

Lenten Resources in Ossory

Lent Texts: Sign up for a free daily thought sent to you by text message. A little prompt on your phone to pause each day during this Lenten journey. Text your number to 085 831 3100.
Lent Tweets: Follow @OssoryDiocese for a simple thought each day during this Lenten journey. Have your timeline prompt you to pause each day to be reminded of our Lenten journey.
Lectio Divina - Zoom: Each Monday night of Lent why not join for a virtual gathering of Lectio Divina. This 30-40 minute gathering allows us to come together to reflect on the scriptures and what they are saying to us today. To sign up simply email afd@ossory.ie for the link.
Online Resources: Lots of online resources for Lent are available on the Ossory website. Download them for use in your home. Visit www.ossory.ie and church posters for details.

Knock Shrine to Host Special Online Faith Discussions During Lent

This year Knock Shrine will host a new series of online discussions to help engage Christians during Lent. We will discuss topics like 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?

The discussions will be streamed online offering people the opportunity to engage in relevant topics and to hear from a range of people such as Baroness Nuala O'Loan and Senator Ronan Mullen to groups of young teachers and members of the clergy.

Thursday, 18th February 'Living Christian Faith in the Family.' The talks will be streamed at 8.30pm every Thursday during Lent. Join us at www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live

Your Support is Key

Shortly you will receive your Lenten Offering envelope.

The "Weekly/Yearly/Standing Order" contributions go in their entirety to capital expenditure and maintenance of the three parish churches and buildings, as well as all the running costs of the parish.

The "Lenten Offering Collection" goes towards the salaries of the priests of the parish as well as our contribution towards the bishop's salary.

We are very conscious of the sacrifices that you make as you support these collections, and once again we take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all who do so.

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

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time - 14th February 2021

Ash Wednesday - 17th February 2021

Lent starts here, with a curious symbol that seems rather morbid. Ashes: the sign of our mortality. Is this any way to begin, with an invitation to consider death?

Actually, death is the start of a lot of movements towards new and fuller life. In nature, shedding old forms in winter makes way for renewed vigour in the spring. Cells in our bodies constantly die and are replenished: red blood cells every four months, white blood cells annually. Skin lives two or three weeks, and colon cells die in four days. Similarly, the decline of each generation makes room for the leadership, creativity, and idealism of the next to take possession of the future.

In the human spirit, too, some things must give way so others can blossom. Self-interest must surrender to sympathy, indignation to forgiveness. Death turns out to be a pretty good starting point towards resurrection, by any other name. If we refuse to give up the old self, we'll regrettable be stuck with it.

Ashes will be blessed at our 10.30am Mass on Ash Wednesday and will be available for collection at the back of the church from 11.00am. If you wish to distribute ashes to your family and friends, in adherence to Covid-19 regulations, please bring along your own spoon and container for collection. A sign of the cross should be made on the forehead and the following words said: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, and into dust we shall return." NB: a small spoonful, goes a long way.

Trócaire Lenten Campaign

The Family Fast Boxes have arrived and are available in our churches. Please take a box and encourage your family to help this very worthy cause.

Beginning on this Tuesday Trócaire is offering a series of online workshops throughout Lent 2021. Please visit our parish page on www.trocaire.org and sign up to indicate which workshops you are interested in attending. Each workshop will last for one hour and will explore an aspect of our overseas programmes in more detail, as well as our work in campaigning and awareness raising in parishes and communities.

Bereavement Support

Kilkenny Bereavement Support is a voluntary organisation that offers a free listening service to bereaved people of all ages. Since the arrival of Covid-19, we have not been able to offer face to face meetings. At the moment, we continue to support the bereaved by phone or by Zoom. People can discuss their preferred option with their bereavement support volunteer. For appointment: phone 056 775 6538 or email director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased:

Nora Webster, Newpark Close. Funeral Mass @ 11.30am Sunday.
 Mary Jo, Doheny, Archersrath Nursing Home Sean L O'Sullivan, Dominic Street
 Anne Feely, Strokestown Fr Michael Dillon, Cuffesgrange
 Mary Joan Phelan, Nuncio Road Eileen Kinane, Sutton, Dublin
 Philip Hickey, Swords, Dublin Ann Kelly, Ballickmoyler, Carlow

Months Mind: Ann Murphy (Sat @ 6.00pm)

Anniversaries: Joan Tallis, Mary Geogegan, Hannah Heaney, Michael Loftus, Raymond Hanlon, Kathleen Foley, Nick Coughlan, Kathleen and Charlie Bartholomew, Breda Rafter, Bridget Begin, James Shortall, Ellen Lanigan, Maura Tyrrell, JJ & PJ McKenzie, Carol Shaw, Kathleen Foley, Nick Coughlan. 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 148

6.00pm Ann Daly
 8.00am No Mass
 10.00am No Mass
 11.00am No Mass
 11.30am James Connolly
 7.00pm Anne Marie Grace

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1525. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse

Friday, 19th February is the annual Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse. We mark this important day by lighting the Candle of Atonement at 10.30am Mass, by praying for survivors and acknowledging how we, as Church failed to show the love and compassion of Christ.

Candle of Atonement Prayer

Lord, forgive us our many sins.

We grieve and repent with all our hearts for having offended you, for our great failings and neglect of the young and vulnerable. We place all of those who have been hurt by the Church in any way into your loving hand and under the protection of Our Blessed Mother.

Lord, bring peace to their broken lives and show us all the way out of darkness and into the light of your Word.

May we as the people of God be more fully human, more fully Christ-like and more fully your people, that we may see the errors of the past and go forward with renewed hope and faith in Christ and in our Church. Amen.

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.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Months Mind, Ann Murphy & Anniv, Francie Murphy (6.00pm).
 Sunday: Peter Long (11.30am).
 Mary Butler (7.00pm).
 Monday: Sr Nora McCarthy (10.30am).
 Tuesday: Months Mind, Mary Theresa Butler (10.30am).
 Wednesday: Bridie & Tommy Casey (10.30am).
 Thursday: Kitty Rice (10.30am).
 Friday: Frank McCormack (10.30am).
 Saturday: Canice (Ken) Lynam
 Philomena Drohan (6.00pm).
 Sunday: Joseph Lawless (11.30am).
 Michael Brennan (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!

St Valentine Martyr (d. 269)

"Greater love hath no man than he lay down his life for his friends" - John 15:13

The association of St. Valentine with pink hearts, boxes of chocolates, and the exchange of romantic glances has no intrinsic source in the character or life of the saint. The origin of "St Valentine's Day," a day beloved of greeting card companies, is not entirely clear, but it seems to have taken root in England, a cold country where signs of spring are eagerly anticipated. As far back as Chaucer it was commonly observed that birds began to pair and mate around the feast of St. Valentine, that is, from the middle of February.

In any case, the Valentine whose name is oddly commemorated was apparently a Christian priest in Rome who assisted martyrs during the persecution under Emperor Claudius II. He was eventually arrested and sent before the prefect of Rome. When he refused to renounce his faith he was beaten and beheaded.

Thus, by offering his heart, he proved himself a true devotee of the God of Love.

St Valentine's Day Prayer

I said a Valentine prayer for you
 and asked the Lord above
 to fill your heart and bless your soul
 With the precious gift of love.

I asked Him for sincere love
 The kind that's meant to stay
 Just like the generous love
 You give to those you touch each day.

I prayed for love from family
 And from every cherished friend
 Then I asked the Lord to give you
 His love that knows no end.