

OSSORY PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 2021

Ossory Adult Faith Development

August 17th – 22nd, 2021

Enlivening our faith through the art treasures of the Eternal City

Pilgrimage Chaplains: Fr Dermot Ryan and Fr Kieran O'Shea

Why not join us on the Adult Faith Development pilgrimage to Rome. The Eternal City has a remarkable array of religious works of art – frescoes, paintings, sculptures, mosaics, stuccos. Over the centuries these treasures have inspired, educated and uplifted countless people. Our itinerary will explore the religious and catechetical meaning of some of these masterpieces as we reflect in faith and prayer. I

Included in the price €859 p.p.s.:

- Five nights in a 3* Hotel in Rome centre B&B
- Full religious programme and accompaniment
- Includes one four-course dinner
- Includes one pizza dinner in City centre restaurant

For full details and booking contact: Ossory Adult Faith Development. Tel. 056-7753624. Email: afd@ossory.ie

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: 11.30am & 7.00pm.

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

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

1st Sunday of Advent - 29th November 2020

We Are Open!

In accordance with Government guidelines St John's Parish Churches will reopen for Masses from Tuesday, 1st December, to be reviewed in January. This will allow for up to 50 worshippers to attend services with the following protective measures:

- 2 metre social distancing (members of the same household can sit/stand close together).
- Face Masks must be worn.
- No congregating by people outside the church before and after any service.
- Please follow the direction of our volunteer stewards.
- Numbers allowed at funerals and weddings remain at 25.

We look forward to welcoming parishioners back to our churches!

Diocesan Advent Resources

An Exploration of the Impact of Faith on Mental Health, by Fr Billy Swan will take place on-line on Wednesday, 9th December, 8.00 - 9.00pm. To request a link contact afd@ossory.ie or tel. 056 775 3624.

Advent Thought for the Day: Online and Twitter or by Text. Simple Thoughts, Reflections, Prayer and Ideas. Why not take a few moments each day during Advent to pause in prayer. Follow @ossorydiocese. For text submit your phone number to 085-831 3100.

Prayer Group Lectio 365: Pray, Pause, Rejoice and Reflect on a Scripture Passage. Weekly virtual prayer meeting led by Pauline Haughney starting Monday, 30th November, 7.30pm. To request a link contact aft@ossory.ie or tel. 056 775 3624.

Faith/Hope/Love: A three night virtual Advent Retreat. Tuesday, 1st Wednesday, 2nd, Thursday, 3rd December; 8.00 to 9.00pm. Led by Fr. Billy Swan, Wexford. To request a link contact afd@ossory.ie or telephone 056 775 3624.

BEREAVEMENTS

Recently Deceased:

Kathleen Donovan, England, formerly Military Barracks
Olly Conway, Purcellsinch
Jim Foley, England, formerly Ossory Park
Harry Ryan, Higginstown

Anniversaries:

Mary Shelly (6.00). Jerry Tobin (11.30pm). Helen Purcell (7.00pm). Maura Leahy, Thomas & Annie Dowling, May Cleary, Billy Sullivan, Mark Lynch.

Readers for Next Weekend – Page 85

6.00pm Clare Coogan
8.00am No Mass
11.30am Kathleen Ferguson
7.00pm Linda O'Leary

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope
collection: €2,035. Thanks to all who
contribute weekly, monthly and
annually, as well as those who pay
by Standing Order. Your support is
greatly appreciated.

Pastoral Letter Advent 2020 *Waiting For The Lord Who Is Close*

Bishop Dermot Farrell has issued a Pastoral Letter to mark the beginning of the Season of Advent. Copies are available at the doors of our churches, on our parish website and on www.ossory.ie.

There are people in the world, in the Church, in our schools, in our estates and in our families who are committed to the care of the sick and elderly. Such lives, marked by a striving to minister to the sick and the dying and to the little ones, testify that Christ and his Kingdom are close to us, and that the Lord has not abandoned his people. In these days of Advent may we never cease to pray that his Kingdom may come, that justice and mercy be done. Come, Lord Jesus! Maranatha! Do not delay!

(Bishop Farrell's Pastoral Letter).

The History of the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the winter solstice - that time of year when the sun reaches its southern most point and the days are dark and gloomy. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, festooned with lights and greens in their celebration halls. Here they awaited the return of their Sun god, thinking of the warmth and life he brought.

As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life: the nativity of Jesus. We think of the darkness that sometimes creeps into our lives and watch the growing hope and light.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Monday: Maura Leahy (10.30)
Tuesday: Thomas & Annie Dowling (10.30).
Wednesday: May Cleary (10.30)
Thursday: Billy Sullivan (10.30)
Saturday: Ann & Paddy Stapleton & Family
(6.00)
Sunday: James Brophy (10.00)
Alice & Joseph Bambrick (11.30)
Larry Manning (7.00)

Daily Mass

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

Weekdays: 10.30am.

**Sundays: 6.00pm Vigil;
11.30am and 7.00pm**

Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is made in the shape of a circle, to express God's eternity. He has no beginning and no end.

The evergreen symbolises that God is always with us and will never change. The four candles, one for each week of Advent, represent the thousands of years that the People of God awaited the promised Messiah.

The purple candles are a reminder of the spirit of reconciliation, a turning back to God, which marks the Advent season.

A rose candle, used on the third Sunday of Advent ("Gaudete or Joyful Sunday") symbolises joy and hope in awaiting Jesus' birthday.

The wreath is usually blessed with holy water on the first weekend of Advent at the Vigil Mass. A purple candle is lit and burns for the first week. On successive weeks the second purple candle is used, then the rose candle and finally the last purple candle. As Jesus' coming draws near, the brightness increases.

The Circular Form: This reminds us that God's love is eternal. It has no beginning or end.

The Evergreens: The evergreens like the pine, the cypress and the peace plant, remain fresh and green through all the season. The evergreen leaves of the Wreath remind us that God's love never changes.

The Colour Purple: The colour purple can represent a call to conversion. Three of the candles are purple. They represent our need for renewal and heart conversion.

The Pink Candle: One candle on the Wreath is pink. Pink represents our joy and happiness because the one who makes all things new is at hand. We light this candle the third Sunday of Advent.

The White Candle: The white candle which is placed in the middle of the wreath on Christmas Day, represents the Christ Child born that day. His teaching will light our way to freedom in the coming year.

