

### Thank You

As we leave this very different Christmas behind us we would like to thank sincerely all who helped prepare our churches for the celebrations. Thanks to our sacristans and their assistants and to the many people who erected the cribs, Christmas trees, lights, banners and decorations. Flowers were provided by 'Flowers by Lucy' and 'Moth to a Flame' supplied the wonderful arrangement of candles at St. John's Church.

A special word of thanks to all who volunteered to steward at our churches - you were prepared for the anticipated large congregations and you ensured everyone got into and out of church in a safe and orderly fashion.

As always we are grateful to those who proclaim God's Word and distribute Holy Communion. Very often our prepared rosters have to be put aside and you have generously stood up to the mark.

This year we missed many of our choirs, musicians and singers who could not come together to practice as you would like or to sing for the Christmas liturgies. Thanks for your understanding and for the way you quickly adapted to the situation in which we found ourselves.

Thanks to those parishioners who attended our Christmas Masses and to those who made the difficult decision to remain at home. Please God your generous sacrifice will curtail the spread of the virus and benefit the whole community.

Thanks to one and all and we wish you a healthy, happy, holy and hope-filled New Year.

### 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](mailto: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.

### Ossory Times

Limited hard copies of *Ossory Times*, our diocesan magazine, are available at the doors of the churches. This edition has also been published online and is available on [www.ossory.ie](http://www.ossory.ie). There are many interesting articles, including some by parishioners, in this edition.

**Address:** St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. **Email:** [stjohns@ossory.ie](mailto:stjohns@ossory.ie)

**Website:** [stjohnskillkenny.com](http://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](mailto: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** (During Covid-19 Restrictions)

**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

## Feast of the Holy Family - 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Masses Celebrated Online Only

From St. Stephen's Day, 26<sup>th</sup> December we are obliged to return to celebrating Mass online. This means we cannot have a congregation at any of our usual Sunday or weekday Masses or services. Such celebrations will be broadcast on our webcam at [stjohnskillkenny.com](http://stjohnskillkenny.com) and on radio at 106.8fm and we invite you to continue our parish worship in this way. It is important that, as a parish, we continue to worship and pray together even if it is on a virtual platform.

For the moment Mass times in our parish will be as follows:

St John's Church: Sundays/Holy Days: Vigil at 6.00pm; Sunday at 11.30am and 7.00pm.

Monday to Saturday: 10.30am each morning.

Dunmore: Masses suspended.

Johnswell: Masses suspended.

We apologise for the inconvenience and distress caused which is outside our control.

Please note that outside of Mass times our churches will remain open for private prayer and visits to the cribs.

Under the new regulations funerals are restricted to 10 mourners. While this will prove difficult for all it is seen as essential for the protection of the family and the wider community.

With effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 up to six guests are permitted to attend a wedding ceremony and reception, whether indoors or outdoors.

Baptisms, except in the danger of death, are postponed for the moment.

### Pope Francis' Prayer to Our Lady in Time of Pandemic

O Mary,  
you always shine on our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you,  
Health of the Sick,  
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,  
keeping your faith firm.  
You, Salvation of the Roman People,  
know what we need,  
and we are sure you will provide

so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
we may return to joy and to feasting  
after this time of trial.  
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

### Bereavements

#### Recently Deceased:

Marie Therese Butler, Mount Nugent. Funeral arrangements later.  
Frank Mahon, Offaly.  
Maureen Dunne, Tullow.

**Month's Mind:** Teresa Holohan (7.00pm).

#### Anniversaries:

Paddy, Michael and Kitty Keogh (6.00pm). James and Josephine Foley (11.30). Breda Carey. Ann Guilfoyle. Declan Lanigan. Don Maguire. Edward Taylor. George Byrne. Jim Carroll. Margaret Coleman. Maura Hearne. Stephen Cantwell. Ted Carroll. Teresa Shine. Tom Cantwell. Joseph and Mary Hickey. Liam and Mary Ryan. John, Mamie and Terry Brett. Eily and John P Francis. Seamus, Milo and Ann Fry. Martin and Ann McMahan, Elizabeth and Danny McMahan.

#### Readers for Next Weekend – Page 105

6.00pm Mary Lynch  
8.00am No Mass  
10.00am No Mass  
11.00am No Mass  
11.30am Paula Rogers  
7.00pm Marie Fogarty

#### Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,530. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

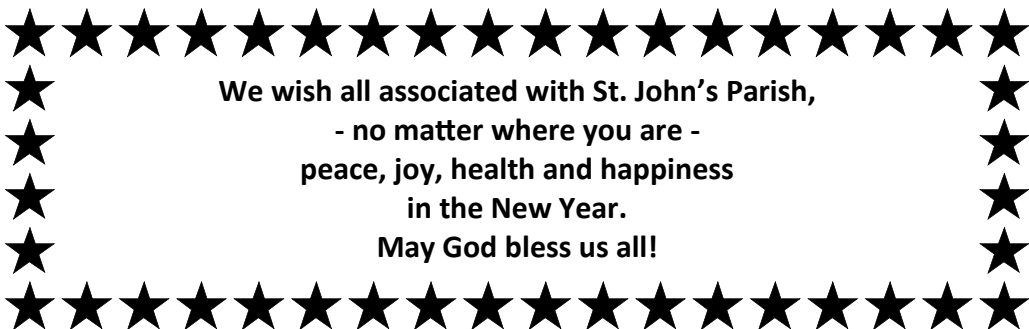
### Christmas Offering and the Weekly/Yearly Envelopes

The pandemic has had a huge effect on how we gather for Mass and indeed on our parish collections and finances. Obviously our weekly collections have been severely affected - with fewer people allowed in our churches and envelopes not being returned the parish and clerical income is greatly reduced. While some spending is reduced such things as insurance and maintenance remain the same. We are grateful to those who have continued to support the priests and parish during this difficult time. Every little helps and we appeal to all to continue supporting our parish as best you can

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.

### Parish Calendar

The St. John's Parish Calendar is available at the doors of our churches. This year's calendar was kindly sponsored by Johnston's Funeral Directors, Kilkenny and contains useful contact details, dates and information pertaining to the parish. Get your copy before they are all gone.



### Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Monday: Don Maguire (10.30).  
Tuesday: Breda Carey (10.30).  
Wednesday: Helen O'Neill (10.30).  
Thursday: John Hanaphy (7.00).  
Friday: John and Patricia Dinneen (10.30).  
Saturday: Eileen Owens (6.00)  
Sunday: Ned Brennan, Margaret Pearson and Nan Shanley.  
Peter and Eileen Browne (11.30).  
Nick White (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.**

**All are welcome!**

### New Year's Day

Next Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, is the first day of the New Year. It is the day the church sets aside for honouring Mary. Mary represents true discipleship. Mary exhibits a life of healing, seeing and telling of God's marvellous deeds. Mary inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events in our own lives.

Do we journey through life oblivious to the world around us or do we resolve to make some kind of impact? Maybe instead of making New Year resolutions to lose weight, etc., we should resolve this year to be more like Mary.

### The Warmth of our God

Bishop Dermot Farrell's Christmas for 2020 is available on the diocesan website, www.ossory.ie. Bishop Farrell concludes his message with a prayer:  
*Lord, we trust you are with us in these days. Whisper your word of comfort, encouragement, and hope to all who need it now. Be present with all who are unwell and all those whose health is endangered because they care for them. Make us bearers of the light that comes from Bethlehem. Amen.*

### 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.

### Samaritans - We are here for you this New Year

Every hour, every day, a Samaritan is waiting to answer your call. This holiday season 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 always, on freephone 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.ie.

### Pope's Message for World Day of Peace

"There can be no peace without a culture of care," Pope Francis stresses in his message for the 54<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace, to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. In his message the Holy Father calls for "a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance." In this task, Pope Francis offers the principles of the Church's social doctrine as a compass on the path to peace.

Established by Pope St. Paul VI in 1967, the first World Day of Peace was observed on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1968. On New Year's Day, the Church also celebrates the solemn feast of Mary, Mother of God.