

Feast of the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on this Wednesday, 6th January. The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, a verb that means “to shine upon,” “to manifest,” or “to make known.” In this way, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

Wednesday is a holy day and Masses in St. John’s Church will be at 6.00pm Tuesday (vigil) and 11.30am and 7.00pm on Wednesday. These Masses will be broadcast on webcam and radio. Because of the Government restrictions there will be no Mass in St. John’s Church at 8.00am or in Dunmore and Johnswell Churches.

Christmas Masses

Our thanks to all involved with our Christmas Masses and the preparation of our churches. We thank God that all who wished to be present for Christmas Mass had the opportunity to do so. So many people made this possible and we thank you for your work.

Parish Calendar 2021

Our Parish Calendar is available free of charge in all of our churches. Please collect yours.

Thank You - Priests’ Collection

Once again we offer a word of gratitude to the many people who supported the Priests’ Christmas Collection - many of you contributed very generously to the collection and the priests and the bishop thank you for your generosity. If you still wish to contribute you may do so by dropping your contribution into the letterbox at the presbytery or by using the Donate Button on the parish website. The donate button is a secure way to your priests and parish.

New Parish Envelopes

This weekend, our new box of envelopes for 2021 begins. Our thanks to the many volunteers who helped deliver the boxes before Christmas. These envelopes are essential to the financial life of the parish especially during lockdown as they ensured a regular flow of income that allowed the parish to meet daily current expenditure. If you have not received your new box of envelopes please contact the parish office on 056 772 1072.

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: 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 Christmas - 3rd January 2021

Masses Celebrated Online Only

Current HSE and Government guidelines mean 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 stjohnskilkenny.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.

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.

Farewell to Bishop Dermot Farrell

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed Bishop Dermot Farrell, until now Bishop of Ossory, as Archbishop of Dublin. While it is with great sadness we say farewell to Bishop Dermot we wish him God’s blessing and every success in his new ministry.

Bishop Dermot is a native of Castletown-Geoghegan, Co. Westmeath and was appointed Bishop of Ossory on this day in 2018. He was ordained Bishop of Ossory on 11th March 2018.

The actual date for taking over the pastoral governance of the Archdiocese of Dublin will be announced at a later time. Bishop Farrell now becomes Archbishop-elect of Dublin and continues in the capacity of the Administrator of the Diocese of Ossory. *Ad multos annos.*



Bereavements

Recently Deceased:

Ger Lanigan, formerly Ossory Park.
Peggy Comerford, Altamount Park.
Sean Kenny, Wellington Square.

Anniversaries: Alice and Justin Buckley. Ann Kavanagh. Liam, Margaret and Diarmuid Shortall. Sara Long. Annie and Mick Ruth. Thomas and Catherine Lyons. Edward Moriarty. John O’Gorman. Martin and Ann McMahan. Elizabeth and Danny McMahan.

**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

6.00pm Claire Coogan
8.00am No Mass
10.00am No Mass
11.00am No Mass
11.30am Mary Lynch
7.00pm Linda O’Leary

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.

Taking Root

We talk about having ‘roots’ as a way of describing our connection to a place or people. Being rooted somewhere means we are part of that place. When we are ready to settle down, to become part of a community, maybe to buy a house or start a family, we talk about ‘putting down roots’. It means we are making this place our home. It is a rich metaphor from the plant world. The roots of a tree or plant represent its relationship with the soil it is planted in and the elements around it. The deeper the roots, the more connected a plant is to its environment. It becomes part of the place where it’s planted. We use this expression in everyday language too – when an idea ‘takes root’ in us, it is something that becomes a part of us, inseparable from our very selves.

Today’s first reading speaks of the wisdom of God ‘taking root in a privileged people’. It describes it another way as ‘pitching a tent’. These images offer us a way into understanding the complex language of today’s gospel, which talks about God’s relationship with us by sending Jesus: ‘The Word was made flesh, he lived among us’.

By becoming human, God put down roots not just in our physical world, but in humanity itself. God pitched a tent among us and became one of us. It is a connection that cannot be broken – the roots go too deep. We are in God, and God is in us. This is the mystery we celebrate in this season of Christmas – that in Jesus, God became part of the very world that God created, and part of us: ‘He was in the world that had its being through him.’ We are indeed a privileged people!

‘Christ asks for a home in your soul, where he can be at rest with you, where he can talk easily to you, where you and he, alone together, can laugh and be silent and be delighted with one another.’ (Caryll Houselander)

Covid-19 Vaccine

We welcome the news of the Covid-19 Vaccine and are delighted it is being rolled out in our local nursing homes. We pray for the success of the vaccine and a speedy return to normality.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Eileen Owens (6pm).
Sunday: Peter and Eileen Browne (11.30am).
Monday: William and Tess Murphy and Family (10.30am).
Tuesday: Helen O’Neill (6pm)
Wednesday: John Byrne and McMahan Family (11.30am).
Ned Brennan, Margaret Pearson, Nan Shanley (7pm)
Saturday: Ann and John Barry (6pm)

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

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!

A Year of Reflection on the Family

Last Sunday’s feast of the Holy Family, said Pope Francis at his weekly Angelus, calls us to reflect “on the fact that the Son of God wanted to be in need of the warmth of a family, like all children.” This is why the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph can serve as a model “in which all families of the world can find their sure point of reference and sure inspiration. A key note of the life of the family of Nazareth was joy, with the Child Jesus “surrounded by the maternal affection of Mary and the care of Joseph, in whom Jesus was able to see God’s tenderness.”

We too, said Pope Francis, “are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit.” Families, he said, must be founded “on the love that always regenerates relationships, opening up horizons of hope.” The Pope emphasized the importance in the family of prayer, affection, forgiveness, tenderness, and adherence to the will of God. “In this way,” he said, “the family opens itself to the joy that God gives to all those who know how to give joyfully.”

A happy home, he added, is also outgoing: “it finds the spiritual energy to be open to the outside world, to others, to the service of brothers and sisters, to collaboration in building an ever new and better world,” especially by the example of daily life.

Pope Francis recognised that every family has its problems, and that at times, because we are human, because we are weak, we even fight within the family. “I want to tell you one thing,” the Pope said: “If we fight in the family, never end the day without making peace.” Once again, he recommended three words that should be common in every family: “please,” “thank you,” and “I’m sorry.” If these three words are present in the family, he said, the family will be in good shape.

Following the Angelus, the Holy See Press Office confirmed that the special Year dedicated to the family will be inaugurated on the upcoming Solemnity of Saint Joseph (19th March 2021), and will conclude with the celebration of the Tenth World Meeting of Families, to be held here in Rome in June 2022. (CatholicNews.ie)

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.