

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/Christmas 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.

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. We can proceed with the ceremonies with a maximum congregation of six people. Please contact the Parish Office to rebook your child’s baptism.

Ossory Virtual Cribs

Why not take a picture of your parish crib, the crib in your town/village/locality, home or place of work and send them to ADF@ossory.ie - let it become part of the virtual display of cribs which will be on the Diocesan Website this Christmas. St Francis was wise when he taught lots with no words; the Crib is a powerful reminder of the simplicity of it all.

Diocesan Carol Service

This Advent when we cannot come together in person we attempt to do so in new ways. On this Sunday evening people from the Dioceses of Ossory and Kildare and Leighlin come together in prayer, reflection and song. Join us for an hour at 8.00pm on this Sunday evening (20th December) on KCLR96fm - take a moment to slow down in these hectic days.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Thanks to all who supported last weekend’s collection for our parish conference of the Society and to those who made donations at the presbytery during the week. Your generosity will greatly help those in our community who are finding it hard to cope with Christmas and other expenses.

The St. John’s Parish Conference can be contacted at 086 895 1239. Please be assured that we will treat whatever you say with dignity and respect, and everything you say is confidential.

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

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

4th Sunday of Advent - 20th December 2020

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 and 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 ten 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. When each Church has reached its capacity people will be advised by the ushers to come to a later Mass, stand outside or sit in the car and join us on radio or on your phone through webcam. Communion will be available at the usual times, with Ministers available outside Church.

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		

Christmas Confessions

Frs. Dan, Lorcan and Brian will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before and after all Masses this weekend. They will also be available to celebrate the Sacrament with those who call to the presbytery during the week.

The Capuchin Friars and the Dominican Fathers continue the tradition of providing the Sacrament of Reconciliation on request at their churches in the days leading up to Christmas.

God welcomes every repentant sinner with open arms. It’s like going home. (Pope Francis)

Bereavements

Recently Deceased:

John Dowling, Dunmore Cottages
Maureen Dunne, Tullow
Céline Dignan, Castlecomer Road
Andy Pauline, Newpark Upper
Kathleen Donovan, formerly Military Barracks.

Anniversaries:

Thomas, Seanie & Toddy O'Connor (6.00). Maureen Bridget Doherty (8.00). Michael & Eileen McKenna (11.00). Maura Mealy (11.30). Dylan Whearty (7.00). Richard Gaule, Michael Slattery, Mai Loftus, Breda Carry, James & Josephine Foley, Teresa Holohan, Lena, Bill & Danny Cassidy, Paddy & Mary Brennan, Benny & Mary Grogan, Brenda Flynn, Ted Carroll, Maureen Dunne, George Byrne. May they rest in peace.

Readers for Next Weekend – Page 105

6.00pm	Máirín Bergin
8.00am	Ann Marie Hogan
10.00am	Sean Colgan
11.00am	Jim Kavanagh & Claire Hanrick
11.30am	Tony Dalton
7.00pm	Joan Galwey

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,115. 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.

Please let us know if you are new to the parish or would like to play your part in supporting your parish and personnel.

Our sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the priests, bishop and parish. We appreciate and need your financial support. Please note, for those who wish to use it, a Donate Button is now in operation on the home page of our parish website. This is a convenient and safe way to contribute to the collections.

Distributors are kindly asked to come to the Presbytery to collect the envelopes for their areas. Thank you for your support and hard work on behalf of the parish and its priests.

Prayer to Mary to Revive the Spirit of Advent

Here is a short Advent prayer composed by Pope Benedict:

O Mary,
Virgin of expectation and Mother of hope,
revive the spirit of Advent in your entire Church,
so that all humanity may start out anew on the journey
towards Bethlehem, from which it came,
and that the Sun that dawns upon us from on high
will come once again to visit us, Christ our God. Amen.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Monday: Richard Gaule (10.30)
Wednesday: Michael Slattery (10.30)
Thursday: Mai Loftus (7.00)
Sunday: Breda Carey (11.00)
James & Josephine Foley (11.30)
Teresa Holohan (7.00)

May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Missing Prayer Book

A prayer book, containing many memory cards and of great sentimental value has been lost in the church after the 8.00am Mass weekdays. Should you find it please contact the presbytery or Jane, our sacristan and we can return it to owner.

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 9.00am - 5.00pm.

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.

Drive in Bingo - Fundraiser for Johnswell Development Fund

Drive in Bingo will take place on this Sunday 20th December at 3.00pm in City Lime Works (Entry via John's Green Car Park). Single Book €10. Double Book €15. Bingo books can be purchased through - John Joe Cullen, 48 John Street, Edel Holmes, Pockocke Golf Centre, Brennan's Bar, Johnswell or call 087 051 6040.

Samaritans - We are here for you this Christmas

Every hour, every day, a Samaritan is waiting to answer your call. This Christmas our volunteers will be here to listen 24/7, allowing you to talk without judgement, to relieve distress and reach a better understanding of your situation.

We hear from men and women of all ages who feel stressed, lonely, bereaved, have family or financial worries, or are suicidal. Please don't suffer in silence. We are here today, and all over Christmas, on freephone 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.ie

Samaritans Kilkenny/Carlow are 25 years old and we want to thank all our volunteers - past and present - and our supporters for their time and dedication.

Samaritans' Charity Shop on Kieran Street is our main source of income so please visit us to see the wonderful gifts and quality clothes in stock. Gift vouchers and gift certificates are also available. For information on volunteering or supporting us visit www.samaritans.ie/kilkenny

On this Monday, 21st December we'll mark the longest night of the year by telling people we are there for them in their darkest hours. Landmarks and civic buildings nationwide will light up in green. You can support us by leaving a lantern/light on in a window, entrance or garden to help us reach those that may need to talk.

Christmas Market

The Sisters from the St. Elisabeth Convent (Minsk, Belarus) launched the very first online Christmas Market this year, so that people from all over the world can purchase Christmas presents and souvenirs made with love and continuous prayer.

Please, follow this link to participate: <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/christmas-market>

Daily Webcam Mass

Please join us each weekday morning at **8.00am** and **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.

