

### Pope Leo's Prayer for April

Pope Leo asks us in April to entrust all priests into the Father's hands, especially those going through moments of crisis, "when loneliness weighs heavily, when doubt clouds their hearts, and when exhaustion seems stronger than hope." Join the Holy Father in prayer for the priests of our parish and all priests: -

"Good Father, teach us as a community to care for our priests: to listen without judging, to give thanks without demanding perfection, to share with them the baptismal mission of proclaiming the Kingdom in word and deed, and to accompany them with closeness and sincere prayer."

**South Kilkenny Historical Society Lecture**  
'Memories and Memorabilia: Telling GAA Stories through Objects'.

Speaker: Dr Siobhán Doyle

Date: Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Time: 8.00pm

Venue: Mullinavat Parish Hall (opposite St. Beacon's Church)

### The Kilkenny Choir

On Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.00pm under the baton of their director Patrick Rafter, The Kilkenny Choir will sing *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Gabriel Fauré and *Paris Angelicus for Choirs* by César Franck. Tickets are available at: [www.thekilkennychoir.com](http://www.thekilkennychoir.com); Eventbrite; and on the door. Under 18s are free.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues in St. John's Church between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesdays. Please come and join parishioners who give time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

### The Most Holy Rosary

A number of parishioners gather each morning at St. John's Church to recite the Rosary before Mass at 10.10am. Others gather at 3.00pm each afternoon for the same purpose. All are welcome to come along and join in prayer.

### National Conference on Stroke

The 5<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Stroke, organised by the South Tipperary Stroke Communication Group, will take place at the Cashel Palace Hotel, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, commencing at 10.00am, with entry for viewing of support stands at 9.30am. Speakers include Professor Ronán Collins, Clinical Lead Irish National Stroke Programme, Dr. Patrick Nicholson, Consultant Neurointerventional Radiologist at Beacon Hospital, and a number of other speakers including survivors.

Admission is free but is by registration on Eventbrite. Please search for 2026 National Conference on Stroke, Cashel Palace Hotel or at [eventbrite.ie/e/2026-national-conference-on-stroke](http://eventbrite.ie/e/2026-national-conference-on-stroke)

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

**Email:** [stjohns@ossory.ie](mailto:stjohns@ossory.ie) **Website:** [www.stjohnskilkenny.com](http://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; Karna Phelan.**

### IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN CONTACT

The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Mr Fintan Fanning, 085 802 1633 - [dlp@ossory.ie](mailto:dlp@ossory.ie)

### OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Phil Curran; Marian Eardly; Brenda Whitley.

### 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**

### Third Sunday of Easter - 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### Pope Leo XIV World Prayer for Peace

During a Vigil for Peace at the Vatican on 11<sup>th</sup> April Pope Leo offered the following prayer for peace in the world: -

Lord Jesus, you conquered death without weapons or violence: you shattered its power with the strength of peace. Grant us your peace, as you did to the women filled with doubt on Easter morning, as you did to the disciples who were hiding in fear.

Send forth your Spirit, the breath that gives life and reconciles, that turns adversaries and enemies into brothers and sisters. Inspire in us to trust in Mary, your mother, who stood at the foot of your cross with a broken heart, firm in the faith that you would rise again. May the madness of war cease and the Earth be cared for and cultivated by those who still know how to bring forth, protect and love life. Hear us, Lord of life!

### World Day of Prayer for Vocations – Next Weekend

The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfil the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life.

While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity, secular institutes), and to the missionary life.

This year marks the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

### Vocations Sunday – Televised Mass from St Canice's Church, Kilkenny

Bishop Phonsie Cullinan, Chair of the Council for Vocations, will celebrate Mass in St. Canice's Catholic Church, Dean Street, on Vocations Sunday, next Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00 am. The Mass will be broadcast live on RTÉ One and streamed online.

All are warmly invited to attend this special celebration. Please note that RTÉ requests all members of the congregation to be seated by 10.30am sharp.

### Dates for Your Diary

First Holy Communion, St John's - 16<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am St John's National School

First Holy Communion, Johnswell - 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 11.00am Johnswell National School

St Kieran's Cemetery Mass - Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm

Dunmore & Johnswell Cemetery Masses - 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7.30pm

Parish Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2026

### Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

**Recently Deceased:** Christy Downey, New York & late of Ballyfoyle  
 Baby Conor Crotty, Tullaroan Road Michael Corcoran, Bennettsbridge  
 Michael Palmer, Nore Terrace Frank Cooney, Westfield

**Months Mind:** Seamus Dunne (11.30am).

**Anniversaries:** Michael Kelly; Christy Burke Jnr.; Bernadette Molloy (6.00pm); Lena O’Keeffe (10.00am); Dick & Brigid O’Connell; Catherine Kavanagh (11.30am); Vera Walsh; Geraldine Carroll; Tommy Holohan; Mary Crotty; Jim Sheehy; Michael Byrne; Joe Comerford; Thomas & Noel Fry; Emily Wilson; Bill Bergin; Bill Delaney; Seán Barry; Margaret & Patrick Doran.

*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.*

We are happy to request prayers for the faithful departed in this section of the newsletter.  
 Please submit names to the office before Thursday evening.

#### Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Claire Coogan  
 8.00am Mary Elliott  
 10.00am Betsy Rice  
 11.00am Liam Burke & Liam Maddock  
 11.30am Frank & Emily Bradley  
 7.00pm Linda O’Leary



#### Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€1,365.00	
Mass	Attendance	Baskets	
6.00pm St. John’s	216	349.00	
8.00am St. John’s	93	267.00	
10.00am Johnswell	66	132.00	
11.00am Dunmore	89	164.00	
11.30am St. John’s	170	245.00	
7.00pm St. John’s	<u>91</u>	<u>225.00</u>	
	725	€1,382.00	

#### Low Gluten Hosts

At Holy Communion time low gluten hosts are available from the priest or the Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. Ask the priests/minister when you approach the altar. The breads are low gluten and deemed suitable for most gluten intolerant patients.

#### St Mary’s Cathedral Restoration Fund

The next St Mary’s Cathedral Restoration draw will take place on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April. One of our parishioners won €500 last month! Tickets are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests for €10 per month. We encourage your support for our Diocesan Cathedral.

#### Trócaire Family Fast Boxes

Thanks to all who have returned Trócaire boxes and offerings. We would like to close the account for this year, and we appeal for the return of any outstanding offerings please.

#### Why Sunday Matters

Sunday has always been the day of the Lord: the day of resurrection, the day of rest, the day of the Eucharist. From the very beginning of our Christian faith, Sunday has been central to the life of the Church and remains the heart of Christian practise. It is on this day that we gather as a community, united in our love for Christ, to encounter the Risen Lord and to be nourished in body and soul.

The Mass is not just a ritual; it is a source and summit of our faith. It is where we encounter Christ in His living presence, and it is through the Eucharist that we are strengthened to live as true disciples. Attending Mass on Sundays, or it’s vigil on Saturday evening, is not just an obligation; it is a profound privilege and a chance to experience God’s love in a deeply personal way. As we come to this sacred celebration let us do so with hearts full of gratitude for the precious gift of Christ’s presence among us. *(Irish Bishops’ Conference, Why Sunday Matters)*

### Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Sunday: 3.00pm Mass for Philippian Community  
 Saturday: 6.00pm MM Dick Barcoe  
 Christina Barcoe  
 Liam Maher  
 Sunday: 11.00am Eamon Walsh  
 Margaret (Mags) Smyth  
 Peggy Tynan  
 11.30am Brenda McGuinness



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

#### Kilkenny Bereavement Support

Kilkenny Bereavement support invites you to a talk “Suicide Bereavement, From Heartbreak to Hope” on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00pm in Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny. Admission free, booking on [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie) recommended. Speakers Christy Kenneally is a novelist, poet and broadcaster and Dr. Linda Finnegan a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist will address how a death by suicide can devastate the lives of those left behind. From ‘Heartbreak to Hope’ will address the shock, pain, anger and sadness that are part of the bereaved person’s new reality. From ‘Heartbreak to Hope’ is also for any person who wants to help someone bereaved by suicide but who doesn’t know what to say or not to say, what to do or how to be.

#### The Kilkenny Stroke Support Group

The Kilkenny Stroke Support Group meets next Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2.30 to 4.00pm at the Tuiscint day services meeting rooms at St Canice’s Hospital Complex, Old Dublin Road. Meetings are open to stroke survivors and carers. For further information text/call Lynda 087 781 4697.

#### Thought for the Day

Jesus’ encounter with the two disciples of Emmaus, as outlined in this weekend’s gospel, is a fleeting one. But the entire destiny of the Church is contained within it. It tells us that the Christian community is not enclosed within a fortified citadel, but rather journeys along its most essential environment, which is the road. And there, it encounters people with their hopes and disappointments, burdensome at times.

The Church listens to everyone’s stories as they emerge from the treasure chest of personal conscience, in order to then offer the Word of Life, the witness of love, a love that is faithful until the end. And thus, the hearts of people reignite with hope. *(Pope Francis, 2017)*

#### Pope Leo XIV, Speaking at an Orphanage 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026

‘Dear children, I know that many of you have endured difficult trials. Some of you have known the pain of loss through the death of parents or loved ones. Others have experienced fear, rejection, abandonment, deprivation and uncertainty. Yet, you are called to a future that is greater than your wounds. You are bearers of a promise. For wherever there is misery, suffering or injustice, God is present; and he knows each of your faces and is very close to you. The Gospel reminds us that Jesus cares especially for children like you, and he would often place them at the centre of a gathering. Know that he looks upon each one of you today with that same affection’.

#### Prayer for Fine Weather

Heavenly Father, you have created all things and we depend upon your loving goodness.

You have given us the earth to care for and provide our food.

We humbly ask you to give us fine weather so that our animals may have food, or crops may be planted, we may once more enjoy the countryside and those who work the land may have peace of mind.

For your goodness Lord we thank you  
 and in you O Lord we put our trust. Amen.