

COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who drop in their Lenten Stations, Weekly Envelope and Donations through the Presbytery Door. It's very much appreciated.

Trócaire

Trócaire is launching a national advertising campaign to encourage people to return their donations over the Pentecost Weekend, i.e. 29th May - 1st June.

Your Local Library: May update County Library Delivery Service to Cocooners

Staff continue to work hard to keep you connected to reading and books through our online services and our door to door delivery service to those co-cooning. Everyone is thrilled with the books and small gift enclosed, and feedback has been fantastic so far!

Anyone aged 70+ that registered a date of birth when signing up initially will receive a letter. If your date of birth is not recorded on our system, or you signed up online recently, just phone 056 779 4160 or email info@kilkennylibrary.ie with your details and library card number be included.

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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter - 17th May 2020

ETHICAL TEACHINGS

We do not instinctively associate the concept of love with the demand to be faithful to a series of rules. Yet, in the farewell speech to his disciples, Jesus was uncompromising when he explained the necessary connection between loving him and keeping his commandments: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments.'

The ethical teaching of Jesus provides us with definite instructions for everyday living. It stresses the need for correct and respectful relationships with God and with one another. It teaches us that we cannot separate our relationship with God from our various relationships with other people.

This means that we cannot have a straightforward vertical relationship with God without also having a horizontal relationship with God through our relationships with the people we meet in everyday life.

The fundamental message of Jesus' moral teaching is that we are obligated to love God and our neighbour. We cannot love one without the other. Our dealings with others have implications for our friendship with God. This is how, in practice, we connect love and rules. If we love God, we will keep his commandments. If we love our neighbour, we will not treat him/her unjustly. Nowadays, many people dismiss moral imperatives as being irrelevant to modern life. They are often viewed negatively because they are judged to be imposing limitations on our freedom. However, that is not so. Fidelity to Jesus' commandments enables us to live freely in the presence of God who cares for us. Contrary to popular opinion, the purpose of Jesus' moral demands is to enable us to appreciate the freedom of living according to God's will. It is not to make our lives miserable. Faithfulness to his commandments is the benchmark of our love for him and, in fact, for ourselves and our neighbour.

BEREAVEMENTS

Anniversaries:

Damien Mahon, Joe Coyne, Bridget & Carmel McEvoy (11.30); Tommy O'Connell; Paddy O'Brien; Noel Webster; Brian Mahoney; Carrie Doheny; Judy & Michael McLoughlin; Patrick, Mary & Seán McGrath; Peggy & Eamonn Holohan; James Lanigan.

KNITTED TOGETHER

Crochet or knit a square to help vulnerable children in South Africa.

Kilkenny County Council Arts Office has initiated a blanket project to help you use up of all that extra wool you have lying around your house and to help improve the lives of children in South Africa. What better time to get back to knitting, crocheting or indeed take it up for the first time or to get your children knitting.

Knit or crochet a square 7" x 7" and your squares will be stitched together into beautiful blankets for the children supported by the Elkana Childcare charity in South Africa.

If you are interested in getting involved in this wonderful project please let us know by e-mail bernadette.roberts@kilkennycoco.ie / or call the Arts Office on 056 779 4203. This project is brought to you by Kilkenny County Council Arts Office as part of Kilkenny County Council Community Wellbeing initiative.

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,320.

Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order.

Despite there being no public masses, many of you went to the trouble of dropping in your envelope to the Presbytery.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Mass Intentions for the coming Week

Monday: Noel Webster and the Deceased members of Kilkenny's. Active Retirement Association.

Friday: Brian Mahoney.

Saturday: Carrie Doheny.

Sunday: Thomas, Bridget & Michael Long; Ann Coffey; Bridget & Denis Guilfoyle; Catherine Holohan.

Daily Mass

Please join us each morning on our **Webcam Service**, stjohnskilkenny.com, or through our Parish **Radio Service** (106.8 FM).

Weekdays: 10.30 a.m.

Sundays: 11.00 a.m.

"I would obey the Commandments of God."

When Jimmy Carter was running for President of the United States, one of the more vivid moments in the campaign passed by almost unnoticed. One Sunday morning, candidate Carter had been worshipping at the Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia.

When the service was over, he exited the Church into the swarm of press encamped on the Church's front lawn.

Cameras whirring, video lights glaring, microphones thrust forward, the media mavens moved in for interviews, pushing themselves to think of clever questions to ask a Presidential candidate on the way out of a Southern Baptist Church.

Suddenly, a reporter, probably with a stroke of luck, shouted out a question that genuinely mattered:

"Mr. Carter, suppose when you are President, you get into a situation where the laws of the United States are in conflict with what you understand to be the will of God. Which will you follow, the laws of the state or the commandments of God?"

Carter stopped, looked up, perhaps with the Spirit gently whispering the lyrics of the Gospel into his ears, he turned toward the reporter and replied, "I would obey the commandments of God."

Alert aides, alarmed by this candour and unnerved by their candidate's near-treasonous remark, hurriedly whisked him away from the press and into a waiting car.

Carter the politician should have avoided the question, or hewed closely to the law of the land.

But Carter the Christian was open to the Holy Spirit Who encouraged him to give an honest answer.

Always Be Careful Who You Claim To Be!

A lawyer was on vacation in a small farming town. While walking through the streets, he noticed that a car was involved in an accident. As expected, a large crowd gathered. The lawyer was eager to get to the injured party, but he couldn't get near the car. Being a rather clever person, he started shouting loudly, "Let me through! Let me through! I am the son of the victim." The crowd made way for him. Lying in front of the car was a donkey!