

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

- John gives an example of humility as a person confident in his own role but not seeking to claim to be more than he is. He acknowledges that Jesus is greater. There is a freedom in being able to acknowledge the gifts of others without losing a sense of one's own giftedness. Recall times when we were able to do this.
- The Baptism of Jesus was an extraordinary religious experience for him. Something happened that was a major step forward for Jesus in coming to know that he was the Beloved Son of God. We all have events in our lives that are milestones along the road of discovering who we are. What have been these milestones for you?
- "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Bring to mind experiences in which you knew you were the beloved (of God or of another person) and that the one who loved you was well pleased. Remember these experiences with gratitude, knowing that the only proper response to love received is thankfulness. Perhaps you have also given this experience to another.
- It is easy to lament the growing secularization in the world today, but the Spirit of God who spoke loudly to the world in the Christ-event is active today. How can we be open to the new things the Spirit is saying to the Church today?

Thirsting for God

We have seen such expressions of thirst! We have seen souls thirsting for justice; souls thirsting for freedom. Souls thirsting for truth; souls thirsting for transparency. We have seen souls thirsting for the highest things; thirsting for hope, thirsting for peace!

The words of the prophet Isaiah this Sunday will pierce our hearts. The prophet cries out, "All you who are thirsty, come to the water!" What is the water? The water is the wisdom and law of the Lord! Just as life cannot continue to exist without water, hearts will continue to cry out in search of the wisdom and law of the Lord.

We were made for this law. In the here and now, what will quench our thirst? The way of the Lord! If we are baptized with him, we shall rise with him! (Romans 6:3-5). He is justice; He is freedom. He is transparency; He is truth. He is our hope; He is our peace!

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

Baptism of the Lord - 10th 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: 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 visits and private prayer.

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.

The Parish Office

The Parish Office is open on restricted hours during the current lockdown. The surest way to make contact is by email – stjohns@ossory.ie - or by telephone call – 056 772 1072. The priests will check messages regularly and get back to you. In case of urgency you can call one of the priests on their mobiles which are printed on the back panel of this newsletter.

Financial Support for the Parish

Thanks to all who continue to contribute generously to our parish. We appreciate this is a difficult time for many and we are grateful for your help. A Donate Button is now in operation on the home page of our parish website. As people cannot attend church at the moment we need your support now more than ever. We appreciate your financial help and this is a secure way to provide support for your priests and parish.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased:

John Kirwan, Radestown Lane.
Liam Kelly, Bennettsbridge.
Paddy Leahy, Cuffesgrange.
Fr. Eamon Tobin, Florida and formerly Tullaroan.

Anniversaries: Bernard O’Gorman. Helen Shinnick. Tom and Mary Gaffney. Michael O’Connor. JJ McKenzie. PJ McKenzie. Carol Shaw. Ned Byrne. Eddie Byrne Jnr. Thomas and Catherine Lyons.

**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	Ann Daly
8.00am	No Mass
10.00am	No Mass
11.00am	No Mass
11.30am	Kay Purcell
7.00pm	Anne Marie Grace

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week’s envelope
collection: €1,470. Thanks to all who
contribute weekly, monthly and
annually, as well as those who pay by
Standing Order. Your support is greatly
appreciated.

Priory Institute Online Open Day

Take the opportunity to visit and learn about what it would be like to study with us during our online Open Day. Meet with teaching staff and students, see how our online learning platform works and sit in on a lecture on theology. We will be available to answer all of your questions about student life here and to talk theology over a zoom call. This will be an enjoyable day for anyone interested in theology - whatever you decide to do. We would be delighted if you could spread the word to your friends and anyone else you think may be interested. Register your interest now. Please call or email us with any questions. 23rd January 2021, 11:30am - 1:30pm. For information or registration, 01 404 8124; Email: enquiries@prioryinstitute.com.

Come to the Water

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the moment when God reveals who Jesus is. Our readings are rich with water imagery. Water is a powerful symbol throughout the Scriptures, from the story of creation and the crossing of the Red Sea, to the wedding feast at Cana and Jesus’ encounter with the woman at the well. It is a symbol of life and newness, an opportunity for God to reach out to us, be present with us and teach us something, as well as an opportunity for cleansing and a fresh start.

Our gospel today tells of Jesus being baptised by John in the river Jordan. This immersion in water marks the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. By approaching John for baptism, along with all the others, Jesus is identifying with the people and allowing himself to be counted among sinners. It is a sign that he submitting to God’s will. At this crucial moment, as soon as he emerges from the Jordan, Jesus sees the heavens open and the voice of God confirming him as ‘Beloved Son’. It is a moment of divine approval, confirming Jesus’ identity and launching him on his new mission.

The baptism of Jesus is a reminder of our own identity and mission. We are beloved daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers of Jesus, members of God’s family. In today’s first reading we are invited: ‘Come to the water all you who are thirsty’. We are called to the water, to that moment when we recognise who Jesus is, who we are, and our mission to live as children of God.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday:	Ann and John Barry (6.00pm).
Sunday:	Michael and Angela White (11.30am). Sean Butler (7.00pm).
Monday:	Mark McBride (10.30am).
Tuesday:	Declan Delaney (10.30am).
Wednesday:	Liam, Margaret and Diarmuid Shortall (10.30).
Thursday:	James Cleary (11.30am).
Saturday:	Michael Dowling (6.00pm).
Sunday:	Alex Dewberry (11.30am). Patrick O’Shea (7.00pm).

From Ossory to the Archdiocese of Dublin

Bishop Dermot Farrell’s transfer from the Diocese of Ossory to the Archdiocese of Dublin is not first! Twice before, a Bishop of Ossory was transferred to Dublin. Our thanks to Fr. Richard Scriven, St. Mary’s Cathedral for the following information.

Richard de Northalis (1387-1395): Richard was the son of a wealthy merchant, who had held the office of Lord Mayor of London. He was a Carmelite who was promoted to the see of Ossory when Alexander De Balscott was transferred to the Diocese of Meath. The exact year of his appointment is difficult to state but it seems likely that he was appointed towards the close of 1386. He was absent from Ossory for the first six years being employed by the King as his Ambassador at the Papal and other courts. He was also for a time Chancellor of Ireland. He was promoted to the Archdiocese of Dublin in 1395 and died on the 20th July 1397.

John Thomas Troy (1776-1786): John Thomas Troy, a native of Blanchardstown, entered the Dominican Order in St. Clemente in Rome in 1756. After a distinguished time as a student he was appointed Prior of St. Clemente. On the 27th November 1776 he was appointed to the See of Ossory, vacant upon the death of Thomas Burke who was bishop from 1759 to 1776. While a branch of the Troy family had settled in Kilkenny some centuries earlier there is nothing to link Bishop Troy with the natives.

Troy left Rome for Ireland on the 21st March 1777. He was consecrated bishop in Louvain, on route home, on the 8th June – strange that the consecration did not take place in Rome! He celebrated his first Mass as Bishop of Ossory in St. Canice’s Church on the 17th August. The new bishop lived in Dean Street – and kept a horse there during his Dublin days!

The slight relaxation of the penal laws around this time gave Troy the opportunity to establish a Catholic College in the city. Troy entrusted the task to Rev. John Dunne and Rev. James Lanigan and in 1782 St Kieran’s College was opened.

Dr Troy was appointed to the Archdiocese of Dublin on the 27th November 1786 and was archbishop until 1823. Dunne succeeded him in Ossory and Lanigan became bishop in 1789.

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. Please don’t suffer in silence. We are here today, and always, on freephone 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.ie.

Just a Thought

‘In order to live a life of holiness, we must first receive new life from God - we must be born from above.’ (J. Vernon McGee)

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!