

**Growing in Friendship with God this Lent**  
Fr. Paul will present a Lenten Meditation Series in St. John's Church on the first, third and fifth Wednesdays of Lent this year. This will be followed up with a Lenten Penance Day during Holy Week. We encourage all to come along and grow our friendship with God during this Holy Season. First session at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February. All welcome.

#### **St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund**

The next St Mary's Cathedral Restoration draw will take place on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests for €10 per month. We encourage your support for St. Mary's, our Diocesan Cathedral.

#### **South Kilkenny Historical Society Lecture**

*Fianna Fáil: its foundation and early years.*  
Speaker: Éamon Ó Cuív. Date: Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Time: 8.00pm. Venue: Mullinavat Parish Hall.

#### **The Pope's Monthly Intention for February**

*For children with incurable diseases:* Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

*When you love what you have,  
you have everything you need.*

**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, Mr Fintan Fanning, 085 802 1633 - dlp@ossory.ie

#### **OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:**

Brenda Whately; 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**

#### **St. Patrick's College Maynooth Annual Trócaire Lecture 2026**

*"Care for Creation Amidst the Cries of War ~ Working for Peace in the Earth Community"*  
The event will take place in Renehan Hall at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026, at 7.00pm.

It will also be live streamed for those who cannot attend in person. Registration for this free event is required. Keynote speaker: Dr. Hugo Slim, Director of the Las Casas Institute for Social Justice at Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford. Email: maria.murphy@trocaire.org

#### **The Ossory Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

The annual Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2026. All bookings should be made through Joe Walsh Tours by telephone on 01 241 0800, or online at [www.joewalshtours.ie/pilgrimages/group-diocesan-pilgrimages/](http://www.joewalshtours.ie/pilgrimages/group-diocesan-pilgrimages/) or by post to JWT, 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02WY88.

**Special Assisted/Sick Section:** Pilgrims who would like to travel with the Special Assisted Section should apply to Anna Colleton at [a.colleton@cbskilkenney.ie](mailto:a.colleton@cbskilkenney.ie) Space is limited.

#### **Epilepsy Ireland**

In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. For further information, [www.epilepsy.ie](http://www.epilepsy.ie). Purple Day or Epilepsy Awareness Day is Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March.

# **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

#### **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

#### **Ash Wednesday**

Blessed ashes, used on Ash Wednesday, are a profound sacramental in the Catholic Church that steer believers into the solemn season of Lent. Made from the burnt remains of the palms used in the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations, these ashes serve as a tangible reminder of our mortality and the call to repentance. As the ashes are placed on the foreheads of the faithful, the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," or "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" are said by the celebrant. This ritual marks the beginning of a 40-day journey of introspection, penance, and spiritual renewal, inviting believers to turn their hearts more fully towards God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

The symbolism of ashes extends deep into biblical tradition, where ashes were used as a sign of penance, mourning, and humility before God. Throughout Scripture, figures like Job, Daniel, and Esther used ashes to visibly demonstrate their contrition and reliance on God's mercy. For Christians today, receiving blessed ashes is both an acknowledgment of human frailty and an expression of hope in God's boundless grace. This outward sign compels an inward conversion, urging individuals to detach from sin and reorient their lives towards the Gospel. The ashes not only remind us of our need for God's forgiveness but also inspire a sincere desire to live a life of holiness and service in preparation for the joy of Easter.

Mass will be celebrated in St. John's Church on Wednesday at 8.00am, 10.30am and 7.00pm.

Blessed Ashes will be distributed at each Mass and will be available in all three of our churches from about 11.30am and throughout the day.

#### **Morning Prayer for Lent**

We warmly invite you to begin each weekday during Lent by joining us for Morning Prayer (Lauds) at St. John's Church, taking place at 7.40am every morning. This ancient prayer of the Church is a beautiful way to dedicate your day to God, offering praise and thanksgiving as the sun rises. Gathering in community for Lauds provides an opportunity to reflect, seek spiritual strength, and deepen your relationship with Christ as you journey through this holy season. Daily Mass for Lent follows at 8.00am. All welcome.

#### **Society of St Vincent De Paul Collection**

The Monthly Collection for the local conference of the Society will take place next weekend, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February. A sincere thank you for all your generous donations. We can be contacted on 051 350 725 if anyone is in need.



## Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

**Recently Deceased:** Kathleen Holohan, Fatima Place. Requiem Mass on Monday at 11.00am in St Mary's Cathedral. Interment in St Kieran's Cemetery  
 Marie Murray, Marble Crest. Requiem Mass on Monday at 10.30am in St Fiacre's Church. Interment in Mulhuddart Cemetery, Co. Dublin.

Maureen Delaney, Tullaroan Philip James Smyth, Castlecomer  
 David Comerford, Gowran Anna May Delaney, Graiguenamanagh

Fr. Odhran Furlong, New Ross  
 Canon Laurence Dunphy, Urlingford & late of Cullohill, Co. Laois

**Anniversaries:** Grace Sheridan (6.00pm); Michael & Mai Loftus (11.00am); Joe Lawlor; Geoff Doyle; Statia & Nicholas Power & Letitia Hanrahan (11.30am); Francie & Ann Murphy (7.00pm); Eddie and Mamie Byrne; John Nolan; Anne O'Neill; James Dooley; Sadie & Therese McGrath; Tess Ward; Seamus Culleton.

*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	Bridget Ahearn
8.00am	Billy Phelan
10.00am	Even Brennan & Anna Ryan
11.00am	Fiona McGahey & Anne Marie Ryan
11.30am	Mary Hanafin & Mary Lynch
7.00pm	Anne Marie Grace



### Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:	€1,895.00
Mass	Attendance
6.00pm St. John's	253
8.00am St. John's	87
10.00am Johnswell	43
11.00am Dunmore	93
11.30am St. John's	182
7.00pm St. John's	126
	784
	€1,459.00

### Stations of the Cross

Join us this Lent for the Stations of the Cross, a cherished tradition offering a profound way to engage with the passion and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross, have a rich history dating back to the early pilgrims who retraced Jesus' final steps in Jerusalem. These 14 stations allow us to spiritually journey with Christ from His condemnation by Pilate to His crucifixion and burial. Each step invites deep reflection on the depth of Christ's love and the ultimate sacrifice He made for our salvation. By participating in this powerful devotion, especially at St. John's Church on Friday evenings during Lent, we unite our own trials and sufferings with Christ's, finding strength and hope in His redemptive love. We invite you to join fellow parishioners as we meditate on these sacred mysteries, allowing this spiritual exercise to transform our hearts and draw us closer to the heart of Jesus. Come to St. John's Church at 7.30pm on the Fridays of Lent. Will you walk with Him this Friday?

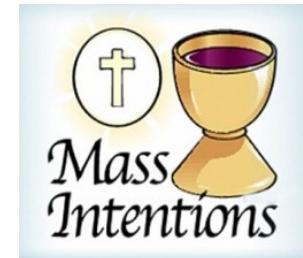
### The Way

Welcome to the Way. This platform was set up by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference to help people to discover, live and pass on the Catholic faith. In the very early Church, the first believers were known as followers of 'the Way' (e.g. Acts 9:2). In answer to the question 'how can we know the way?' (John 14:5) Jesus declared that 'I am the Way, the Truth and Life.' Our logo affirms that Jesus Christ, Son of God and Saviour – **ICHTHYS** – is the Way and that the light of the Easter Dawn radiates hope for all seekers and followers of the Way. We are asking everyone to do what they can to promote this platform. Please follow us on our social media and share our content on your own social media. Visit us on [www.theway.ie](http://www.theway.ie) or [www.facebook.com/theway.ie/](http://www.facebook.com/theway.ie/)



## Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 16th February 2026

Monday:	10.30am	Anne O'Neill
Saturday:	6.00pm	Noel Murphy
		Bill Walsh
		Joey & Edward (Ned) Lawless
Sunday:	11.00am	Josephine Burke
	11.30am	Kitty & Jim Rice
		Margaret Ryan
		Paddy Brennan
		Chris Harding
	7.00pm	John Bergin
		<b>MM</b> Baby Thomas Walsh



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

### Season of Lent



As we enter the sacred Season of Lent, we are invited to embark on a spiritual journey that leads us towards a deep renewal of heart and spirit. Lent is a holy time in the Church calendar, lasting 40 days, reminiscent of Jesus' 40 days in the desert, where He fasted and prayed in preparation for His public ministry. This period offers each of us an opportunity to reflect deeply on our relationship with God, our neighbours, and ourselves, calling us to conversion through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Lent 2026 begins on next Wednesday, marked by the solemn, yet hopeful sign of blessed ashes. As these ashes are placed upon our foreheads, we are reminded of our mortality and dependence on God's grace. Throughout this season, the Church encourages us to engage in acts of penance and sacrifice, creating space in our lives for God's transformative love. By embracing the disciplines of Lent, we purify our hearts and renew our commitment to live as faithful disciples of Christ. In St. John's Parish, let us support one another in this journey, fostering a spirit of repentance and hope as we prepare to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection at Easter. May this Lenten season be a time of grace, growth, and deeper communion with our Saviour. How might you embrace prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in a way that transforms your Lenten journey this year?

### Trócaire Lenten Campaign

The theme of the 2026 Trócaire Lenten campaign centres on the story of a multi-generational, female-led household in rural Rwanda. At just 28 years old, Uwamahoro is carrying the weight of three generations on her shoulders. She supports her mother, Verediana, 68, who lives with a disability, her daughter Ineza, 7 and her niece Vanessa, 12. Earning just 60 cent per day working on the land, Uwamahoro is doing the best she can to feed her family and keep the children in school, but it's never enough. The next storm could destroy everything Uwamahoro has built. Their house is crumbling, the roof is leaking, they live in darkness with no electricity, and with each storm, they fear for their safety. This is not unusual for women across Rwanda, where severe storms are striking faster and more often, before families can recover from the last. This Lent we are asking the people of St. John's Parish to help Uwamahoro rebuild her family's lives and restore their hopes for the future.

Trócaire is the overseas development agency of the Catholic church in Ireland. Please take family fast boxes from the porch of the church, make regular contributions during Lent and return the proceeds to St. John's Parish during Holy Week. Alternatively scan the QR code on the boxes or write to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare to make a donation.