

First Communions and Confirmations

Today (Saturday) was to have been Confirmation Day 2020 - but, of course, it was not to be. We wrote to Parents, Guardians & Children last week to state the obvious regarding the situation. and to assure them of our thoughts and prayers.

All we can now say with regards Confirmation and First Holy Communion ceremonies is that when schools have been fully reopened and when it is possible once again to hold large indoor gatherings of people, it's only then can we discuss times and dates for rescheduling. And we all know that this may take some months yet.

We realise that this is very difficult for the pupils and their families. We will be in contact at a later date when there is further clarity around the situation.

In the meantime, let us pray for the children and for each other.

“Wash your hands and say your prayers”

WORLD YOUTH DAY & WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

WORLD YOUTH DAY and the World Meeting of Families have been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Vatican announced last Monday.

The World Meeting of Families was to take place in Rome in June 2021, and World Youth Day was being organised by Lisbon for August 2022.

A short notice published on the Vatican website stated that “due to the current health situation ... the Holy Father, together with the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, has decided to postpone the next World Meeting of Families ... and the World Youth Meeting to June 2022 and August 2023, respectively”.

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

**Fergal Brennan; Mary Brennan; Alan Burke; Margaret Cleere; Fr Brian Griffin;
Siobhán McKiernan; Fr Lorcan Moran; Iris O'Flynn; Karena Phelan; Fr Frank Purcell.**

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:

Mary Weadick; Máirín Bergin; 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: 6.00 p.m.; Sun: 8.00 a.m., 11.30 & 7.00 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.

Third Sunday of Easter - 26th April 2020

Just To Say Hi, Hope You're Keeping Well and Thank You!

It's hard to believe it - but this is the first Parish Newsletter since the Third Sunday of Lent, and we've arrived at the Third Sunday of Easter already! Amazing how swiftly time marches on whether we find it boring or not.

So, we just want to greet our parishioners and visitors who might pick this Newsletter in St John's, Dunmore or Johnswell Churches, or find it on our parish website.

Your priests hope you are all keeping very well despite the restrictions of staying at home, cocooning or voluntary self-isolation.

Of course it's a 'no-brainer' to say if we are to overcome this pestilence we must strictly follow all the guidelines of our Government, the HSE and Dr Tony Holohan (who has a first cousin in Dunmore). They are doing a fantastic job for our nation, given the circumstances.

We thank you for your call, cards, messages and prayers of good will and solidarity over the past number of weeks.

We thank you for dropping in your Lenten Station and Church Envelopes - it's much appreciated in these challenging times. God knows, it's not only the Church that finds it difficult, but thousands of people all over who have lost jobs, business, etc. We think and pray for them all.

BEREAVEMENTS

Recently Deceased:

Thomas Deegan, Clonmorán.

Month's Minds:

Michael (Icy) Lanigan.

Ken Lynam.

Anniversaries:

Brenda McGuinness (11.30); Liam Maher; John, Agnes & Mick Stapleton; Joan Manning; Fr Tom Cassin; Catherine Foley; James Clutterbuck; Ellen Cassin; Deceased members of The Monagle & McDermott Families; Molly Dowling.

Daily Mass

Remember, you are invited to join us in celebrating Mass from St John's each day through our **Webcam Service**, stjohnskilkenny.com, or through our Parish **Radio Service** (106.8 FM). Please note that the web-page may say something like 'no service' up to the time we turn on the camera. This is to comply with privacy laws: not to have the camera streaming an empty, but magnificent, sanctuary all day long (*which, of course, makes perfect sense!*).

World Missions Ireland

A member of the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) with more than 25 years of service in the Middle East and Africa has been appointed as the new National Director of World Missions Ireland. The appointment of Fr Michael P. O'Sullivan by the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples was welcomed by Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA, chair of the Board of World Missions Ireland, who said that Fr O'Sullivan's knowledge of the missionary challenges facing the Church today would bring a new dimension to the work. Founded almost 200 years ago, World Missions Ireland is the Pope's official charity for overseas mission.

Mass Intentions for the coming Week

Wednesday: Deceased members of
The Monagle & McDermott
Families.

Friday: Molly Dowling

Saturday: Ken Lynam.

Sunday: Mary Walsh.

Adoration Chapel

Adoration Chapel is closed until further notice.

But Please Note:

All three Churches are open each day for visits, prayer and reflection.

St John's is only opened after the 10.30 morning Mass (c. 11.00) which is Streamed and Broadcast behind closed doors.

Trócaire

The Irish Church's development agency, Trócaire, is warning that, as they try to cope with the coronavirus pandemic, Malawi has just one intensive care bed for every million people while Sierra Leone has no ICU beds and South Sudan has only two ventilators for 12 million people.

The agency is urging those who want to help to make financial contributions online or via the phone. It is asking that Trócaire collection boxes be retained by those who took them home until it is safe to return them.

The boxes are usually returned after Easter Sunday.

Fátima

For the first time in a century, the 13 May celebrations in Fátima will take place without the faithful, as decided by the local bishop, even though there are expectations that public Masses in Portugal may be restored by then. There has till now been little resistance to containment measures and Portugal has been dealing relatively well with the pandemic, with death and infection rates well below those of other European countries such as Britain, Spain, France and Italy. But many Catholics were taken aback when the government announced that commemorations for 1 May, International Workers' Day, and for the 25 April revolution which ended the dictatorship in 1974, were to go ahead, although scaled down.