

### Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

- John pointed the disciples towards Jesus as the one they should follow. Remember the people in your life who have pointed you in a new and life-giving direction? Perhaps in some cases this may have involved directing you away from your association with them – e.g., leaving home, changing jobs, etc.
- Jesus invited the disciples to come and see how he lived. How have you come to learn how Jesus lived, and what he was looking for in life? How has this attracted you to follow him?
- What is your experience of gathering in small groups to learn to live like Jesus by listening to the gospel together? Where two or three are gathered in his name, Jesus is there with them. What group experiences have helped your faith to grow?
- Andrew did not keep the good news to himself but also invited his brother to join him in following Jesus. What is your experience of receiving, or giving, an invitation to join in some worthwhile venture?

### Come and See

There is a Brazilian proverb used when a visitor is leaving one's home: 'Whoever drinks of this water keeps coming back'. Offering a beverage such as a cup of water or tea to a visitor is a universal gesture of welcome and hospitality. Today we hear how Jesus invites two of his disciples to 'come and see' where he lives. He welcomes them into his home and they stay with him for the rest of the day, undoubtedly eating and drinking and conversing with him. Jesus' invitation is simple, yet intimate. We don't know where he lived or what his living arrangements were, but we know he wanted his friends to spend time with him and get to know him. This precious early time with Jesus must have set his friends up for a lifetime of discipleship. We too are invited to 'come and see', to spend time with the Scriptures and in prayer to get to know Jesus. He welcomes us with open arms.

As we reflect on the inviting love of Jesus, we are also encouraged to extend a warm welcome to others in a spirit of friendship. Pope Francis has often spoken of our responsibility, as individuals, communities and church, to welcome everyone – including those who are homeless or who have been forced to leave their home or country. Our welcome is a response to the Lord's supreme commandment to love the other, the stranger, as ourselves. We all have opportunities to do this in our communities.

**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**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time - 17<sup>th</sup> 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 and appreciate your financial help and the Donate Button is a secure way to provide support for your priests and parish. Thanks to all who have used it to date.

## Bereavements

### Recently Deceased:

Michael Mahony, The Weir.  
Ann Prizeman, Larchfield.  
Mary Darcy (nee Ryan), formerly Cellarstown.  
Ray Nolan, Freshford.

Noel O'Neill, Bishop Birch Place.  
Pat Grace, Loughboy.  
Sally O'Donnell, Riverview.  
Mary Hanrahan, Cork.

**Anniversaries:** Helen (Nellie) Brennan. William Hughes. Tom Phelan. Mary Leahy. Brigid and Patrick Slattery. Michael Downey. Jim Doyle. 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 129

6.00pm Bridget Ahearn  
8.00am No Mass  
10.00am No Mass  
11.00am No Mass  
11.30am John Joyce  
7.00pm Marie Fogarty

### Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope  
collection: €9,244. Thanks to all who  
contribute weekly, monthly and  
annually, as well as those who pay by  
Standing Order. Your support is greatly  
appreciated.

### On the Publication of the Report into the Mother and Baby Homes Statement of Archbishop Elect Dermot Farrell

I welcome the publication of the report into the Mother and Baby Homes. This report, and those like it, which explore our painful past make for extremely disturbing reading. They reveal deep wounds, and bring to light the profound injustices perpetrated against the vulnerable in our society over a long period of time - against women and children whose lives were regarded as less important than the lives of others. The silence which surrounded this shameful time in the history of our land had long needed to be shattered. The pain of those who were hidden away must be heard; those, once largely without a voice, now can speak clearly to our world, and we need to listen, even when what we hear pierces to the heart.

I welcome, therefore, the actions of our Government and of the Commission that has made this possible. These voices must be heard, but hearing, while important, is not enough. The grievous failures of our past have been laid bare. A genuine response is required: ours—as a Church and a society—can only be a full apology, without any reservation. There should never have been a time for avoidance and facile solutions. This country, the Church, our communities and families are better places when the light of truth and healing are welcomed. May the Lord's compassion be the touchstone of our response. May the light of Christ bring healing to all.

#### “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)

#### 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. 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. Register your interest now. Please call or email us with any questions. 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021, 11:30am - 1:30pm. Information, 01 404 8124; [enquiries@prioryinstitute.com](mailto:enquiries@prioryinstitute.com).

## Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Michael Dowling (6.00pm).  
Sunday: Alex Dewberry (11.30am).  
Patrick O'Shea (7.00pm).  
Monday: Teresa Barcoe (10.30am).  
Tuesday: John McKiernan (10.30am).  
Thursday: Ellen Butler (10.30am).  
Friday: Brigid Slattery (10.30am).  
Saturday: Maureen Fitzgerald (10.30pm).  
Richard Grace (6.00pm).  
Sunday: Billy Malone (11.30am).

## Ordinary Time

At this time Catholics celebrate Ordinary Time. What is Ordinary Time?

In the Roman Catholic Church, Ordinary Time is that time of the liturgical year which is not connected directly with one of the great seasons, Christmastide and Eastertide, as well as the times of their preparation, Lent and Advent. Therefore, now that Christmastide is over, we have Ordinary Time until Ash Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February this year. From that day we will celebrate Lent and Eastertide before we come back to Ordinary Time on the Monday after Pentecost. The last Sunday of Ordinary Time is the Solemnity of Christ the King. The liturgical colour assigned to Ordinary Time is green.

The word “ordinary” as used here comes from the ordinal numerals by which the weeks are identified or counted, from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of Ordinary Time in January to the 34<sup>th</sup> week that begins toward the end of November.

## 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.

## Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Every year at this time Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that “they may be one so that the world may believe.” (John 17:21). Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January but, because of the pandemic, it is not possible to gather to mark this year's event. However, this should not prevent us from praying for this intention during the week. The 2021 theme for the week is “Abide in my love... You shall bear much fruit.”

## 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).

## Just a Thought

*Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ,  
who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age.*

(Pope Francis)