

Family Carers Ireland

Family Carers Ireland are now accepting nominations for the 2020 Netwatch Carer of the Year. If you know of someone who is looking after a loved one at home and would like to recognise them for everything that they do, you can nominate online at www.familycarers.ie or contact the local office on 056 7721424 for a form. Nominations are also being accepted for Young Carer of the Year. Now more than ever it is time to recognise the valuable contribution that family carers bring to society.

St Mary's Restoration Draw

As you may be aware, the first draw of the Diocesan Draw 2020/2021 was due to take place on 25th March 2020 but was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The draw will now run from September 2020 to August 2021, with the first draw planned from Wednesday 30th September.

Tickets bought prior to the cancellation of the draw are still valid for September's draw. Tickets are €10 per month and are available from Jane in the sacristy or Áine in the Parish Office. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Value for Money

A man died and his wife phoned the newspaper to place a death notice. She said: "This is what I want printed in the paper - 'Bernie is dead'. The man at the newspaper said: "But for €50 you are allowed to print six words."

The woman said: "Okay, then print: 'Bernie is dead. Toyota for sale.'"

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;
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.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 13th September 2020

First Holy Communions

Finally we can announce that our First Holy Communion ceremonies will take place in St John's on Saturday the 3rd and 10th October in two sessions each day at 12 noon and 2pm. First Holy Communions in Johnswell will take place on Saturday 26th September 11.00am.

Infinitely loved

The parable of the unforgiving servant highlights the generous love of God and sets a blueprint for our treatment of others. The master who cancels the servant's large debt does so out of compassion, and the servant is grateful - but not so grateful that he is willing to take pity on a fellow servant who owes him just a small amount. It seems he has learnt nothing; he has neither appreciated the gift he has been given, nor is he willing to pass it on to others. We are each loved infinitely by God. He has provided us with every good thing, and we are expected to live accordingly. Because we have been loved, we must love. In this Season of Creation we focus in particular on our relationship with creation. We have been gifted with this wonderful world, with all its beauty and resources. Yet in so many ways, we have failed to appreciate this gift. We depend entirely on the earth's resources, yet instead of respecting them we have plundered them, causing great harm to the earth and its inhabitants. We have built comfortable and cheap lifestyles at the expense of the world's poorest people. If we carry on this way, there will be no gift to pass on to future generations. We are like the servant in the gospel - taking, but giving nothing in return.

Today we are called to act as people who are loved infinitely by God. All of creation speaks of God's love for us. We are deeply connected with the earth and all of its people. We must live a life which is not centred exclusively on ourselves, but on the needs of others.

BEREAVEMENTS

Recently Deceased:

Kitty McCarthy, Castlecomer Road.
Anne McDermott, O'Loughlin Road.
Jim Russell, Freshford Road.
Paddy Murray, Cathedral Square.
Lily McGarth, Foulkstown.
Philip Bartley, College Road.
Philomena Casey, Dean Cavanagh Place.

Anniversaries:

Mary Marnell (6.00pm); Michelle Reynolds (8.00am); Fr Bill Bennett & Catherine Bennett (10.00am); Michael, Sharon & Jim Brennan (11.00am); Edward Ryan (11.30am); Claire, Richard & Catherine Shortall (7.00pm); Patrick & Mary Halley; Michael Coffey; Anthony Murphy; John Byrne; Bridget Dooley; Kevin Cremin; Michael Roche;

Readers for Next Weekend – Page 131

6.00pm	Mary Lynch
8.00am	Jo Browne
11.30am	Bobbie Lahart
7.00pm	Eileen Kinane
Johnswell	Betsy Rice & Teresa Dowling
Dunmore	Fiona McGeary & Nora Guilfoyle

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,105.

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

Thursday : John Byrne (10.30am).

Saturday: Michael Roche (10.30am)
Michael Denieffe (6.00pm).

Sunday: Aine & Tom Dooley (8.00am).
James & Margaret Butler (10.00am).
Maurice, Anna & Jack Nolan (11.00am).
Kathleen Maher (11.30am).
Margaret & Patrick Shortt (7.00pm).

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

World Suicide Prevention Day

Last Thursday marked the World Suicide Prevention Day. The prevention of suicide is heart-breaking necessary, as anyone who has lost someone, they loved in this way knows.

Up until 2017, Ireland had one of the highest rates of youth suicide in the EU – fourth after the Baltic State of Lithuania, Finland and Estonia.

Thankfully, last year, Ireland's suicide rate dropped, which indicates that awareness of, and campaigning against, suicide can help prevent it. But the isolation and depression caused by Covid-19 lockdown conditions could well be a prompt that increases that conditions for suicide and self-harm.

In Britain, suicide among young women – those under 24 years of age – has doubled over the last ten years. Social media, which can increase anxiety, has taken some of the blame.

Yet there is, surely, a contradiction between the excellent campaigns to prevent suicide, and the dubious publicity for assisted suicide that promotes death as a 'choice'. This is sometimes flagged with the euphemism 'death with dignity.' There are difficult cases where people with a terminal illness want to be spared that last phases of their illness, and this surely calls for understanding and compassion.

But the propaganda that advances death as just another form of autonomous 'control' and personal 'choice inevitably gets to vulnerable young people. It promotes the very idea of suicide as a solution to problems. We are urged to prevent suicide by the International Association for Suicide Prevention: indeed so. Prevention not promotion.

"To err is human. To forgive is divine."