

Knock Shrine to host special online faith discussions during Lent

Ash Wednesday falls on 17 February and heralds the beginning of Lent 2021. This year Knock Shrine will host a new series of online discussions to help engage Christians during Lent, under the title 'Living Christian Faith - Lenten Conversations'.

*What nurtures our faith and what challenges it today?
Where do we find hope and joy in our lives?
How can our faith build mental strength, wellbeing and resilience?
How has the Covid pandemic impacted upon our faith?*

These are just some of the questions that will be explored over the 6 weeks of Lent during a new series of online discussions on the topic of 'Living Christian Faith'. Faith Renewal at Knock Shrine is all about reaching out to people. This will open a conversation on contemporary issues of faith and church life.

Chaired by Father Eamonn Conway DD, Priest in Tuam diocese and Professor of Theology at Mary Immaculate College, the conversations will explore a different theme each week and guest speakers will discuss some of the important questions we all face in living out our faith. The discussions will be streamed online via the Knock Shrine website offering people from all over the world the opportunity to engage in relevant topics and to hear from a range of people, from those in public life such as Baroness Nuala O'Loan and Senator Ronan Mullen to groups of young teachers and members of the clergy.

Thursday 18 February 'Living Christian Faith in the Family'
Thursday 25 February 'Living Christian Faith as Young Adults'
Thursday 4 March 'Living Christian Faith in the Classroom as Young Teachers'
Thursday 11 March 'Living Christian Faith in Public Life'
Thursday 18 March 'Proclaiming Christian Faith as a priest or religious today'
Thursday 25 March 'Studying Christian Faith'

The talks will be streamed at 8.30pm every Thursday during Lent.

Join us at www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live

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

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time - 7th February 2021

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

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there

and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

The Weaver's Prayer

(In memory of Jimmy Leahy)

My life is but a weaving, between my Lord and me;

I cannot choose the colours, he worketh steadily.

Oft times He weaveth sorrow, and I, in foolish pride,

forget He sees the upper, and I the under side.

Not til the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas, and explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful, in the Weaver's skilful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver, in the pattern He has planned.

- BM Franklin

Bereavements

Recently Deceased:

Mary Jo Doheny, Whitehall, Dublin and Archersrath Nursing Home. Funeral at St. John's Church at 10.30am on Monday followed by interment at St. Kieran's Cemetery.

Jimmy Leahy, Richview

Tommy Bolger, Enniscorthy

Paddy Tyrell, Haughney Green

Phil Green, Dean Cavanagh Place

Kathleen Geoghegan, Walkin Street

Helen Lynch, Castlecomer

Fred Gurl, Derdimus, Kilkenny

Months Mind: Ann Murphy (Sat @ 6.00pm)

Anniversaries: Sarah Prendergast, Jarlath & Renee Walsh, Isabella Doyle, Pat Langton, Margaret Carroll, JJ & PJ McKenzie, Carol Shaw. Bill Carroll. Paddy Fitzpatrick. May they rest in peace.

**Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us every day.**

Readers for Next Weekend – Page 137

6.00pm Claire Coogan
8.00am No Mass
10.00am No Mass
11.00am No Mass
11.30am Anne Maria Walsh
7.00pm Linda O'Leary

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €825. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

“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.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and his disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak because they knew his identity and would have revealed it to those who were present. On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for him. At this point in Mark's Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of Jesus' disciples—they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to his disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places.

Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee.

Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Patrick Fitzgerald (6.00pm).
Sunday: Geoff Doyle, Statia & Nicholas Power (11.30am).
Kathleen O'Brien (7.00pm).
Monday: Edward & Mary O'Neill, John & Helen Ryan (10.30am).
Tuesday: Fr Larry Foley, Catherine & Margaret Cassin (10.30am).
Thursday: John Saunders (10.30am).
Friday: Joseph Lawlor (10.30am).
Saturday: Francie Murphy (6.00pm).
Sunday: Peter Long (11.30am).
Mary Butler (7.00pm).

May they rest in peace.

Daily Broadcast Mass

Please join us each Sunday and weekday on our Webcam Service, 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!

Apostolic Administrator of Ossory

Our bishop, Most Rev. Dermot Farrell, became Archbishop of Dublin on 2nd February. Upon taking responsibility for his new diocese, Archbishop Farrell relinquished responsibility for Ossory. Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, as Apostolic Administrator of Ossory until a new bishop is appointed. While many of the Diocesan Committees cease when the diocese is vacant, Bishop Nulty will continue to avail of their wisdom informally. He has appointed Mgr. Dan Cavanagh as his Vicar General, to assist him with the exercise of his pastoral ministry and Fr. Dermot Ryan as Priest Secretary to help manage the day to day execution of his office. The Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Jude Okolo, begins the process which will lead to a new man being appointed as our bishop. Meanwhile, keep this intention in your prayers. Ask the Lord to bless us with a true Good Shepherd.

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.

A Prayer for Persons Suffering from the Coronavirus

*You shall not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that roams in darkness,
nor the plague that ravages at noon.*

Ps 91:5-6

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbours be shielded from the onslaught of the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, and in the name of your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

