

THANK YOU

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you who, despite the Pandemic, have taken the time and gone to the trouble of dropping in Lenten Stations, Weekly Envelope and Donations through the Presbytery Door. In the present circumstances of overall diminished income, it's very much appreciated.

Thanks also to all who or returned their Trócaire boxes and contributions.

GOOD SHEPHERD (VOCATIONS) SUNDAY

"The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gate-keeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice."

On this Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese, that God will raise up good shepherds in our midst. Do you hear the voice of the Lord, the Good Shepherd calling you to a particular way of life?

If you think God is calling you to serve the Church as a priest or in the consecrated life, contact the National Vocations Office, email: info@vocations.ie or our local Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Kieran O'Shea, Ferrybank.

Funeral Masses

The Bishop reminds us all that the current norms regarding a maximum of 10 people attending in Church at funerals are still in force and should be respected. Equally, social distancing should still be observed in gatherings outside churches and in cemeteries when attending funerals.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. **Email:** stjohns@ossory.ie
Website: 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

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

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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter - Vocations Sunday - 3rd May 2020

LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS To the Faithful for the Month of May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020

Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

FRANCIS

(The two prayers are on the reverse side)

BEREAVEMENTS

Recently Deceased:

Margaret Walsh, Glendine Heights.

Tom Murray, O'Loughlin Road.

May Butler, Leggettsrath, formerly Newpark.

Month's Minds:

Tracy Maher (11.30).

Anniversaries:

Mary Walsh & Ken McDermott (11.30); Michael & Alice Byrne;
Gavin McBride; Bea Orr; Tom Byrne; Patrick O'Brien; Jim Kelly;
Willie, Nan & Noel Meany.

Anniversaries, Month's Minds, etc.

We seek your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

As the number of Masses is greatly reduced since COVID-19 on both weekdays and weekends, we have decided to group **'Mass Intentions'** together for each particular day.

For example, if four Anniversaries are booked for a particular Sunday - two in St John's and one in Dunmore and one in Johnswell, they will all share the same 11.30 Mass in St John's as it's the only Mass relayed and broadcast.

The same applies to weekdays - even if a funeral occurs on the same day.

This is not an uncommon practice in many Parishes and Religious Houses.

POPE'S FIRST PRAYER (from front page message)

O Mary,

You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs,

and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;

Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Mass Intentions for the coming Week

Tuesday: Bea Orr.

Thursday: Tom Byrne.

Saturday: Patrick O'Brien & Jim Kelly.

Sunday: Bridget O'Connell, Ellen & Martin Brennan, Christy & Martin (Jr) Brennan, Michael Hayes.

POPE'S SECOND PRAYER (from front page message)

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment. Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future. Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need.

Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Daily Mass

Webcam Service,
stjohnskilkenny.com,
or through our Parish
Radio Service (106.8
FM).