

### We Need Help

As we prepare for Christmas Masses, which we are very happy to celebrate for parishioners, we can only do so with your help. With thirteen Masses to be celebrated on Christmas Eve/Day we need ushers to assist people to their seats and welcome them to the different Masses. Without stewarding these Masses cannot go ahead in safety. We thank and greatly appreciate the help of those who have already volunteered and we ask others to consider offering your services for one of the Masses, so that other parishioners may come to Mass. To offer help please call to the Sacristy or Parish Office and leave your details.

### Christmas Confessions

Frs. Dan, Lorcan and Brian are available on request to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will also make themselves available in St. John's Church before and after all weekend Masses on the weekend before Christmas.

We thank the Capuchin Friars and the Dominican Fathers for continuing the tradition in the Marble City of providing the Sacrament of Reconciliation on request at their churches in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

### First Eucharist

We are delighted to congratulate the children from our parish who received their First Holy Communion this weekend. This brings to a completion a long and difficult year for the children, their parents, teachers and priests. We congratulate all who celebrated the Sacrament this year and thank you for your patience and cooperation.

### The Sacrament of Baptism

Because of the recent "lock down" in our churches we have a backlog of families waiting to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. It is our understanding that we can proceed with the ceremonies with a maximum congregation of six people. Please contact the Parish Office to re-book your child's baptism.

**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 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.

**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: 6.00pm; Sun: 8.00am, 11.30am & 7.00pm.

**Polish Mass:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. Monthly, 1.00pm; **Weekdays:** 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only).

**Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am**

**Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am**

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Gaudete Sunday - Rejoice, The Lord is Near

This Sunday we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as "Gaudete Sunday." In the readings, we hear about miracles associated with the Messianic age, its coming, and what we need to do to prepare. We also learn about the doubts of John the Baptist, how he dealt with them, and the blessing that makes us even more fortunate than John was.

The name "Gaudete Sunday" is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which reads:

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

This is a quotation from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4 – 5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is *gaudete* (Latin, "rejoice").

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season. Thus it is appropriate to rejoice as "the Lord is near."

### Christmas Masses in Kilkenny City

In response to the desire of people to attend Mass at Christmas and following consultation with neighbouring parishes and religious houses we will offer forty-two Masses in Kilkenny City and environs at different times on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Beginning at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve and going through to midnight, from 6.30am on Christmas Morning up until the last Mass at 1.30pm on Christmas Day, there will be forty-two Masses offered in nine different churches in the area. Parishioners are welcome to come to the Masses but are reminded that capacity in all churches is capped in line with Government guidance on attendance at public worship.

There will not be a ticketing system in place in St. John's Parish but when each Church has reached its capacity people will be advised to choose the next available Mass time. All who come to Mass are asked to be patient, observe social distancing, sanitise their hands, wear a face mask and sit in the designated seats that are clearly marked in all our churches. People are asked to comply with the directions of the ushers who will direct them to their seats.

### Christmas Masses in St. John's Parish

#### Christmas Eve

St. John's Church 5.00pm 7.00pm 9.00pm 12 Midnight

Dunmore Church 7.00pm

Johnswell Church 8.00pm

#### Christmas Day

St. John's Church 6.30am 8.00am 10.30am 12.00 noon 1.30pm (Polish)

Johnswell Church 10.00am

Dunmore Church 11.00am

## BEREAVEMENTS

### Recently Deceased:

Tommy (Tucker) O'Neill, Ossory Park. Requiem Mass at St. John's Church at 11.30am on Monday. Followed by interment at St. Kieran's Cemetery.

Ann Murphy, New Orchard, Bonnettsrath Road.

Michael Muldowney, Cyprus Grove and formerly St. Fiacre's Place.

Paddy Hehir, College Road and formerly Castlecomer Road.

Thomas McLawrence, O'Loughlin Court, Kilkenny and Waterford.

Sean Butler, Bleach Road who died in Los Angeles.

Frank Watson, formerly of Maudlin Street who died in London.

### Anniversaries:

Jim Rice (11.00). Mary McGuinness (11.30). Mary Malone (7.00). Billy Brennan. Frank Watson, London (formerly Maudlin Street). Owen Massey. John and Ann Fogarty. Christopher and Catherine Molloy. Michael Kelly. Richard O'Carroll. Syl Gaffney.

May they rest in peace.

## Readers for Next Weekend – Pg 88

6.00pm Bridget Ahearn

8.00am Martin Blake

10.00am

11.00am

11.30am Ann Maria Walsh

7.00pm Marie Fogarty

## Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,325. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## Christmas Offering Envelopes and The Weekly/Yearly Envelopes for 2021

During the coming week you will receive your Christmas Offering envelope as well as, either your weekly envelope box, or your annual envelope, or your standing order statement.

The 'Weekly/Yearly/Standing Order' contributions go in their entirety to capital expenditure and maintenance of the three parish churches and buildings, as well as all the running costs of the parish.

The 'Christmas Offering Collection' goes towards the salaries of the priests of the parish as well as our contribution towards the bishop's salary.

If you are new to the parish or would like to play your part in supporting your parish or personnel please let us know. At this time we are very conscious of the sacrifices that you make as you support these collections, and once again we take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all who do so.

Distributors are kindly asked to come to the Presbytery to collect the envelopes for their areas.

## Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Monday: Petra and Tommy McGuinness (10.30)

Tuesday: Nan Brennan (10.30)

Wednesday: Sean Hennessy (10.30)

Friday: Eddie Moran (10.30)

Saturday: Thomas, Seanie, Toddy O'Connor (6.00)

Sunday: Michael and Eileen McKenna (11.00)

Maura Mealy (11.30)

Dylan Whearty (7.00)

## Daily Webcam Mass

Please join us each weekday morning at **8.00am** and **10.30am** on our **Webcam Service**, [stjohnskilkenny.com](http://stjohnskilkenny.com), or our Parish **Radio Service** (106.8 FM).

**Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil; Sunday: 8.00am, 11.30am and 7.00pm**

### Diocesan Advent Resources

The Word Became Flesh – Training nights for new and existing Ministers of the Word. Two evening of reflection for the Ministers of the Word in our Parishes. Led by Fr. Dan Bollard, Fr. Jim Murphy and the Ossory Retreat Team – Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December from 8.00pm to 9.00pm.

Our Diocese, Your Crib: Why not take part in our Virtual Display of Cribs ([www.ossory.ie](http://www.ossory.ie)) this Christmas – send pictures of the crib in your home, parish, school or club to [afd@ossory.ie](mailto:afd@ossory.ie).

### Please support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Collection this Weekend

St. John's Parish Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be conducting their Giving Sunday collection this weekend. A church door bucket collection will be taken up at all Masses in our parish this weekend. For those who wish, there are blue envelopes at the back of the church into which you may place your donation and return it to the sacristy or parish office at the weekend or during the week.

The funds raised will be spent in this community helping those who need it most with food, heating and education costs at Christmas and beyond. We rely almost entirely on you to continue doing our work.

### Johnswell National School Notice

Enrolment for September 2021 pupils for Johnswell NS is now open. Please see [www.johnswellns.net](http://www.johnswellns.net) for admissions notice. Application forms are available from 056 775 9895 or downloadable from the website. If you have already sent in an application form please contact the school or fill in the updated application form available from the website. Completed application forms should be posted to The Principal, Johnswell NS, Johnswell.

### St Mary's Cathedral Book and Gift Shop

In keeping with Covid-19 restrictions our Book and Gift Shop is now open everyday until Christmas Eve. Our opening hours are;

*Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9.00am - 5.00pm.*

*Wednesday 2.00pm - 5.00pm.*

The shop is fully stocked with seasonal books, Nativity sets, Christmas decorations and gifts.

### St. Mary's Cathedral Monthly Draw

Thanks to all in our parish who continue to support the Monthly Draw in aid of the Restoration of our Diocesan Cathedral. The November draw will take place in conjunction with the December draw on this Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00pm. Good luck.

### Covid-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line for older people who have concerns relating to the outbreak of Covid-19. The support line is open seven days a week by calling 0818 222 024.