

THANK YOU

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

Trinity Made Simple

The story is told of a priest sitting in an airport waiting for his flight. A fellow killing time struck up a conversation. Said he, "Father, I believe only what I can understand. So, I can't buy your Trinity. Perhaps you can explain it to me." The priest reluctantly put down The New York Times. "Do you see the sun out there?" "Yup." "OK, it's 80 million miles away from us right now. The rays coming through the window," said the priest, "are coming from the sun. The delightful heat we are enjoying on our bodies right now come from a combination of the sun and its rays. Do you understand that?" The fellow answered, "Sure, padre." "The Trinity," the priest went on, "is like that. God the Father is that blazing sun. The Son is the rays He sends down to us. Then both combine to send us the Holy Spirit who is the heat. If you understand the workings of the sun, its rays, and heat, why do you have difficulty believing the Trinity?" The man said something about catching a flight and was off. He recalled the husband, who said when he became a father, he better understood the Trinity. When he and his wife had their son, they had evidence of their love for each other. There was the lover, the beloved, and the love, each distinct and yet one.

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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 Most Holy Trinity - 7th June 2020

Phase 2 of the Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business from Monday 8th June 2020

Thank God there is more positive news regarding the 'curve' and the control of the pandemic in our country. But there is still a ways to go. So we must continue to be vigilant and cautious and continue to observe the national guidelines so there is no regression of any kind.

Regarding the celebration of funerals, as and from tomorrow Phase 2 of the Roadmap states that "up to 25 people will be allowed to attend funerals of loved ones."

There also seems to be a willingness on the part of the public authorities to examine the possibility of bringing forward the opening of churches for public worship into Phase 3 of the Roadmap, which would begin on 29th June.

Any return to public celebration of Mass and other sacraments must be cautiously phased in as safety restrictions are implemented. Therefore it is important that we progress the preparation of our churches so that we are well prepared for any resumption of worship.

We have made significant preparations thus far in our parish. Foot operated sanitizers have been put in place in all churches - at entrances and in each sacristy and at the entrance to the parish office.

Signage and the roping off of every second pew is in progress in our churches as we endeavour to comply with social distancing which is currently two metres.

Please God we will all do our best when we come back to church as it's a new normal that we are trying to come to learn and come to grips with.

BEREAVEMENTS

Recently Deceased:

Maija Angrejeva, Maudlin Street.
Micheal Cronin, Bantry.
Earl Lerroux.
Msgr Jim Cassin, Thomastown.

Month's Mind:

May Butler (included in 11.30).

Anniversaries:

Philip Drohan, Michael Owens, Eugene Jordan, Edward Delaney (11.30);
Denis Brennan; Loughlin O'Keeffe; Mary Grogan; Mary Brennan;
Paddy Cantwell; Thomas Drennan; Jake Brennan; Paul Hogan;
Thomas O'Connor; Peter Donnelly; Thomas Jordan (Snr.); Tommy Jordan
(Jnr.); Margaret Heffernan.

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €965.

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.

Understanding the Trinity

This is Trinity Sunday. God in three persons--Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Do we fully understand this wonderful doctrine? No, but some of us will fight for it. You may remember that ancient story about St. Augustine. One day he took a break from writing about the Trinity to take a walk along the seashore. There he came across a child with a little pail, intently scooping up a pail full of water out of the ocean, then walking up the beach and dumping it out into the sand, then going back down to scoop out another pail of water to pour into the sand, etc.

Augustine asked the child what he was doing, and the child explained that he was "emptying the sea out into the sand." When the Bishop tried to gently point out the absurd impossibility of this task, the child replied, "Ah, but I'll drain the sea before you understand the Trinity."

There's quite an amount of truth to that child's comment.

Mass Intentions for the coming Week

Monday: Mary Grogan & Mary Brennan.

Tuesday: Earl Lerroux.

Wednesday: Paddy Cantwell.

Thursday: Thomas Drennan.

Saturday: Jake Brennan, Paul Hogan.

Sunday: Thomas & Clare Drennan.

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: 11.30 a.m.

Two is company, three is a crowd

A popular idiom says that "Two is company, three is a crowd". This may be true of romantic pairings, but the gospel gives another view. In the life of Jesus Christ, a threesome symbolises completeness and perfect symmetry, and the number three re-appears at key moments of the story of our Lord, for his life itself constantly reflected the Holy Trinity. There were three at the nativity scene in Bethlehem, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; and their first visitors were the three wise men from the East. Later, when praying in the desert before beginning his public life, Jesus was tempted three times by the devil. And so many of his parables reflect the adage that "a good story should have a beginning, a middle and an end."

He was a storyteller par excellence and in his stories, sets of three characters figure prominently. The Prodigal Son is about a father and his two sons; the Good Samaritan contrasts the behaviour of three passers-by, the priest, the Levite and the Samaritan. The sower sowed his seed in three different types of ground, each yielding its own level of harvest. The end of Christ's life, like its beginning, again has the three motif. During his Passion, Peter denied him thrice. On the road to Calvary, he fell three times.

The crucifixion scene has three figures, Christ between two thieves. Before his resurrection, he spent three days in the tomb.