

Care for Our Common Home

In honour of the late Pope Francis and to mark the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*: *On Care for Our Common Home* – his encyclical on the environment – the St. John's Parish Council has decided to establish an Eco Committee in our parish. An enthusiastic leader has been found, and we now appeal for a few more interested people to help advance the project. Under the guidance of the new committee, we hope to take an eco-approach to worship, lifestyle, property and finance management, community outreach and contact with the developing world. Please contact Áine in the Parish Office (056 772 1072) if you would like to get involved.

Walk The Longest Day for Teac Tom

Every day can feel like the longest day for someone struggling with their mental health. On 21st June, gather your group, club, or workplace for a 30-minute walk to support Teac Tom. Every €10 donated goes to directly funding Teac Tom's vital mental health and suicide prevention services. To get your group involved, email events.teactom@gmail.com. Let's walk for hope - let's walk the longest day.

Teac Tom, part of the Thomas Hayes Trust, provides immediate, no-wait mental health support and suicide prevention services. From counselling to a 24-hour phone line. Call Teac Tom 24/7 on 056 779 6592.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. R95 ND2W

Email: stjohns@ossory.ie **Website:** www.stjohnskilkenny.com

Office: 056 772 1072; **Secretary:** Áine Butler; **Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 9.30 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline: Thursdays 12.00 noon

SVP Help Line: 086 895 1239

Monsignor Dan Carroll: 087 907 7769. Fr Raymond Dempsey: 089 497 1924.

Monsignor Michael Ryan (Retired)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Mary Brennan; Jo Browne; Alan Burke; Fr Dan Carroll; Claire Coogan;
Fr Raymond Dempsey; Luke Leydon; Paddy Manning; Iris O'Flynn; Karena Phelan.**

IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN CONTACT

The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Ms. Ailish Higgins, 085 802 1633 - dlp@ossory.ie

OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

Counselling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline

1800 313 316 - www.towardshealing.ie

Roman Catholic Diocese and Parishes of Ossory - Registered Charity No. 20015831

In Honour of Our Lady of Fatima

St. Scuthin's, Castlewarren, Co. Kilkenny every First Saturday from June to December 2025.

10.00am: Rosary and Confession

10.30am: Holy Mass

11.10am: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

11.50am: Benediction

All are welcome in the Hall from 12 midday for light refreshments.

National Franciscan Pilgrimage to Knock

Pilgrimage from Capuchin Friary, Kilkenny and Secular Franciscan Order on Sunday, 29th June 2025. Bus from The Closh, Gaol Road, Kilkenny. Cost: €35 per person.

To avoid disappointment please submit names and contact details and payment in full to The Friary Office, Capuchin Friary, Kilkenny.

St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth

This college has a range of postgraduate programmes for those interested in Theology, Philosophy, Youth Ministry and more. Visit their website for more details www.sppu.ie/ courses.

Freshford Bridge Club

Freshford Bridge Club will host Open Summer Bridge at Tulla Hall, Threecastles commencing on Monday, 9th June at 7.30pm. All bridge players are welcome.

Parish Of Saint John The Evangelist

incorporating | St John's | Dunmore | Johnswell | church areas

MASS TIMES

St John's – Saturday: 6.00pm (Vigil); **Sunday:** 8.00am, 11.30am & 7.00pm.

Holy Days: 6.00pm (Vigil); 8.00am, 10.30am & 7.00pm.

Weekdays: 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only). **Adoration:** Wednesdays at 11.00am.

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

**St. John's Parish, St. Mary's Parish, St. Patrick's Parish, St. Canice's Parish
together form the Kilkenny City Pastoral Area**

Pentecost Sunday - 8th June 2025

Feast of Pentecost in the Jubilee Year of Hope

The Power of the Holy Spirit working in us is powerful and gentle. The wind and the fire do not destroy or reduce to ashes whatever they touch: one fills the house where the disciples are, and the other rests gently, in the forms of flames, on the head of each. The Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and remained at their side, transforming their hearts instilling in them 'a serene courage which impelled them to pass on to others their experience of Jesus and the hope which motivates them' (Pope John Paul II).

All of us need hope. Hope is not optimism; no, it is something else. Look at the image of the boat for the Jubilee Year on the banner in our church. Hope is depicted as an anchor, there at the shore, and in clinging to its rope, we move towards hope. The path of life is not always easy, rather it can be a path that is winding and uphill. Yet we know that we are not alone. We have the certainty that, by the help of the Holy Spirit and by his gifts, we can walk together and make the path more and more inviting for others as well.

Prayer and Fasting for Peace

Irish Bishops offered prayers for peace in the Holy Land, for Ukraine, Sudan and in other troubled parts of the world at their recent meeting in Maynooth. In particular, bishops discussed the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, stating: "From all over Ireland, parishioners are reporting their horror and helplessness on seeing images of death and communal destruction in Gaza. Exhausted mothers can no longer nourish their young, children are dying of malnutrition, while aid lorries full of supplies are being refused entry into the territory.

"We in Ireland must pray for a change of heart. Throughout the month of June – the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – we call on everyone to pray for an outpouring of the compassion of God on a heartless world. "To see the relentless bombardment of civilian areas, the deliberate withholding of food from the starving, as well as the callous holding of hostages, it appears that humanity has lost its heart. In the face of these horrors, we invite everyone to turn to the heart of Jesus throughout the month of June by praying for the renewal of heart that our world so desperately needs.

"We echo Pope Leo XIV's recent appeal to allow into Gaza 'the entry of dignified humanitarian aid and to put an end to the hostilities, whose heartbreaking price is paid by the children, elderly, and the sick.'"

Peter's Pence Collection

The annual Peter's Pence Collection for the Pope's charities will replace the second collection on next weekend. Please support the Church's work among the poor of the world.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Kitty Kearney, De la Salle Place
May Bradley, Donegal
Charlie Shore, Circular Road
Ann & Derek Barry, St Patrick's Close.

Eddie Doyle, England
Marguerita O'Flynn, Cashel Downs
Joan Barry, St Patrick's Close.
Patrick O'Neill, Sheastown

Anniversaries: Loughlin O'Keeffe, Veronica Shortall (6.00pm); Mary Brennan, Mary Grogan (8.00am) Philip Comerford, Edward Delaney (11.00am); Matthew Redmond (11.30am); Mattie Byrne (7.00pm); James Hayes; Thomas Drennan; John Nolan; Declan Ahearn; Margaret, John & Michael O'Dwyer; Jake Brennan; Denis Brennan; Eugene Tyrrell; Margaret Peg Neary; Nora Barcoe; Margaret & Abraham Anderson; James & Catherine McGuinness; Rose Ryan; Eugene Jordan & Jordan Family; Philip & Margaret Walsh; James & Mary Anne O'Neill.

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Claire Coogan
8.00am Jo Browne
10.00am Seán Colgan
11.00am Martina Brennan & Tom Keating
11.30am Mary Hanafin & Mary Lynch
7.00pm Joan Scott



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€2,035.00
<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Baskets</u>
6.00pm St. John's	132	262.00
8.00am St. John's	89	435.00
10.00am Johnswell	45	169.00
11.00am Dunmore	59	161.00
11.30am St. John's	210	575.00
7.00pm St. John's	79	292.00
	614	€1,894.00

Society of St Vincent De Paul Collection

The Monthly Collection for the local conference of the Society will take place 21st & 22nd June.

Medjugorje - Evening Prayer

Rosary, Mass, Adoration, Prayer for Healing will take place in St Fiacre's Church, Loughboy on Monday 9th June at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Candle for Exam Students

A candle continues to burn in St John's Church for all those students who are sitting exams at the moment. As promised, we continue to keep our students in our prayers and Masses over the coming weeks. Why not drop into St John's Church at any time during the day? We invite you to come and light your own candle and pray for your special intentions.

Come on the Cats!

Best wishes to the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team and Management who are taking on Galway in the Leinster Senior Hurling Final this Sunday in Croke Park. Special best wishes to our parishioners on the panel.

Exam Prayer

Lord, I know you are with me and love me.
Give me peace of mind as I prepare for this time of study.
Help me focus on my books and notes.
Keep me from all distractions so that I will make the best use of this time that is available to me.
Give me insight that I might understand what I am studying, and help me to remember it when the time comes.
Above all, I thank you for the ability to be able to study and for the many gifts and talents you have given me.
Help me always to use them in such a way that they honour you and do justice to myself.
Amen.

Dates for Your Diary

St. Kieran's Cemetery Mass

Friday, 27th June @ 7.30pm

Dunmore and Johnswell Cemetery Masses

Friday, 4th July @ 7.30pm

Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

Thursday, 21st August. Fare: €25.
Booking at the Parish Office

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning - 9th June

Monday:	10.30am	James Hayes
Wednesday:	8.00am	Thomas Drennan
Thursday:	10.30am	John Nolan & Declan Ahearn
Friday:	10.30am	Margaret, John & Michael O'Dwyer
Saturday:	10.30am	Jake Brennan
	6.00pm	MM Kathleen Price
		Nicky & Daisy Purcell
		Margaret & Pat Shortt
Sunday:	11.00am	Joan Costigan
	11.30am	Michael Brett
		Patricia Cass
		Aileen Moran
	7.00pm	Richard Bergin

Please note we may transfer an anniversary Mass on the occasion of a funeral.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Parish Webcam

Masses and Services in St. John's Church are broadcast on stjohnskilkenny.com and on 106.8FM. Inform those who are unable to attend.

Weekdays

8.00am and 10.30am.

Saturdays

10.30am and 6.00pm.

Sundays

8.00am, 11.30am 7.00pm.

Holy Days

6.00pm (Eve) 8.00am, 10.30am 7.00pm

Looking for meaning in life? Turn to God

During his weekly General Audience, Pope Leo XIV reminded the faithful that God waits for us with open arms, no matter how late we are in responding to His call and also reminds young people that if they are seeking meaning in Life, God will offer it to them and never disappoint. "God never gives up on us; he is always ready to accept us and give meaning and hope to our lives, however hopeless our situation may seem and however insignificant our merits may appear." Pope Leo XIV gave this comforting reminder during his weekly Wednesday General Audience. God, Pope Leo went on to marvel, wants to give everyone His Kingdom, with "a life that is full, eternal, and joyful..." "Be careful not to deprive yourself, through your delay, of what He will give you according to His promise."

Before concluding, Pope Leo said he wished to say something to the faithful, and especially the young people. "Don't wait but respond with enthusiasm to the Lord who calls us to work in His vineyard," he underscored, adding, "Don't postpone – roll up your sleeves, because the Lord is generous and you won't be disappointed!"

By working in God's "vineyard," Pope Leo XIV underscored, "you will find an answer to that deep question you carry within you: what is the meaning of my life?" Therefore, the Pope stressed, "let's not be discouraged! Even in the dark moments of life, when time passes without giving us the answers we seek, let us ask the Lord to come out again and find us where we are waiting for Him," for "He is generous, and He will come soon!"

The Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle traces its roots to early Christian practices, emerging as a prominent symbol by the 4th century. The candle represents Jesus as the light of the world, a theme drawn from St. John's Gospel 8:12. The lighting of the Paschal Candle occurs during the Easter Vigil. The ceremony begins in darkness, symbolizing the world before Christ's resurrection. The Easter Fire is blessed and the candle lit from it. The candle is carried into the darkened church and the priest proclaims "The Light of Christ" three times. Parishioners light their own candles from its flame, spreading light throughout the space. This act recalls the resurrection breaking the darkness of sin and death. The candle is then placed in a prominent stand beside the Ambo, where it remains for the Easter season. After the season of Easter, the candle is placed at the baptismal font and is stood by the coffin during the celebration of a funeral linking our celebrations to the Resurrection and our Easter faith.