

The Kilkenny Choir

A Coral Christmas Concert presented by The Kilkenny Choir will take place on this Sunday, 14th December at 4.30pm in St John's Church. Conductor – Patrick Rafter, Deirdre Higgins soprano, Sharon Carty mezzo, Gemma Ni Bhrian mezzo, Rory Lynch tenor, Gyula Nagy baritone, Simon Harden organist. Tickets €20 on Eventbrite or at www.thekilkennychoir.com.

Baptismal Teams, Understanding the Sacrament of Baptism

The final night of the course is specifically for those who will serve on Baptismal Teams but is open to all who may be interested in deepening their knowledge of the Sacrament of Baptism. Rev. Dr. Dermot Ryan – *How to Make These Celebrations Fruitful*. Tuesday, 16th December at 7.30pm St Kieran's College.

Tweet for Each Day

Thoughts, reflections, prayer and ideas - why not take a few moments each day during Advent to pause in prayer. Follow us on Twitter @ossorydiocese.

Medjugorje Evening of Prayer

Rosary – Mass – Adoration. Prayer for Healing at St Fiacre's Church, Loughboy on Monday, 15th December at 7.30pm. Please note the date change. All are welcome.

Songs for Christmas

Cantabile LK presents Songs for Christmas in aid of Gaza and Cois Nore featuring Cantabile LK Choir. Conductor Jacinta Cantwell, Loreto Secondary School 6th Year Choir, Soloists, Accompanists Martin O'Reilly and Mary Butler at the Capuchin Friary at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 16th December. No admission fee, collection during the concert.

Christmas Poem

If Christmas is hard,
If you have lost someone dear.
Just look in your heart,
And you'll know they're still here.

The star in the sky,
The light falling snow.
The robin outside,
It seems like they know.

If this is a time,
When you're struggling through.
Just do what you can,
For what matters, is you.

There's no need to be merry,
There's no need to be bright.
Just do what you can,
It will all be alright.

(Author Unknown)

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: 051 350 725

Monsignor Dan Carroll: 087 907 7769. Fr Tom O'Toole: 087 224 0787.
Fr. Paul Kasu 087 390 5060. Monsignor Michael Ryan (Retired)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Mary Brennan; Jo Browne; Alan Burke; Fr Dan Carroll; Claire Coogan;
Fr. Paul Kasu; Luke Leydon; Paddy Manning; Iris O'Flynn; Fr Tom O'Toole; 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

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**

Third Sunday in Advent - 14th December 2025

Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word 'gaudete' is Latin for 'rejoice' which is the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of this Sunday's Mass: 'Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, Gaudete.' This means 'Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice.'

This is why on this Sunday we focus and contemplate upon the aspect of 'Joy' in Advent, after that of 'Hope' and 'Peace' in the earlier two Sundays of Advent and 'Love' in the next and final Sunday of Advent. This Sunday, much like its Lenten counterpart, Laetare Sunday, marks a short and temporary break from the penitential and more sombre nature of the rest of the Advent Season, as we prepare and anticipate the coming true Joy of Christmas.

St. John's National School Nativity Play

Pupils from St. John's National School will present the story of the Nativity and some pre-Christmas Carols in St. John's Church on Tuesday, 16th December at 7.00pm. All welcome to come along and support the school.

St. John's National School Enrolment

An Open Night will be held on Wednesday, 7th January 2026 in St. John's National School, Michael Street. If you are interested in a place for your child, please come along.

For Attention of Parents

The following is an important notice for parents of children attending primary schools or have yet to start: The Department of Education is currently conducting a Primary School Survey that will determine the future provision of Primary Schools and crucially could lead to lasting changes in your school. In simple, direct terms, you are being asked if you want your school to stay a Catholic school or if you want that to change. Don't leave it to others, have your say before 16th December 2025. See - gov.ie/primaryschoolssurvey

St. Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund

This month's draw will take place on Wednesday, 17th December. Tickets cost €10 per draw and are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests.

Webcam – Offline

Our webcam is not working at the moment - our camera stopped working last week. A new camera has been delivered and we await the arrival of a technician to complete the installation and associated works during the coming week. We hope to have the service resumed in full by Thursday or Friday. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased:

Dr. Peter Faul, College Road. Requiem Mass in St. Patrick's Church at 2.00pm on Tuesday.
Anne Dooley, Loreto Park. Requiem Mass in St. Canice's Church at 10.30am on Tuesday.
Madge Healy, *Lismartin*, Castlecomer Road. Requiem Mass in Urlingford at 11.00am on Monday.

Christy Treacy-Murphy, St Thomas Square

Donal Byrne, Parc na Gowan

Months Mind: John Butler (6.00pm).

Michael Dooley (7.00pm).

Anniversaries: Aaron Molloy; John Holmes; Thomas, Seanie & Toddy O'Connor (6.00pm); Jim Foley (10.00am); Mark Brennan; John & Mary Butler; Catherine & Matt Walsh; Kevin Mc Daid (11.00am); Joe & Alice Bambrick, Mary Malone, Dick & Larry O'Shea (11.30am); Syl & Mary Gaffney (7.00pm); Nan Brennan; Kay Bannon; Richard O'Carroll; Owen Massey; Frances Guidera; Mary Maher; Seán Hennessy; Debbie Newcastle.

*Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Mairin Bergin
8.00am Niamh Carroll
10.00am Betsy Rice
11.00am Martina Brennan & Tom Keating
11.30am Kathleen Ferguson & Susan Bofin
7.00pm Joan Galwey



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

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|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Envelope Collection: | | €605.00 |
| <u>Mass</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Baskets</u> |
| 6.00pm St. John's | 154 | 190.00 |
| 8.00am St. John's | 106 | 340.00 |
| 10.00am Johnswell | 40 | 112.00 |
| 11.00am Dunmore | 107 | 177.00 |
| 11.30am St. John's | 179 | 436.00 |
| 7.00pm St. John's | <u>115</u> | <u>276.00</u> |
| | 701 | €1,531.00 |

St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Collection

The Society of St Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection will take place this weekend, 13th/14th December. Your donation will help families in our parish with basics such as food and fuel. Please give what you can; you could save someone from impossible choices this winter. We can be contacted on 051 350 725 if anyone is in need.

Pope's Prayer Intentions for December 2025

Pope Leo has called for prayers for Christians who are enduring the hardships of war and conflict, particularly in the Middle East. His intention emphasises the need for these individuals to embody peace and reconciliation in their communities.

"Emmanuel God with Us" - Diocesan Carol Service

Join us for our City and Diocesan Carol Service in St Mary's Cathedral, Sunday, 21st December at 7.30pm. An evening of prayer, reflection, music and song. All welcome.

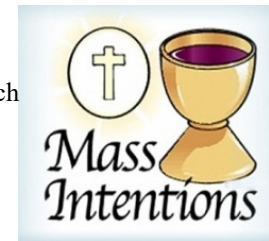
"Under One Banner" Book Launch

The launch of the history of O'Loughlin Gaels called "Under One Banner" takes place in the O'Loughlin Gaels' Clubhouse on Tuesday, 16th December at 8.00pm.

Written by Conor Denieffe, the book tells the story of the O'Loughlin Gaels Club from its formation in 1969 to the present day, 2025. It details the many games, the scores, the players and personalities, the triumphs and celebrations along with the setbacks and disappointments as the club grew to what it is today. It covers all aspects and activities of the club over the years, hurling, football, camogie and handball along with primary schools and the development of O'Loughlin's home, St. John's Park. There is an open invitation to anyone interested to attend the launch.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 15th December 2025

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|------------|-------------------|--|
| Monday: | 10.30am | Nan Brennan Seán Hennessy |
| Tuesday: | 7.00pm | St John's National School Carol Service |
| Wednesday: | 7.30pm | City Penitential Service - St John's Church |
| Saturday: | 6.00pm | Declan Lanigan Paddy, Michael & Catherine Keogh MM Carl Widger |
| Sunday: | 11.30am 7.00pm | Dylan Whearty Theresa Mahony |



**May their souls and the souls of all
the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.**

Johnswell Organ Fundraiser Recital

Next Saturday, 20th December at 7.30pm a pipe organ recital is taking place in Johnswell Church to raise funds for their recent organ upgrade. The organist on the night will be Simon Harden. Simon lectures in organ performance in DIT and is organist and Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford. Our soloist will be local soprano, Aoife McKiernan. Tickets at €20 available from Brennan's Bar, Johnswell or from James - 087 296 2039. All tickets will be automatically entered into a raffle on the night!

Christmas Mass Times in St. John's Parish 2025

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Wednesday, 23 rd December | St. John's: | 8.00am and 10.30am |
| Christmas Eve, 24 th December | St. John's: | 10.30am, 6.00pm and 9.00pm |
| | Dunmore: | 7.00pm |
| | Johnswell: | 8.00pm |
| Christmas Day, 25 th December | St John's: | 8.00am and 11.30am |
| | Johnswell: | 10.00am |
| | Dunmore: | 11.00am |
| Friday, 26 th December | St. John's: | 10.30am |
| Saturday and Sunday, 27 th and 28 th December | Masses at usual times. | |
| Monday, 29 th to Saturday, 3 rd January | 10.30am each day at St. John's Church | |

Please inform your relatives and friends of the above times and invite them to come along.

Thought for the Day – Gaudete Sunday

Advent calls us to stop and think. But for nearly everyone the season of Advent is also the busiest time of the year. There is so much to be done to prepare for Christmas; cards, presents, the planning of meals, hospitality in general. Leaving aside whether we actually need to do all this and whether it could not all be simplified, the actuality of most lives during Advent is emphatically not one of contemplation. We can benefit from moments each day, that we set aside just to keep ourselves grounded in faith. It is Jesus and his birth that we celebrate, not just togetherness. Can we still enter into the spirit of Advent, this holy season? (Sr Wendy Beckett)

Advent Penitential Service

St. John's Parish is hosting this year's City Advent Penitential Service on Wednesday, 17th December, in St John's Church at 7.30pm. This initiative of the City Group of Parishes will provide an opportunity for City parishioners to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance as we prepare for Christmas. All are welcome.

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