

### Thought for the Day

Some people bless themselves – make the Sign of the Cross – when they pass a church. What does it mean? Perhaps only God knows. It is a prayer, an invocation, a visible act of faith, a public yet personal gesture as you pass ‘God’s house’ – ‘teach Dé’ – ‘teach an phobail’. It is a reminder of how precious and universal that gesture is: to bless yourself in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

You see people blessing themselves in all sorts of situations: absentmindedly on the way into church; solemnly at the end of Mass; in thankful delight, as with sports people; poignantly, in the case of mourners at a grave.

In extreme sickness, when the brain can no longer form words and the only way we can turn to God may be with our feeble fingers, forming a cross. This sign can grow hurried and thoughtless through custom, but in moments of crisis and deep emotion, there are few gestures as rich in meaning as blessing ourselves.

*Adareparish.ie*

### March for Life

The Annual March for Life which is in its 19 year will take place in Dublin on next Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> July leaving Parnell Square at 1.30pm and walking down O’Connell Street and the Quays. Ireland’s largest Annual Pro-Life March.

### The Lighthouse Dementia Café

The Lighthouse Dementia Cafe meeting will take place on next Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July from 1.30pm - 4.00pm in Walkin Street, Kilkenny R95 HX7K. The Dementia Cafe is a free of charge, walk in social event where people who have a diagnosis or for family or carers are affected by dementia have a safe and non-judgmental space to go and chat to others. Our volunteer nurses are there to advise carers and signpost them to an area that they may need to avail of in the future. We serve complimentary tea/coffee and treats, creating a cafe like environment to make our visitors more comfortable. For further information please contact Donna O’Donoghue on 087 602 2267. All are welcome.

### Dates for Your Diary

Dunmore and Johnswell

Cemetery Masses

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> July @ 7.30pm

Foulkstown Cemetery Mass

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July @ 7.30pm

Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> August. Fare: €25.

This pilgrimage is booking quickly at the Parish Office. Get your ticket while there is still room on the bus.

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

**Email:** stjohms@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](mailto:dlp@ossory.ie)

### OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

**Counselling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline**

1800 313 316 - [www.towardshealing.ie](http://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**

**SS Peter and Paul, Apostles - 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

### Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood

The annual ‘Come and See’ inquiry-day for men discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood will take place on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> July, at the Knock House Hotel, Co Mayo. Ahead of the ‘Come and See’ gathering for men discerning their vocation to the diocesan priesthood, Bishop Phonsie Cullinan of Waterford and Lismore, who also serves as chair of the Council for Vocations of the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference, said, “There is something happening in the Irish Church. An increasing number of young Irish people are seeing that what the world alone has to offer is insufficient. There is a spiritual hunger. Only something authentic will do. As Pope Leo has repeated a number of times quoting from Saint Augustine: ‘Our hearts are restless until they rest in You Lord.’”

Ossory priest, Father Willie Purcell, who is Ireland’s National Vocations Coordinator, said, “Whether you are at the very beginning of your discernment or seeking clarity after some time of reflection, the ‘Come and See’ day will serve as a valuable stepping stone to see where God is calling you at this time.” The ‘Come and See’ day begins with tea, coffee and welcome at 11.00am, followed by a range of reflective and engaging conversations. Father Michael McCullagh will be the main guest speaker on the day, guiding participants through key aspects of discernment and vocation. The day includes personal testimonies, spiritual input, open discussions, and time for prayer and reflection, and so offers participants meaningful insights into the life and ministry of a diocesan priest. Details of the programme are below:

11.00am, tea/coffee, meet and greet

11.30am, a vocation story

12.00pm, praying the *Angelus*

12.01pm, session on discernment

1.00pm, lunch

2.00pm, visit to Knock Shrine with the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

3.00pm, questions and answers

4.00pm, celebration of Mass in Knock Parish Church

If you feel you have a calling to the priesthood, irrespective of where you are on your discernment journey, you are invited to contact the National Vocations Office on visit [www.vocations.ie](http://www.vocations.ie) or [carol.king@vocations.ie](mailto:carol.king@vocations.ie)

### First Friday of July

Next Friday is the First Friday of July. The priests hope to visit the sick and housebound at the usual times. Contact the Parish Office if you would like to be included.

## Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

**Recently Deceased:** Paddy Butler (Snr), Bleach Road

Eileen Jennings, Galway

Sami Corcoran, Robertshill

Joe Burke, Woodsgift

Dominik Kraljevic, Croatia

Isabelle O'Callaghan, Killarney

**Anniversaries:** Breda Fogarty & Noreen King; Denis Clowry (6.00pm); Isabelle O'Callaghan; Baby Bill Bennett; Kit & Oliver Bennett (10.00am); Mary Connick; Maud Nolan; Kitty & Michael McCarthy (11.30am); Tom McDonald; Sr Catherine Maddock; Josie & Aidan Keane; Michael Wall; Patrick Foley; Philip Lenehan; Renee Murphy; Mary (Molly) Dwan; Joseph Neary; Matthew Thornton; Enda Cantwell; Eileen Kearney.

*Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.*

### Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Mairin Bergin  
8.00am Pdraig O'Neill  
10.00am Eve Brennan & Anna Ryan  
11.00am Liam Burke & Liam Maddock  
11.30am Kathleen Ferguson & Susan Bofin  
7.00pm Eileen Kinane



### Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€905.00
<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Baskets</u>
6.00pm St. John's	124	231.00
8.00am St. John's	105	317.00
10.00am Johnswell	42	92.00
11.00am Dunmore	71	128.00
11.30am St. John's	152	385.00
7.00pm St. John's	<u>129</u>	<u>234.00</u>
	623	€1,384.00

### Dunmore Cemetery Cleanup

In preparation for the Annual Cemetery Mass on next Friday, a planned cleanup at Dunmore Cemetery will take place this Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm. Many hands make light work.

### Schools Out for Summer!

Our parish schools have wrapped up another school year on Friday. Congratulations to all who graduated. Best wishes to all pupils, families, teachers, and staff and we wish you a good, safe and enjoyable holiday.

### The Priory Institute

The two-week on-line Summer School is reflective, informative and interactive and will run from 11<sup>th</sup> August. The course includes eight recorded presentations and two on-line zoom discussions and is very flexible as it is delivered entirely online. Find out more and register [www.prioryinstitute.com](http://www.prioryinstitute.com)

### St Oliver Plunkett – Born 400 Years ago in 1625 Feast Day 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Oliver Plunkett was born in County Meath, on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1625, of Irish Norman ancestry, related to many members of the ancient nobility of Ireland. Educated at the Abbey of St Mary's in Dublin at twenty-two years old he travelled to the Irish College in Rome where he was ordained in 1647. In 1670, when he was appointed Archbishop of Armagh he returned to Ireland and in 1678 was obliged to go into hiding to avoid anti-Catholic violence. The situation was made considerably worse when Titus Oates declared to the Privy Council that Archbishop Plunkett was raising money for an invasion of French Catholic troops into Ireland. With a substantial price on his head Plunkett was hunted down, arrested and put on trial for treason. The trial was a shambles with even the prosecuting Duke of Ormonde describing his own witnesses as 'silly drunken vagabonds whom no schoolboy would trust to rob an orchard.' Despite this Plunkett was shipped to London to stand a new trial where he was condemned to death and was hanged, drawn and quartered on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1681, at the age of 55. He was the last Catholic martyr to die in England and was buried alongside Thomas Whitbread and his companions in the church of St Giles in the Fields. In 1975 Oliver Plunkett was canonised, the first Irish saint in nearly 700 years. In 1997 he was declared patron saint for peace and reconciliation in Ireland.

### Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 30th June

Wednesday:	8.00am	Special Intention
	10.30am	Tom McDonald
Thursday:	10.30am	Special Intention
Friday:	10.30am	Sr Catherine Maddock
	7.30pm	Johnswell & Dunmore
		Cemetery Masses
Saturday:	6.00pm	Tom Ryan
		MM Kitty Kearney
Sunday:	10.00am	Mick Butler
		Aidan Kelly
	11.30am	Mary Carey

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

**May they rest in peace.**

### Parish Webcam

Masses and Services in St. John's Church are broadcast on [stjohnskilkenny.com](http://stjohnskilkenny.com) and on 106.8FM.

### 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

### St Kieran's Cemetery Mass 2025

Amidst the uncertain weather conditions, huge crowds flocked to St. Kieran's Cemetery on Friday evening for our annual Mass for deceased family members and friends. We thank especially the priests, sacristans, readers, choir, Eucharistic ministers, helpers, local authority staff, Gardaí, public address operatives, parking assistants and collectors for making the occasion so meaningful and appropriate for those assembled who came from far and near to pray for the dead.

**The annual Mass in Dunmore and Johnswell Cemeteries will be celebrated on next Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm**

### St Peter and St Paul:

Two great Apostles of the Gospel and two pillars of the Church. This Sunday we celebrate the memory of Peter and Paul. Peter, a fisherman who spent his days amid boats and nets, and Paul, a learned Pharisee who taught in synagogues. At the heart of their story is not their own gifts and abilities; at the centre is the encounter with Christ that changed their lives. They experienced a love that healed them and set them free. They then became apostles and ministers of freedom for others, Peter preaching to the Jews, and Paul to pagans.

Peter, a skilled fisherman, many times in the heart of the night tasted the bitterness of frustration at having caught nothing (cf. Lk 5:5; Jn 21:5) and, seeing his empty nets, was tempted to pull up his oars. Though strong and impetuous, Peter often yielded to fear (cf. Mt 14:30). Jesus nonetheless loved Peter and was willing to take a risk on him.

Paul, a teacher in the synagogues, a zealous defender of his Jewish traditions and a cruel persecutor of Christians; his encounter with the Lord on the road to Damascus shook him to the core: more than just knocking him to the ground it shattered Paul's illusion of being respectably religious. As a result, the proud Saul turned into Paul, a name that means "small".

Jesus did not judge them or humiliate them. He supported them by his prayer, and even at times reproached them to make them change.

To us Peter and Paul bestow an image of a Church entrusted to our hands yet guided by the Lord with fidelity and tender love, for it is He who guides the Church, a Church that is weak yet finds strength in the presence of God.

St. Peter was crucified upside down in 64 AD and St. Paul was beheaded in 67 AD. Emperor Nero did not have St. Paul crucified because the Romans did not crucify their own citizens and, as a result, St. Paul was beheaded. St. Peter reportedly was crucified upside down since he was not a Roman. Tradition holds that he requested to be crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to be crucified in the same position as the Lord Jesus.