

Being Faithful To God

There is a connection between how we live in this world and our ultimate destiny in the next life. The two are undeniably linked.

During our earthly lives we have many opportunities to learn how to know and love God. God is the Just Judge and Merciful Father who desires that we journey towards our true home in heaven by freely choosing to avoid sin and being faithful to the gospel.

If we knowingly and freely choose sinfulness and evil throughout our lives, without ever repenting, our eternal destiny will be alienation from God.

We sin when we refuse to respond to God's loving presence in our lives and in our world. We also sin when we choose estrangement from God.

While God always invites us to return to his loving presence, he will not force us to do so.

How we choose to live in this world has a bearing on the next life. We cannot be with God for ever in heaven unless we are with him during this earthly life. We prepare for the next life — a life enjoying the eternal happiness of heaven — by living this life as fully as possible in the presence of God.

We are challenged to be faithful to Christ's teaching and example, keeping his commandments.

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 - dip@ossory.ie

OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Mary Weadick; Máirín Bergin; Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

Roman Catholic Diocese and Parishes of Ossory - Registered Charity No. 20015831

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.

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 26th July 2020

The hidden treasure

One day God decided to launch a treasure hunt on earth. So he called his angels and gave them a priceless treasure to bring to earth, instructing them to hide it so that people would have to search for it and might have the joy of finding it. 'Shall we hide it on the highest mountain, the angels asked. 'No', answered God, 'because only the fittest and healthiest could climb that mountain and the weak would have no chance'. Again the angels asked: 'Shall we put it on the furthest shores of the ocean'. 'No', answered God, 'because only the rich people could afford to travel so far and the poor would have no chance.' 'Where then shall we put it?' the angels asked. 'Put it within reach of everybody, rich or poor, healthy or weak. Plant it in the centre of their beings. Hide it in their hearts.'

We are all treasure hunters. We seek the 'pearl of great price', the one thing that will answer our deepest yearning and make us truly happy. The problem is that we spend a lot of time looking for it in the wrong places – outside ourselves and end up frustrated. The treasure we seek is the presence of God for which our hearts were made. St Augustine writes movingly about his own experience of seeking and finally discovering this divine treasure in his famous autobiography, *The Confessions*. After a fruitless search for this treasure outside himself, he finally discovers it in the depths of his own heart. His words convey his joy in discovering the hidden treasure: **'Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you.'**

BEREAVEMENTS

Recently Deceased:

Hannah Davin, Dean Cavanagh Place.
Sandra Wallace, Clane, Co. Kildare.

Anniversaries:

Bríd Maher (6.00pm); Seamus Murphy (10.00am); Michael Geoghegan (11.30am); Tom Watson; Catherine Moriarty; Peter Wiltshire; Catherine Bergin; Milo Butler; Elizabeth Brennan; Linda Reade; John Joe Dowling; Joe & Pat Cody; Chris Murphy;

Readers for Next Weekend – Page 111

6.00pm Bridget Ahearn
8.00am Jo Browne
11.30am Tony Dalton
7.00pm Marie Fogarty
Johnswell Seán Colgan
Dunmore Christy Murray & Caitriona McDermott

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €820.

Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The 'Red Button' is now active

Eventually, the DONATE button is active on our parish website. So, if you wish to donate to **PARISH FUNDS** you may do so by using;

IBAN: IE57AIBK93342232024285 (BIC: AIBKIE2D)

And if you wish to donate to the **CLERGY FUND** (priests' and bishop's salary):

IBAN: IE86AIBK93342232024442 (BIC: AIBKIE2D)

Please associate your name and address with any contribution..

Mass Intentions for the coming Week

Wednesday: Catherine Moriarty (10.30am).

Thursday: Peter Wiltshire (10.30am).

Saturday: Catherine Bergin (10.30am).

Sunday: Eveline Hennessy (10.00am).
Tony Teehan (11.30am).

Daily Mass

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

Weekdays: 8.00 & 10.30 am.

Sundays: 6.00 pm Vigil; 8.00 & 11.30 am and 7.00 pm

Finance Committee Meeting

An incorporeal meeting of the Parish Finance Committee will take place on Thursday next at 7.00 pm via Zoom.

GETTING INTO HEAVEN

A fellow finds himself in front of the Pearly Gates. St. Peter explains that it's not easy to get into heaven. There are some criteria that must be met before entry is allowed. For example, was the man a church-goer or religious? No? St. Peter told him that's bad.

Was he generous, giving money to the poor or to charities? No?

St. Peter told him that that, too, was bad.

Did he do any good deeds, such as helping his neighbour? Anything? No? St. Peter was becoming concerned.

Exasperated, the Saint says, 'Look, everybody does something nice some-time. Work with me, here! I'm trying to help. Now think!'

The man thinks for a minute, then says, 'Well, I did help this old lady once. I came out of a store and saw that a dozen Hell's Angels had taken her purse and were shoving her around. I threw my bags down and got her purse back, then I told the biggest biker there that he was cowardly and I slapped him in the face.'

'Wow,' said St. Peter, 'That's impressive! When did this happen?'

'Oh, about 15 minutes ago,' replied the man.