

OUR HEROES SUPERB, KIND, GOOD-HUMOURED

Massive recognition, appreciation and praise is due from us all to the ongoing extraordinary efforts of healthcare workers across the country as they battle the coronavirus on the frontline: Doctors, nurses, GPs, allied health professionals, and more are working in hospital settings and communities.

We also pay tribute to other workers on the frontline during the Covid-19 pandemic for their continued hard work and dedication.

So, as well as Healthcare workers, we think of the Gardaí, Cleaners, Refuse Collectors, Taxi, Bus and Train Drivers, Armed Forces, Fire Brigade, Community Workers and Carers, Shop and Supermarket Workers and Politicians, to mention but a few. May the Lord protect them from all harm and keep them and their families safe and healthy.

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.

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.

The Ascension Of The Lord - 24th May 2020

You are my witnesses

Today, in union with the world wide church, we celebrate the Ascension of Lord. We took part in the drama of Holy Week (albeit behind closed doors) and shared in the Resurrection. Now, today, we are witnesses to the earthly and physical presence of Jesus as it comes to an end.

We all know how challenging, difficult and at times, painful these last few months have been locally, nationally and globally for all of us. Each of us has been stretched and tested in ways we never thought possible. We went above and beyond ourselves as we did our very best to care for others around us. We think of the many medical staff in hospitals and nursing homes who lovingly cared for the most vulnerable in our society at this time.

Through their healing work they and so many others are witnesses to the message of Jesus, *love each other as I love you.*

We think of families, perhaps with elderly parents or sick children who are doing all they can to nourish, nurture and support each other at this difficult time. They are witnesses to the presence of and power of Jesus in our families and communities this very day.

We might ask ourselves, who am I to be a witness to Jesus? Who am I to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus? Here's an idea, ask those questions another way; who am I *not* to be a witness to Jesus? Who am I *not* to carry on the mission of Jesus?

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit with which we were anointed at our baptism and confirmation, you and I are called to be living and radical disciples of Jesus today, here and now. Jesus says to each of us; 'As the Father sent me, so I am sending you. Through us the mission of Jesus continues.

Jesus is calling you and I to be his witnesses just as he called his first disciples. He is sending you and I out to live and proclaim the gospel through the quality of our daily lives, just as he sent out his first disciples. When we Jesus calls us by our name to be his witness, what is our response to this invitation?

BEREAVEMENTS

Month's Mind

Tom Murray.

Anniversaries:

Thomas, Bridget & Michael Long, Ann Coffey, Bridget & Denis Guilfoyle, and Catherine Holohan (11.30); Eileen Prendergast; Bridget Brennan; Sarah & Sheila Cleary; Bridget Culleton; David McGrath.

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,195.

Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Despite there being no public masses, we appreciate you dropping off your envelope or donations at the Presbytery. Your support is greatly appreciated.

“Is this thing working?”

There is the funny story of the raw army recruit standing at attention on the drill field.

The drill instructor yells, “Forward, march!” And the entire ranks begin to move, all except this one raw recruit. He's still standing there at attention.

So, the drill instructor strolls over to him and yells in his right ear, “Is this thing working?” “Sir, yes, sir!” the recruit yells. Then the drill instructor walks around to the other ear and yells, “Is this thing working?” “Sir, yes, sir!” the soldier yells. “Then why didn't you march when I gave the order?” “Sir, I didn't hear you call my name.”

Some of us are like that soldier standing around waiting for God to call our names. But the great commission given by Jesus on the day of his Ascension is a blanket order. It has everyone's name on it. And you can be sure that the man in charge says, **“Go! Make disciples! Teach!”**

It is your mission and my mission.

Mass Intentions for the coming Week

Monday: Eileen Prendergast.

Tuesday: Bridget Brennan.

Thursday: Tom Murray.

Saturday: Sarah & Sheila Cleary.

Sunday: Philip Morrissey, Thomas Comerford,
Liam & Mae Davitt,
Patsy & Michael Davitt.

Daily Mass

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

Weekdays: 10.30 a.m.

Sundays: 11.00 a.m.

Lies

One Sunday after the usual sermon, the pastor asked everyone in the congregation to prepare for next week's sermon. He said the subject would be lying and that everyone needed to read the 17th chapter in the book of Mark. Everyone uttered a sound of approval. Next week after the congregational singing the preacher said, "If you read Mark 17 please raise your hand." And everyone in the congregation did. Then the preacher said, "Now I am ready to start my sermon on lying" And he said "There is no chapter 17 in Mark!!" Remember to read your Bible and to never lie to the preacher!

Another Man's Wife

An English Vicar was traveling in the United States where he heard that ministers regularly used humour in the pulpit. So he decided he would try to learn from the example of his American colleagues.

One Sunday he found himself in a large Methodist Church. Suddenly the minister said, "The best years of my life were spent in the arms of another man's wife." The congregation was in shock until he drew his breath and said in a loud voice, "My mother." The congregation then laughed and the English Vicar thought, "Jolly good! I must remember that!"

On his return to England he entered his own pulpit and decided to repeat the story told by the American. "The best years of my life were spent in the arms of another man's wife." At this point he drew a complete blank.

The congregation began to whisper and murmur. His wife folded her arms and became crimson red. His mother-in-law, who had come to church that Sunday was gritting her teeth. So he repeated himself (hoping to remember the punchline): "The best years of my life, were spent in the arms of another man's wife... ." Alas, to no avail. So he said "For the life of me I cannot remember who she was!" Now there was pandemonium in the congregation. Some key congregation leaders were heading for the doors, when he remembered! And he shouted out, "Oh... oh yes, I remember now. It was the mother of a Methodist minister in America!"