

## “Welcoming Vaccines for the Common Good”

Statement of the Irish Catholic Bishops

The Catholic Church recognises that safe and effective vaccination is an essential aspect of the prevention of disease. We are encouraging Catholics to support a programme of vaccination, not only for their own good, but for the protection of life and the health of those who are vulnerable and for the common good of humanity. Questions have arisen that human foetal cell-lines, which have their origins in abortions carried out in the past, are used in the development and production of some of the vaccines for Covid-19. If a more ethically acceptable alternative is not readily available to them, it is morally permissible for Catholics to accept a vaccine which involves the use of foetal cell-lines, especially if the potential risk to life or health is significant, as in the case of a pandemic. Refusal to accept a vaccine could contribute to significant loss of life in the community and especially among those who are most vulnerable. This reality must inform any judgement of conscience.

We reaffirm the consistent teaching of the Church that abortion is always gravely immoral. The Church has always made a distinction, however, between formal (deliberate) involvement in an immoral act and material involvement, which may be incidental and remote. The decision of those who decide to accept vaccines which have had some link with foetal cell-lines in the past does not imply any consent on their part to abortion.

We note that many of the vaccines currently being developed do not depend for their design or production on foetal cell lines. Catholics should continue to advocate for the availability of ethically-developed vaccines. In that way they bear witness that biomedical research should always be conducted in a manner which is consistent with respect for life and for human dignity. Access to healthcare is a fundamental human right. The Church, while respecting intellectual property rights, believes that essential medicines, including vaccines, should be made available on the basis of need rather than on the basis of capacity to pay. This position is consistent with the TRIPS agreement of the WTO, which permits national governments to arrange for the manufacture of essential pharmaceuticals, for domestic use and for the use of poorer countries, even without the consent of patent owners.

**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** (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**

## 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time - 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Sunday of the Word of God

In 2019, Pope Francis dedicated the third Sunday of the Year as the Sunday of the Word of God. The date chosen is suitable because on the third Sunday we begin reading the Gospel for this year from the start. Mark 1:14-20 shows us Jesus proclaiming the Kingdom and tells the story of the call of the first disciples. The opening two verses are important: Now after John was imprisoned, Jesus went into Galilee and proclaimed the gospel of God. He said, “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is near. Convert and believe the gospel!” (Mark 1:14-15).

Why do we read the Bible in any case? To hear again the proclamation of God's reign and to take up once more the call to conversion of heart and life. In his address to mark the announcement of the Sunday of the Word of God, Pope Francis stressed the importance of the Word of God in our lives and how it can help us to get to know Jesus. The Pope stated that we are surrounded by many voices and we need to hear the Word of God more than any other voice. To help us he advised to keep a copy of the Bible close by or to have a copy of it available to us.

### Thought for the Day

The journey of life inevitably brings up the question what should I be, who should I become? Is life a maze or a labyrinth? Is it just round and round or is there a way out? How will I be as a spouse, a parent, a partner, a church member, a priest or religious? Within the Christian project, do I feel myself called to “activate” my baptism is some particular ministry or contribution? Such discernment will take in the grateful acknowledgement of my gifts as well as an examination of my inner generosity of spirit. In reality, we are all called by the Lord to build up the Body of Christ. It is not a question of if but rather of how.

We should pray: God of surprises, take me by surprise once more and let me see how my special gifts could be part of your project of the Kingdom in Jesus.

### Masses Celebrated Online Only

Our Sunday, weekday and funeral Masses are broadcast on our webcam at stjohnskilkenny.com and on radio at 106.8fm and we invite you to join in our parish worship.

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

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

Monday to Saturday: 10.30am each morning.

Dunmore: Masses suspended.

Johnswell: Masses suspended.

Please note that outside of Mass times our churches will remain open for private prayer.

## Bereavements

### Recently Deceased:

Sr. Nora McCarthy, Rosemount. Funeral at St. Mary's Cathedral at 11.30am this Sunday.  
Michael Delaney, Herts and formerly Kilkenny. Funeral at St. John's at noon on Wednesday.

Carol Shaw, Essex  
Michael Kinchella, Assumption Place  
Teresa (Tess) Hillman, Maudlin Street

Eileen Kennedy, Castlecomer Road  
Kitty Guidera, Assumption Place  
Joe Duffy, St. Francis Terrace

**Anniversaries:** JJ McKenzie, PJ McKenzie, Michael Cody, Maura Gaffney, Arthur Connick.  
May they rest in peace.

**Those we love don't go away,  
they walk beside us every day.  
Unseen, unheard, but always near;  
still loved, still missed and very dear.**

### Readers for Next Weekend – Page 132

6.00pm Máirín Bergin  
8.00am No Mass  
10.00am No Mass  
11.00am No Mass  
11.30am Kathleen Ferguson  
7.00pm Joan Galwey

### Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope  
collection: €2,310. Thanks to all who  
contribute weekly, monthly and  
annually, as well as those who pay by  
Standing Order. Your support is greatly  
appreciated.

### Catholic Schools Week 24<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> January Communities of Faith and Resilience.

As we live through an unprecedented time of challenge and uncertainty, our faith and our resilience can be tested. We can ask questions like 'Will things ever be the same again?', 'When can we get back to normality?', 'Where is God in all of this?'

In response to this, we reflect upon how Catholic schools are communities of faith and resilience. In Catholic schools, we are called to support each other and to have faith in the promise of the Good News. Catholic schools are inspired by the belief that God has created each one of us with a capacity to give love and receive love. This love is bound in faith and is more resilient than any virus.

While each Catholic school is such a community, every Catholic school fosters the holistic development of its students, promotes their wellbeing and offers them cultivation of a deeper, loving relationship with God. Jesus teaches us to love one another as he has loved us.

This week, as best we can in the circumstances, we celebrate the gifts and talents we have in following Jesus' teaching. This year we celebrate how we are called to be communities of faith and resilience, through our thoughts, words and actions. In doing so, we live out the meaning of the beautiful hymn: *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est*. Where charity and love are, God is there.

### “Behold the Lamb of God.”

Could it be that you are being called to be a shepherd for the Lord as a priest, a deacon or in the consecrated life? Speak to your local priest or your Diocesan Vocation's Director, or email the National Vocations Office on [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie).

### St Mary's Cathedral Diocesan Draw

In adherence with Covid-19 Regulations the January draw has been postponed. The draw will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021, along with the February Draw, i.e. restrictions permitting at that time. Tickets available from the Parish Office or at the Cathedral Office.

## Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Richard Grace (6.00pm).  
Sunday: Billy Malone (11.30am).  
Patrick & Hugh Meany (7.00pm).  
Monday: Johanna McEneaney (10.30am).  
Tuesday: Kathleen O'Brien (10.30am).  
Wednesday: William & James McGrath (10.30am).  
Thursday: Bridie Kinsella & Nellie Clarke (10.30am).  
Friday: Frank Walsh (10.30am).  
Saturday: Declan Delaney (10.30pm).  
Dick Brennan (6.00pm).  
Sunday: Nancy Comerford (11.30am).  
Michael, Brigid, Ann & Michael Jnr O'Connor (7.00pm).  
May they rest in peace/

## Daily Broadcast Mass

Please join us each Sunday and weekday on our Webcam Service, [stjohnskilkenny.com](http://stjohnskilkenny.com), or our Parish Radio Service (106.8 FM).  
Please note: At the moment the webcam only broadcasts during Mass and services.

**Weekdays: 10.30am.**  
**Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil;**  
**Sunday: 8.00am, 11.30am and 7.00pm.**

All are welcome!

## The Sacrament of Confirmation 2021

Our parish celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation was scheduled for Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> March this year. Due to Covid-19 and the continuing difficulty of bringing people together, Bishop Farrell has asked that no Confirmations take place in the Diocese of Ossory until after Easter at least. Bishop Farrell will have taken up his new duties in Dublin by then, so we may have a new Diocesan Administrator and he may propose a new timetable and a safe way of celebrating the Sacrament in our parishes.

## Towards a Theology of Safeguarding

Every month, for the next nine months beginning this weekend, the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland will place a short video on an aspect of A Theology of Safeguarding on its website. In month ten, October, the Board will host its National Conference, titled Towards a Theology of Safeguarding at which the questions posed by the video contributors will be addressed.

The first presentation, by Fr. Hans Zollner, can be accessed at <https://www.safeguarding.ie/national-conference-2021>. You can find more about the Conference and speakers at <https://www.safeguarding.ie/national-conference-2021>.

## Accord

The pressures caused by Covid-19 and the restrictions which people have experienced in their lives since last March, have resulted in a great many individuals, couples and families experiencing ongoing and very high levels of tension and stress. As counselling has been classified as an essential service under the Government Plan for Living with Covid-19, visit the [accord.ie](http://accord.ie) website to check for a convenient location and arrange a face to face appointment.

Additional to its counselling service, Accord provides a couples and relationships support line on 01 531 3331 which is staffed by counsellors from Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 8.00pm, and is available to anyone wanting to talk through a relationship difficulty they are experiencing (calls charged at local rates).

## 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

Every hour, every day, a Samaritan is waiting to answer your call. Please don't suffer in silence. We are here today, and always, on freephone 116 123 or email [jo@samaritans.ie](mailto:jo@samaritans.ie).