

Drive in Bingo POSTPONED - Fundraiser for Johnswell Development Fund

Unfortunately due to Level 3 restrictions, Drive in Bingo has been postponed. We hope to re-schedule shortly after a return to Level 2. Purchased Bingo Books may be used on the rescheduled date. Alternatively if you would prefer a refund, please contact Breda Gill on 087 0516040 or return your book to point of sale - John Joe Cullen, 48 John Street, Edel Holmes, Poccoke Golf Centre, Brennan's Bar, Johnswell. Apologies to all concerned.

Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny

1st Year Enrolment Autumn 2021.

The closing date for application for a First Year place is

Thursday 5th November, 2020.

Application forms and Admission Policy can be obtained from our website www.loretokk.ie or the school office.

Open Night for 6th Class Girls

An Open Night will take place on

Thursday 22nd October, 2020 - this will be an online event and details on how to access it will be posted on our website.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. **Email:** stjohns@ossory.ie

Website: stjohnskillkenny.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 Dan Carroll: 087 907 7769; Fr Brian Griffin: 087 064 4158; Fr Lorcan Moran: 086 855 0521

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Fergal Brennan; Mary Brennan; Alan Burke; Fr Dan Carroll; Margaret Cleere; Fr Brian Griffin; Fr Lorcan Moran; Iris O'Flynn; Karena Phelan.

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: 11.30 & 7.00 p.m.

Polish Mass: 2nd Sun. monthly, 1.00 p.m.; **Weekdays:** 10.30 a.m. (Sat. 10.30 a.m. only)

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 11th October 2020

'Do not lose heart'

A message from the Bishops of Ireland in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic the people of Ireland have endured testing times with courage, resilience, and compassion. Individuals and communities have made great sacrifices for the protection of life, health and the Common Good. Like many others, the Church has endeavoured to support the people of Ireland, north and south, in the face of considerable uncertainty and disruption. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our priests and to the many volunteers whose continued dedication has ensured that our churches have remained very safe places to gather for Mass and the Sacraments. We have also been blessed in the commitment of our school communities who have been supporting our young people in very demanding circumstances, including assisting with their preparation for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Now that more restrictive measures are being put in place, we encourage people to persevere and not to lose heart. Faith and prayer, in the home and in church can be a huge support in difficult times. While we fully support the guidance of the public health authorities, we will continue to engage constructively in the coming days with the civil authorities to ensure that our people have continued access to the support of Mass and the Sacraments and essential spiritual nourishment for these challenging times. The communal celebration of Mass and the Sacraments – even with restricted numbers - is at the very heart of what it means for us to be a Christian community. These are not simply 'gatherings' of people, but profound expressions of who we are as a Church. For parishes, and individual Catholics, the loss of these spiritual supports can be a source of great anxiety, and fear, and can have a detrimental impact on their overall health and well-being. *(continued on page 2)*

BEREAVEMENTS

Recently Deceased:

Paddy Brennan, Kilcreen and late of Cellarstown.
Maura Kelly, Edenderry.
Paddy Cody, Ossory Park.
Seanie O'Brien, Assumption Place.
Keith Gill, Watford, London.
Ian Jackman, Garringreen.
Christy Fitzgerald, Tullogher.

Month's Mind:

Ann McDermott

Anniversaries:

Joe Cleere (6.00pm). Frank Dalton (11.30am), John Butler (7.00pm); Eileen & Liam Nolan; Christine Mak; Mary McDermott;

Readers for Next Weekend – Page 140

6.00pm Bridget Ahearn
11.30am Seamus Brennan
7.00pm Marie Fogarty
Johnswell Betsy Rice & Teresa Dowling
Dunmore Christy Murray

(continued from page 1) This year, the month of November, in which we traditionally remember the dead and pray for the bereaved, will be particularly poignant. We sense a huge yearning for consolation and hope in the heart of our people. We are especially mindful in 2020 of those grieving families, who, because of restrictions, have been unable to experience the customary spiritual and community supports which are so much part of our Irish tradition. On 1 November at 3.00pm the bishops and priests of Ireland will lead a short service of prayer to dedicate the month of November to 'Remembrance of the Dead and Prayer for the Bereaved'. We invite the whole country to unite in this moment which will be followed by parish liturgies throughout the month of November, reaching out as much as possible to those who cannot be physically present.

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €945. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Mass Intentions for the coming Week

Tuesday : Christine Mak (10.30am)

Saturday: Eileen & Liam Nolan (10.30am)

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 am.

Sundays: 6.00 pm Vigil; 11.30 am and 7.00 pm

Advent and Christmas are likely to be very different this year. Advent, as a time of patient, hopeful waiting and longing, will have a particular resonance in these times, while the much-needed joy of Christmas may well be tempered by the impact of restrictions. We encourage parish communities to explore creatively ways in which the hope of Advent and the joy of Christmas can be realised and safely celebrated.

Pope Francis, in *Fratelli Tutti*, presents the example of the Good Samaritan and urges us to draw close to the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. We are conscious that the pandemic has seriously impacted the livelihoods of many Irish families. The plight of poor and homeless people, and the needs of our elderly and vulnerable, have been thrown into stark relief.

The pandemic has also heightened our consciousness of suffering further afield. The pandemic is a global phenomenon. It has impacted most severely on people around the world who are already seriously disadvantaged in terms of poverty and lack of access to healthcare. Although we are faced with difficult challenges in our own lives and our own land, let us not forget the need for solidarity with all our brothers and sisters who are suffering throughout the world.

The courage, compassion and generosity of Irish people during the pandemic – especially that of our health workers, carers, priests and others working in essential services – has been uplifting and inspiring. In this mission month of October, we appeal for your support for Trócaire, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, our missionaries and other charities who are reaching out to the poorest and most in need – both at home and in the furthest corners of the world. Let us not *'pass by on the other side'*, but, in the example of Christ, open our hearts and reach out our hands in response to their great need.