voucher Book

You know the one.

“1 FREE HUG.”

“1 Breakfast in Bed.”

“1 Hour of Chores.”

They never get redeemed, and everyone knows it. A sentimental scam.

12. The Re-Gifted Present with the Original Tag Still On

A Christmas classic.

Telltale signs include:

- mismatched wrapping paper
 - faint smell of attic
 - the name “To Mary” in biro poorly scribbled out
- Truly, a festive tradition.

Why We Secretly Love These Disasters

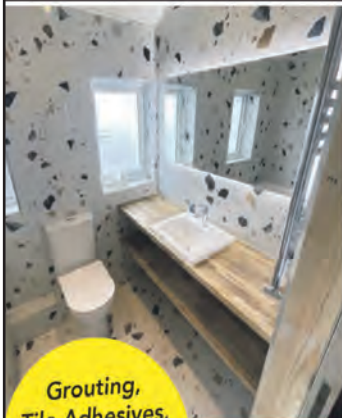
Despite the cringe factor, the oddity, the pure randomness—these gifts remind us of something very Irish: we don't take Christmas too seriously. We laugh, we slag, we pretend the Lynx Africa is exactly what we needed, and we go make the tea.

Because in Ireland, the worst presents usually lead to the best stories, and sure, isn't that what Christmas is all about?



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The Magic, the Madness, and the Little Traditions That Still Matter

There's something unmistakable about Christmas Eve in Ireland — that electric mix of excitement, nostalgia, and mild chaos that hangs in the air like the smell of cloves and turf smoke.

It's the one day of the year when the whole country seems to exhale — and then immediately panic about whether the wrapping paper will last another present.

The Great Clean-Up and Calm Before the Craic

It starts early. The house must be spotless — not for visitors, but for Santa himself.

Floors are mopped, fireplaces tidied, and suddenly everyone becomes deeply concerned about crumbs on the good tablecloth. As one Donegal mammy once put it:

"If the Baby Jesus popped in, I wouldn't want him tripping over your football boots."

By late afternoon, the candles are in the windows, flickering gently to welcome travellers — a centuries-old tradition symbolising warmth, safety, and home.

Even the busiest homes fall quiet for a moment as that soft glow fills the windowsills across Ireland.

The Pub That Time Forgot

And then, of course, there's the Christmas Eve pint.

Every town and village pub transforms into a reunion hall — classmates, cousins, neighbours you haven't seen since the last time someone said "sure we must meet up soon."

It's the unofficial social event of the year, full of hugs, stories, and that one fella who swore he'd only stay for "the one."

But even as the last bell rings, there's a tenderness to it — everyone heading home under fairy-lit streets, ready for the calm that comes after the craic.

For Santa — and the Cows

Back home, the rituals continue. Out comes the mince

pie, the glass of milk (or something stronger), and the carrot for Rudolph.

In some homes, a slice of Christmas cake still goes by the door "for the poor traveller" — an old custom of Irish hospitality.

In rural areas, a candle might still be lit for the Holy Family, or for those far away. Many families keep that light burning all night long — a quiet nod to welcome, hope, and remembrance.

The Midnight Magic

Mass or no Mass, Christmas Eve still feels sacred.

There's that final check on the presents, the whispers from bedrooms, the rustle of wrapping paper downstairs.

The kettle goes on (or the Baileys comes out), and for a moment, everything feels right with the world.

Because Christmas Eve in Ireland isn't really about the gifts or the grand gestures.

It's about the hush before the morning, the soft glow of candles, and that familiar warmth that says you're home.

Little Traditions That Still Make It Irish

1. The Candle in the Window:

A flame to guide loved ones home — or, in older times, the Holy Family.

2. Midnight Mass (or the 9pm One):

Still a highlight for many — carols, cold breath in the air, and the first real whiff of Christmas.

3. The Christmas Pyjamas:

It's not officially Christmas until everyone's in matching PJs pretending they weren't bought in Aldi.

4. Santa's Supper:

A glass of stout or whiskey for Santa, and a slightly chewed carrot left behind by "Rudolph."

5. The Late Late Christmas Tape:

An Irish classic — movies, music, or a family slideshow, complete with running commentary and half a tin of Roses.



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ON THE MENU

Why Food Price Inflation in Ireland Matters



In kitchens and supermarkets across the country, something's changing. emigration landmarks in Ireland.

The price tag on a carton of butter, a beef steak or a loaf of bread is increasingly prompting us to scratch our heads. For households mindful of budgets, lifestyles and local food culture, the subtle but steady shift in cost adds up—and fast.

In the Republic of Ireland, food and non-alcoholic beverages are now rising in price at one of the fastest rates of all spend-categories: behind only a handful of items in the Consumer Price Index. According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the 12-month increase in the “Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages” category stood at +5.1 % in August 2025. More recent data place food inflation at about 4.5 % year-on-year in October 2025.

So, what's behind this rise? How are households coping? And what does this mean for the everyday ritual of shopping, cooking and eating in Ireland? We explore the ingredients, the impacts, and how you might season your strategy.

1. Ingredients in the Inflation Mix

Several forces combine to push up the cost of food. Understanding these helps to make sense of what seems at first glance like “inflation out of nowhere”.

Supply-chain pressures

Beef and dairy—signature Irish industries—have seen major input cost shifts. Elevated animal feed prices, fertiliser costs, energy expenditures and labour costs all ripple through to end-products. For example, the CSO noted significant price rises in butter and beef & veal as contributing to the food inflation number.

Global commodity & import effects

Though domestic production matters, many food prices reflect global markets. For instance, shortages or demand surges abroad can tighten supply and raise cost domestically. One academic paper found that in many countries food inflation shows only partial pass-

through from global commodity changes—but still some.

Retail structure and competition

A long-term analysis by the Department of Enterprise noted that in prior decades Ireland's food inflation diverged widely from the UK and EU averages, suggesting structural issues in the grocery sector (e.g., concentration, competition, pricing rules).

Consumer behaviour, shrinking packs & quality shifts

In some cases, rather than substituting brand to cheaper, we're also seeing “shrinkflation”—where pack sizes reduce but price may stay the same—or shifts in the product mix (premium vs basic). While less well quantifiable, it adds to the sense of pressure. As one Reddit user put it:

“For me, it's the price has gone up AND the quantity has gone down too. Things that used to be 500 g now being 450 g, but the price has crept up too.”

2. The Lifestyle Impact — More Than Just Higher Prices

Dinner table choices

As staples rise in cost, households often adapt. It might mean fewer nights out, choosing cheaper cuts of meat, switching to own-brand alternatives, or cooking more from scratch. For someone designing meals around local Irish produce, the challenge is balancing cost with quality and taste.

Budget strain & knock-on costs

When food spends take a larger slice of a fixed budget, other lifestyle choices may be squeezed. Holidays, entertainment, upgrading kitchen appliances or investing in home gardens may get pushed back. That's significant for someone who, like you, is engaged in creative design/visual projects and lifestyle experiences: cost pressures may reduce discretionary spend or prompt a rethink of priorities.

Local producers & national pride

Ireland prides itself on quality food—grass-fed beef, artisan cheeses, Irish dairy heritage. Rising input costs for farmers and processors may bite into margins or get passed on. But consumers who wish to maintain local sourcing may face higher bills. Balancing “buy Irish” with “stay within budget” becomes more tricky.

Design, dining and home entertaining

For lifestyle magazine readers, entertaining at home is a big part of the narrative: dinner parties, cosy meals, local food features. When ingredients cost more, hosts may choose fewer courses, simpler dishes or reuse leftovers more frequently. The aesthetic of food and design meets the reality of budget.

3. Data Snapshot

Metric	Value	Notes
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages inflation (Aug 2025)	+5.1 %	Highest level since Dec 2023.

Metric	Value	Notes
Food inflation (Harmonised rate, Sept 2025)	~ +4.4 %	Compared to ~2.3% a year earlier.
Food/Non-Alcoholic Beverages inflation (Oct 2025)	~4.5 %	According to TradingEconomics for Ireland.

4. Coping Strategies — For Households and Lifestyle-Minded Consumers

Since you’re someone who values creative design, local culture and lifestyle nuance, here are tailored approaches:

- Own-brand and value lines: Switching more to own-brand items frees up budget for the occasional premium ingredient (e.g., Irish grass-fed beef when you’re designing an elevated dinner).
- Seasonal & local sourcing: Use seasonal Irish produce more heavily (root vegetables, cabbage, potatoes, local eggs) which tend to be less volatile than high input imported goods.
- Batch cooking and multi-use ingredients: A designed dinner may feed two meals (or three). Reuse leftovers creatively. Visualise your kitchen pantry as bursting with multi-purpose ingredients.
- Smaller plates, frequent resets: Styling the home or entertaining? Consider fewer courses but strong presentation—quality over quantity.
- Shopping timing and unit price awareness: Buy when specials occur, but pay attention to unit pricing (e.g., cost per 100 g regardless of packaging).
- Supporting local—but mind price: When you choose artisan/local foods for your lifestyle angle (farmers markets, local cheese, craft breads), consider budgeting more for these “treat” items, and balance with economical basics for other meals.
- Design kitchens for value: Since you do home design work—pantries, units, lighting—consider designing kitchen spaces that emphasise smart storage and usage of more affordable ingredients (e.g., large-capacity freezer, dry goods shelving) so you’re prepared to buy value when you see it.



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Why Ireland Is Debating One of Europe's Most Contested Ethical Laws

Ireland has always punched above its weight on matters of conscience. From anti-apartheid activism to global disarmament, the country has long seen itself as a moral voice in international affairs. Now, that reputation is being tested again in a debate that blends politics, ethics, trade, and Ireland's self-image: the Occupied Territories Bill.

Although first introduced in 2018 by Independent Senator Frances Black, the bill is back in public conversation as renewed debate over Gaza, Israeli settlements, and international law dominates global headlines. For many, the Occupied Territories Bill is more than a trade measure—it's a reflection of what kind of nation Ireland wants to be.

What the Bill Actually Does

At its core, the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill would make it an offence for Irish citizens and companies to import goods or services originating from territories deemed illegally occupied under international law.

In practice, this would currently apply to products from Israeli settlements in the West Bank, which the UN considers illegal.

The bill does not target Israel as a whole—only settlement goods.

If passed, the bill would:

- Ban the sale of goods produced in illegal settlements
- Ban Irish citizens and companies from providing or purchasing services connected to those settlements
- Introduce fines or prison terms for deliberate breaches

It would make Ireland the first EU country to enforce such a ban.

Why It's Back on the Agenda

The resurgence of violence in Gaza and the West Bank, combined with growing Irish public solidarity with Palestine, has pushed the bill back into national conversation.

Supporters argue it is a humane, principled response to what major human-rights organisations—including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the UN—describe as

serious breaches of international law.

Critics counter that the bill risks undermining Ireland's diplomatic role in the Middle East, threatens EU trade rules, and could invite retaliation from Israel or even the United States.

And so, the bill sits in a political limbo: popular with the public yet held back by legal concerns.

Supporters Say: "Ireland Should Stand for Something"

The bill has broad support across civil society, NGOs, trade unions, and—uniquely—cross-party political enthusiasm.

The arguments in favour include:

1. A Consistent Ethical Foreign Policy

Ireland already bans products from Crimea (annexed by Russia). Supporters say consistency demands similar action on other illegal occupations.

2. A Peaceful, Non-violent Form of Pressure

The bill doesn't target Israel itself, only settlements. This distinction is key: the intention is to oppose occupation, not a nation.

3. Strong Public Support

Polls over the past decade consistently show overwhelming Irish backing for Palestinian rights. Many view the bill as an expression of Ireland's anti-colonial identity.

4. A Signal to the EU

Proponents argue that Ireland can lead the way, pushing Brussels toward a firmer stance on international law.

Opponents Say: "Ireland Could Become Exposed"

Government legal advice—across multiple administrations—has warned that the bill could conflict with EU trade rules.

Their concerns include:

1. It May Breach EU Competence

Trade policy is controlled at EU level. If Ireland attempts unilateral sanctions, the EU could challenge it.

2. Diplomatic Fallout

Israel has strongly opposed the bill, calling it discriminatory. Some worry it could damage Ireland-Israel relations or complicate

the peace-process role Ireland often plays at the UN.

3. Impact on Irish Companies

Large multinational firms operating in Ireland—particularly tech companies with US ties—may dislike additional regulatory complications involving politically sensitive regions.

4. Could Be Symbolic Rather Than Practical

Settlement goods represent a tiny fraction of imports. Opponents argue that the bill risks major political consequences with limited material effect.

Why the Issue Resonates So Deeply in Ireland

Ireland’s relationship with Palestine is not new. From murals in Belfast to student movements and charity campaigns, the cause has been woven into Irish political identity for decades.

Three factors drive this:

1. Ireland’s Own History

A country shaped by colonialism, dispossession, and forced migration often feels instinctive solidarity with communities experiencing similar struggles.

2. Ireland’s Internationalist Tradition

Neutrality, UN peacekeeping, and humanitarian diplomacy have become pillars of Irish foreign policy.

3. Community Engagement

Local councils—from Dublin to Derry—have passed resolutions supporting the bill or calling for bans on settlement products. Few international issues generate this level of grassroots interest.

Where Does the Bill Stand Now?

The bill successfully passed multiple stages in both the Seanad and Dáil with broad political support—but the Government has repeatedly paused it due to concerns about EU law.

It is not dead. It remains legally drafted, politically alive, and socially popular.

A future government could revive it at any moment.

What Happens Next?

Much depends on:

- EU legal decisions (several cases on settlement goods are still moving through the European Court of Justice)
 - Irish political shifts, especially after the next election
 - International developments, particularly in Israel–Palestine
- If the EU signals more flexibility, the bill could advance rapidly. If the situation in the Middle East deteriorates further, political pressure could force the Irish Government to bring it forward regardless.

Why This Debate Matters Beyond Foreign Policy

The Occupied Territories Bill is not just about imports or international law.

It raises bigger questions:

- What does it mean to be a small country with a strong moral voice?
- Should Ireland take the lead on human-rights issues even when it risks diplomatic friction?
- How should a modern state balance ethics with trade, law, and political pragmatism?

In a world increasingly shaped by conflict, supply chains, and geopolitical complexity, the bill sits at the crossroads of ethics and economics.

Whether it becomes law or not, its impact is already felt—forcing Ireland to confront its identity, its history, and its place on the global stage.



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What Happens When Everyone Buys an EV?

There was a time when the quietest thing on an Irish road was a tractor that had stalled.

Now, it's your neighbour's shiny new electric car, gliding silently past like a ghost in a puffer jacket.

The electric revolution has arrived — not with a bang, but a gentle hum. From Cork to Cavan, Irish drivers are plugging in, powering up, and praying the charger in Kinnegad isn't out of order again.

The Buzz of the New Normal

Five years ago, spotting an electric car in Ireland was like seeing a solar panel on a cow shed — rare, but intriguing.

Now they're everywhere: Teslas on the M50, Hyundais in housing estates, and a growing army of second-hand Leafs that have seen more charging cables than phone shops.

With government grants, cheaper running costs, and a growing eco-consciousness, Irish drivers are making the switch in droves. Even the sceptics have softened. As one taxi driver in Lucan put it:

"I used to say I'd never go electric — then I drove one. Now I'm giving out about petrol like I used to give out about the weather."

The Great Charging Chase

Of course, the road to sustainability isn't without its potholes — or queues.

EV owners have developed a sixth sense for spotting available chargers, often circling car parks like vultures

around a socket.

Charging anxiety is real. You can see it in the eyes of anyone scrolling the ESB app at midnight, hoping for a green icon near Portlaoise.

And while charging infrastructure is improving, some rural areas are still what drivers call "battery blackspots."

As one Sligo driver joked, "You don't need range anxiety if you've got Irish nerves. We're built for stress."

From Status Symbol to Standard

What began as a statement of eco virtue is fast becoming standard.

Neighbours who once rolled their eyes at "those silent cars" now have one on order. And while early adopters chased Tesla dreams, the real revolution is happening with practical models — the Konas, the Ionics, the E-2008s quietly transforming driveways across the country.

Even the conversation has changed. We've gone from talking mileage to talking "range." And instead of fuel prices, we're debating kilowatts over coffee.

There's even a new kind of small talk emerging:

"How long does yours take to charge?"

"Depends if I'm using the fast one at Lidl."

The Craic vs. the Current

But let's be honest — we're still Irish. We'll plug in the car, but we'll complain about the ESB app. We'll love the silence, then miss the roar. And we'll still argue about



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Electric cars have changed how we drive, but not who we are.

We're still the same people who name our cars, say "sure you're grand for another bit," and use the boot for a mix of hurleys, shopping bags, and a rogue hi-vis jacket.

The future may be electric — but it'll always have a bit of craic in it.

The Irish EV Starter Pack

1. The Free Lidl Charger Ritual:

You'll say it's not worth the queue. You'll queue anyway.

2. The "Nearly Home" Panic:

Every EV driver has prayed for an extra kilometre or two when the dashboard hits 2%.

3. The Range Brag:

"I got 440 kilometres on one charge." (You didn't, but it's grand.)

4. The WhatsApp Charger Map:

Local group chats swapping tips like it's a secret society.

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Selling or Letting
in 2026?



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