

Alone

If you are a good listener with a caring personality and would like a chance to make a difference to someone's day in your community, we'd love to hear from you! Befriending is all about offering companionship for an hour each week to an Older Person in your area who may feel isolated or lonely. We are currently looking for volunteers throughout Kilkenny City & County. Please ring ALONE on 7772151 or 086/8530994 for more information or you can register your interest at www.alone.ie/get-involved/volunteer/

'We observed his star at his rising'

The Wise Men were probably astronomers and philosophers, but most importantly they were 'seekers', looking to the skies for something that would bring them closer to God. They would have been familiar with the prophecy about a new King who would be a very powerful leader, and they may have been watching the skies for years, waiting for the right astronomical sign which would foretell His birth. Many astronomers have since tracked the skies from that period, to try to identify what 'star' the Wise Men could have seen. Some have identified Jupiter, not a star, which in 6BC was following that correct trajectory across the sky over many months. One must admire the faithful and determined journey that these Wise Men set out on, a journey which involved many risks. The Wise Men represent all peoples of all cultures and faiths who make such journeys in search of God.

We often look for signs in our own lives, especially when we are looking for answers. Let us have the courage to move out of our comfort zones in search of Jesus, just as the Wise Men did. They had no idea of what awaited them, but the Gospel speaks of their delight and joy when they arrived to that place.

'We often make do with looking at the ground...I wonder if we still know how to look up at the sky? Do we know how to dream, to long for God, to expect the newness he brings, or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches before the wind?'

Pope Francis

Add: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. **Email:** stjohns@ossory.ie **Web:** stjohnskilkenny.com

Parish 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

Fr Frank Purcell: 086 601 0001; Fr Brian Griffin: 087 064 4158; Fr Lorcan Moran: 086 855 0521

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mary Brennan; Alan Burke; Margaret Cleere; Paul Colgan; Fr Brian Griffin;
Siobhán McKiernan; Fr Lorcan Moran; Aidan Phelan; Fr Frank Purcell; Pat Ryan.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a safeguarding concern contact

The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Mr Cathal Cullen, 087 100 0232 - dlp@ossory.ie

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are:

Kathleen Ferguson; Phil Curran; Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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

MASS TIMES

St John's – Sundays & Holy Days: Vigil: 6.30 p.m.; Sun: 8.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 12 noon & 7.30 p.m.
Polish Mass: 2nd Sun. monthly, 2.00 p.m.; **Weekdays:** 8.00 a.m. & 10.30 a.m. (Sat. 10.30 a.m. only)
Johnswell – Sunday 10.00 a.m. **Dunmore – Sunday 11.00 a.m.**

The Epiphany of The Lord - 6th January 2019

A New Year's Prayer

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us. Some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead. Others may have just trudged through one deep struggle after another. The fresh calendar year brings desperate hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still-fresh wounds to slowly begin their process of healing.

Whether you've just walked through the greatest year of your life, or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone. Not ever.

Our God is a "with us" God. On the heels of the celebration of the birth of our King, that reminder has the power to carry us right into a fresh, new start. He is Immanuel, God with us. And though things and people around us shift and change, our God never changes.

Dear Lord

As a new year begins. We come to You and ask for your blessing.

We pray that you would give us joy to fill our days,
peace to fill our hearts and love to fill our lives.

Thank you for the plans you have for us in this new year.

We wait in anticipation to see all You will do!

Thanking God for you and praying your new year is blessed in every way.

"For I know the plans I have for you. "Declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Amen

BEREAVEMENTS

Recently Deceased:

Elizabeth Fennelly, Greenshill.
Mary Sheehan, Bishops Meadows.

Months Mind:

Billy Sullivan (12.00 noon).
Jim Kavanagh (7.30pm).

Anniversaries:

Ned & Eddie Byrne Jnr (6.30pm); Thomas & Catherine Lyons (10.00am);
John Byrne & The McMahon Family (10.30am); Peter & Eileen Browne; John
O'Gorman; Josie Purcell; Mary, Martin & Brendan Doheny; Martin & Peg
Browne; Joseph & Mary Hickey; Tom & Mary Gaffney; Annie & Mick Ruth;
Alice & Justin Buckley; Sarah Long; Peg Dowling;

Readers for Next Weekend – Page 118

6.30pm	Mary Lynch
8.00am	Seán Rodgers
10.30am	Paula Rogers
12.00noon	John Joyce
7.30pm	Eileen Kinane
Johnswell 10.00am	Josie Manning & Fiona Manning
Dunmore 11.00am	Eddie Holohan & Liz Holohan

Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend – Panel 1

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €2,215.

Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

St John's Junior School

St John's Junior School is currently accepting applications for enrolment for September 2019. Applications forms are available in the school, on the school website (www.stjohnsthelake.ie) by contacting the school at 056 7762888. Closing date for receipt of applications is Thursday 31st January at 3.00pm. An information meeting will be held for parents in the school on Tuesday 22nd January at 8.00pm

Mass Intentions for the coming Week

Monday:

Peter & Eileen Browne (10.30am).

Saturday:

William, Tess Murphy & Family (6.30pm).

Sunday:

Seamus Hennessy (10.30am).
John & Ann Barry (11.00am).
Alex Dewberry (12.00 noon).
Frank O'Neill (7.30pm).

Blessed Edmund Rice

Mass will be celebrated in the Blessed Edmund Rice Memorial Chapel, Westcourt on Monday, 7th January at 7.30pm to pray for the intercession of Blessed Edmund Rice in our lives and for his canonization. Callan Active Retirement Group will organise the liturgy for the mass. All are welcome.

Monthly Rosary

Rosary on the first Sunday of the month at the statue of Our Lady of Kilkenny on St James's Green takes place this Sunday 6th January at 3.00pm.

Kilkenny Suicide Awareness Gathering

The annual suicide awareness gathering will take place on Saturday 12th January at 3.00pm in St John's Church. This year's guest speakers are Tom Cantwell from Kilkenny and Rory Connellan from Teac Tom. Music will be from Soulful Spirit Choir and Local Artists. All proceeds will be donated to Teac Tom. All are welcome.

Side By Side Club

The Side by Side club takes place every Thursday at 2pm in the Day Care Centre. New members welcome. Contact Helen Goode on 083 816 2024.

Christmas Offering & Weekly/Yearly envelopes

Thank you to all who have returned your Christmas Offerings. It's very much appreciated. Also, as far as you can, whether you do it by weekly or yearly contributions or by standing order, please try to maintain your donations to Parish Funds to maintain the buildings and property within your parish.

Free Training – Healthcare Assistant Traineeship

Opening Information, Briefing and Registration will take place at 10am on Tuesday 15th January in the Ormonde Hotel. Course will commence in Kilkenny on the 4th February. 2 days classroom and 2.5 days work placement, 43 weeks in duration. For further information please contact Siobhan on 059 9721416 or online@barrowtraining.ie.

Dates for your Diary

Confirmation: (St John's): 30th March, 11am.

First Holy Communion (St John's): Saturday 18th May, 10:30am.

First Holy Communion (Johnswell): Sunday May 19th, 10am

Ossory Pilgrimage to Lourdes: May 22nd - 27th

Cemetery Mass – St Kieran's Cemetery: Friday June 28th, 7:30pm

Cemetery Mass – Dunmore and Johnswell: Friday July 5th, 7:30pm