

“Keep Christ at the Centre of Christmas”

The hope of Advent and the joy of Christmas inspire us to reach out to those in greatest need at this time. *Keep Christ at the centre this Christmas* by bringing the hope and joy of his birth to people who are sick, isolated, lonely or poor. A simple act of kindness can make such a difference. Charities such as the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Trócaire and World Missions Ireland will welcome much needed contributions as they have been unable to raise funds in the normal way during the pandemic. We are particularly conscious of those whose livelihoods have been seriously threatened by the pandemic. We keep in mind those for whom Christmas time may bring feelings of sadness – people coping with bereavement, families that cannot be together, those in care homes who can only have limited visits from their loved ones. Christmas can be difficult for Irish emigrants and migrants living in Ireland, who are unable to travel home. We pray that the time will come very soon when sorrow will ease and loving connections can be fully restored.

Traditionally many people turn at this time of the year to ask for God’s forgiveness and for healing of spirit. Although it may not be possible for all who wish to go to Confession to safely avail of the sacrament, we encourage the faithful to confidently place their trust in God’s mercy through an Act of Perfect Contrition.

As we continue our journey through the season of Advent, waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, we are acutely aware of the yearning in our country and in our world for hope and consolation. In some ways the Covid-19 restrictions open up greater opportunities for prayer and for reflection, for family time and space to enter into the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Hamper Appeal

Village Childcare and Community Services, Mary Pierce and Kilkenny Helping the Homeless are looking for donations of non-perishable food items, vouchers for all supermarkets, new toys in packaging, and fuel vouchers to fill hampers for distribution in County Kilkenny. Donations accepted in James Stephens GAA Club Larchfield on 4th - 11th December from 3.00 to 5.00pm and 7.00 to 9.30pm; John Joe Cullen Butchers, John Street and Kearns Butchers, Ballybought Street will accept cash donations. Donations to our AIB account: IBAN IE72AIBK93319859032021.

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

2nd Sunday of Advent - 6th December 2020

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Next Tuesday, 8th December marks the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a Holy Day of obligation. Masses will be at the usual Sunday times in St John’s Church.

Monday 6.00pm (Vigil), 8.00am, 11.30am and 7.00pm.

A Message from the Irish Bishops: “Keep Christ at the Centre of Christmas”

With the beginning of Advent last Sunday, preparations have begun in earnest in parishes across the country for the celebration of Christmas – albeit in a very different context this year. Priests working with Parish Pastoral Councils are making decisions at a local level on how best to celebrate Christmas in a safe manner. We extend our sincere gratitude to parish teams throughout the country - including sacristans, stewards and cleaners - who generously ensure that our churches are safe environments where people can confidently assemble for worship. Their task, as Christmas approaches, will not be easy, and we appeal to all the faithful to cooperate fully with them.

We strongly encourage the faithful to *keep Christ at the centre* of Christmas this year. Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We wish to remind Catholics that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the pandemic. But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Christmas Masses will also be widely available over webcam and we strongly encourage families to “tune in” from the “domestic churches” of their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in their local churches in welcoming the birth of the Christ-child.

It is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many ways. Our homes can become “little churches” where we invite the Christ-child in. We invite families or “household bubbles” to pay a visit to their local church at some time during the twelve days to offer a Christmas prayer at the crib and pray together for their families and for those particularly impacted by the pandemic.

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BEREAVEMENTS

Recently Deceased:

Liam Leydon, Purcellsinch
Eileen Brennan, Clarabricken
Michael Slattery, Ardnore
Margaret (Peg) Staunton, Greenshill
Pauline Hackett, Drakelands Middle
Mary Smith, Waterford, late of Waterford Road

Anniversaries:

Paddy Stapleton & Family (6.00). James Brophy (10.00), Alice & Joseph Bambrick (11.30pm). Larry Manning (7.00pm). Billy Hanaphy, Josephine Piggott, Seamus, Marie & Noel Parsons, Tommy & Peggy Dowling, Mary Coyne, Daniel McEvoy, Aaron Molloy, Patrick & Rose Wixted, Mary Dowling, Jack Byrne, Frances Guidera, Mary Maher,

Readers for Next Weekend – Pg 87

6.00pm	Ann Daly
8.00am	Jo Browne
10.00am	Elaine Bennett
11.00am	Fiona McGeary & Nora Guilfoyle
11.30am	Bobbie Lahart
7.00pm	Anne Marie Grace

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,400. 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 2020

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. 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.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Monday: Seamus, Marie & Noel Parsons (6.00)
Tuesday: Tommy & Peggy Dowling (8.00)
Mary Coyne (7.00)
Thursday: Daniel McEvoy (10.30)
Saturday: Aaron Molloy (10.30)
Tommy Dowling (6.00)
Sunday: Jim Rice (10.00)
Mary McGuinness (11.30)
Mary Malone (7.00)

Daily Webcam Mass

Please join us each weekday morning at **10.30am** on our **Webcam Service**, 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

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.

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, 16th and Thursday, 17th December from 8.00pm to 9.00pm.

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. Submit phone number to 085 831 3100.

Johnswell National School Notice

Enrolment for September 2021 pupils for Johnswell NS is now open. Please see 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, Co. Kilkenny.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Even though we are all challenged by the current Covid-19 crisis the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to offer wonderful support and help to all those in particular need at this time. Telephone: 086 895 1239 or drop a note into the Parish Office.

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 ie Sacred Space, God's Word, St. Paul's Missals, Nativity sets, Christmas decorations and gifts.

Our Diocese, Your Crib

Why not take part in our Virtual Display of Cribs (www.ossory.ie) this Christmas – send pictures of the crib in your home, parish, school or club to afd@ossory.ie.