

Grow

Are you? Struggling with Anxiety or Depression? Finding Life Difficult? Isolated? GROW is here to help you.

Our Mental Health Support groups are free and confidential and open to all, no referral or booking needed. Meeting Times are:

Tuesday @ 10am. Venue: Grow Office Barrack Street Kilkenny

Wednesday @ 8pm Venue: Grow Office Barrack Street Kilkenny

Friday @ 10.30am. Venue: Grow Office Barrack Street Kilkenny

(CEART grp: mental health effects of living with chronic pain/long term illness)

Today's Gospel

Today's Gospel tells us that the people were 'filled with expectation'.

It sounds like a very exciting time as they wonder who this prophet John could be.

John must have been a very dynamic and inspiring preacher as the people speculated if he were the one, they had been waiting for.

He uses all of this attention for one purpose: to point people to Jesus.

There are many people in our own lives who have pointed us towards Jesus, perhaps by an invitation to an event or a retreat or by sharing a reflection with us at just the right time. In them, we see something special and interesting that makes us wonder in our hearts and seek a little further.

They are the John the Baptists in our lives, pointing us towards the Lord like signposts along the way.

John humbly responds to the people by saying: 'One who is more powerful than I is coming. He emphasises that it is He who will really set their hearts on fire. While the words concerning 'winnowing forks' seem harsh, we might interpret them as speaking of God's power to transform our lives through Jesus. When Jesus enters into the narrative, Luke emphasises that He is at prayer, and it is then that this powerful experience of God occurs. A nice meditation for today is to repeat the last sentence of today's Gospel, imagining God speaking these words to you:

'You are my Daughter/Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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 Baptism of The Lord - 13th January 2019

The Feast of The Baptism of the Lord

Jesus' baptism was a defining moment in his life. It marked a departure from the years of relative anonymity and the beginning of three years of public ministry.

He was revealed by the Father as being divine as well as human. He was commissioned to do the Father's will.

During that ministry Jesus preached the Good News of salvation, worked many miracles and, ultimately, died on the cross to save us and all people from the consequences of sin.

The sacrament of baptism is meant to be a defining moment in the lives of Christians. We are chosen by God to be agents and instruments of the Good News.

Thus baptism marks the abandonment of sin and the acceptance of God's grace, which is given to us through Jesus Christ. We become brothers and sisters in Christ. Thereafter, our lives can never be the same again.

The basic task for every Christian, then, is to live the baptised life. This means that we need to recognise that we have been chosen by God to share in Jesus' life and ministry. It involves welcoming the presence of the Holy Spirit into our lives who, working through the Church, influences our decisions.

Living the baptised life requires us to imitate the teaching of Christ and his Church. We reject sin and we teach others by our inspired words and good example. Only then can God say to each one of us: 'You are my son/daughter; my beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Unfortunately, however, the effects of baptism are often more symbolic than real. There are only minor changes in our lives and we continue to sin. If we are honest, we may admit that we might as well have never been baptised because baptism makes no difference to our lives.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord challenges us to reflect on our baptism and its significance in our lives.

At a time when many people have abandoned God it is imperative that Christians are committed to living the baptised life. Unless we are faithful to our baptismal promises by rejecting evil and being obedient to Christ, we cannot claim to be authentic disciples and we cannot be genuine witnesses to the Good News.

BEREAVEMENTS

Recently Deceased:

Matt Kelly, Sheastown.

Bridget Grace, Haltigan Terrace. *Funeral Mass Monday at 11.00am in St Patrick's. Interment in Foulkstown cemetery.*

Ann Corcoran, Kincora, Sion Road. Funeral arrangements later.

Months Mind:

Jacinta Kelly.

Anniversaries:

William & Tess Murphy & Murphy Family (6.30pm); John McKiernan (10.00am); Seamus Hennessy (10.30am); John & Ann Barry (11.00am); Alex Dewberry (12.00 noon); Frank O'Neill (7.30pm); Bernard O'Gorman; Bridget Slattery; James Cleary; Teresa Barcoe; Jimmy & Chrissie Bergin; Paddy Nolan; Ann Moynihan; Michael O'Dwyer; Seán Tyrrell; Bernard Kelly; Gemma Clancy; Denis Guilfoyle; Johnny Brennan; Michael O'Connor Jnr; Tom Phelan; Mary Leahy; Mary & Denis Purcell; Mai Murphy; Eamonn Goulding;

Readers for Next Weekend – Page 127

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| 6.30pm | Seamus Brennan |
| 8.00am | Ann Marie Hogan |
| 10.30am | Jimmy Connolly |
| 12.00noon | Kay Purcell |
| 7.30pm | Anne Marie Grace |
| Johnswell 10.00am | Seán Colgan |
| Dunmore 11.00am | Christy Murray & Caitriona McDermott |

Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend – Panel 2

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €10,285.

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

St Vincent De Paul

Monthly collection for St Vincent de Paul Society will take place next weekend 19th & 20th January. Sincere thanks for all your generous support.

Fitness for Fun Pilates

Pilates class commencing on Thursday 10th January 7pm in Dunmore Hall, 8 weeks €70. Booking essential as places are limited. Call or text Margaret 086 8547710.

Mass Intentions for the coming Week

Monday: Jacinta Kelly (10.30am).

Tuesday: Bridget Slattery (10.30am).

Thursday: James Cleary (10.30am).

Friday: Teresa Barcoe (10.30am).

Saturday: Jimmy & Chrissie Bergin, Paddy Nolan, Ann Moynihan (10.30am).
Richie & Teresa Purcell (6.30pm).

Sunday: Billy Malone (8.00am).
Rita Collings (10.00am).
Josie Purcell (10.30am).
Kevin McDaid (11.00am).
Michael Dowling (12.00 noon)
Patrick Meany (7.30pm).



*I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit*

THE PIG AND THE CHICKEN

Total commitment

A pig and a chicken were out for a walk one day.

The pig wasn't too bright and tended to repeat everything that others said or suggested.

The chicken remarked "Those are very nice people down in that house down there."

"They are indeed" replied the pig, "they are very nice people."

"They are very good to us" continued the chicken. "They are indeed" replied the pig, "they are very good to us."

"Do you know what I was thinking?" asked the chicken.

"No" said the pig. "What were you thinking?"

"I was thinking we should do something for them."

"That's a very good idea", replied the pig, "I think we should do something for them. What did you have in mind?"

"I was thinking" said the chicken, "that we should give them something."

"A brilliant idea" said the pig, "I think we should give them something. What did you have in mind?"

"I was thinking" said the chicken, "we should give them bacon and eggs."

The pig stopped in his tracks, and said

"Definitely not! For you that's only a slight inconvenience, but for me it's total commitment!"

Baptism is intended to lead us to a total commitment, and our acts of Christian charity should be seen as anything but slight inconveniences.