

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. 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. This **Thursday, 18th March**: 'Proclaiming Christian Faith as a Priest or Religious Today.' The talks will be streamed at 8.30pm every Thursday during Lent. www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live

Week of Prayer 13th - 19th March 2021

to mark the beginning of Pope Francis' 'Amoris Laetitia Family Year.'

On 19th March 2021, the Church will celebrate five years since the publication of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) on the beauty and joy of love in the family. On that day, Pope Francis will launch a year dedicated to the family which will conclude on the 26th June 2022 on the occasion of the Tenth World Meeting of Families in Rome. We welcome the Holy Father's 'Family Year' and mark its beginning with a Week of Prayer from 13th to 19th March (the Feast of St Joseph). Each day at Mass we will have a theme reflecting on family life through the lens of Saint Joseph, who we are also celebrating as part of the family year.

Stations of the Cross

During the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will be broadcast from our church at 7pm.

Prayer for the Sick

On Tuesdays during Lent, a Prayer for the Sick will be said at 10.30am Mass. Please place your intentions for loved ones in the special box in front of the altar.

Bereavement Support

Kilkenny Bereavement Support is a voluntary organisation that offers a free listening service to bereaved people of all ages. Because of Covid-19 we are not able to offer face to face meetings. At the moment, we support the bereaved by phone or by Zoom. For appointment: phone 056 775 6538 or email director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com.

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 - dcp@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

4th Sunday of Lent - 14th March 2021

Happy Mother's Day

We wish all mothers a very happy day and join in praying and thanksgiving for their love. *Gracious God, we thank you for adopting us into your family through the miracle of your grace, and for calling us to be brothers and sisters to each other. Today, loving God, we pray for our mothers: who cared for us when we were helpless, who comforted us when we were hurt, whose love and care we often took for granted. Today we pray for those who are grieving the loss of their mother, those who never knew their biological mother, and now yearn for her; those who have experienced the wonder of an adopted mother's love; those families separated by war or conflict. Lord, give them special blessings. Keep us united with you and with each other, so that we can be and become all that we are meant to be. Amen.*

St Patrick's Day

On Wednesday we celebrate the feast day of our patron saint from our newly greened St John's Church. Masses will be celebrated on-line at the usual Sunday times: Vigil Mass, Tuesday at 6pm, St Patrick's Day at 11.30am and 7.00pm

St Patrick's Day Reflection - Doing God's Will

Sometimes we imagine that doing God's will means life will become dreary, dull and devoid of pleasure. We are afraid of God's will for us because we worry it will be unpleasant, uncomfortable or difficult. Yet the beauty of our goodness is that we are open to doing God's will even though we may be convinced we are heading down a route of deprivation and martyrdom.

God's will for us is seldom difficult. It is usually as simple as getting up in the morning and finding something to be grateful for. It is as simple as treating others the way we would like to be treated. It is as simple as intentionally showing love to someone. What God asks of us is usually simple acts of kindness and love.

When we get in the habit of asking God to show us what to do and how to do it, we will find the power to face any task. We will find the patience to wait for the right moment to act. We will find courage to overcome whatever prevents us from believing God wants us to live joyfully and lovingly. We will come to understand that God will not ask us to undertake anything that is too difficult for us.

Lord, your love makes all things possible. Bless me with knowledge of your will for me and give me the power to carry it out.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased:

Margaret (Bobby) Ryan, Bleach Road.
Alan Randall, Melville Heights.
Bill Murphy, Stephen Street.

Months Mind: Jimmy Leahy, Teresa (Tess) Hillman

Anniversaries: Eily & John P Francis, Liz & Joe White. *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 169

6.00pm Claire Coogan
8.00am No Mass
10.00am No Mass
11.00am No Mass
11.30am Paula Rogers
7.00pm Linda O'Leary

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,460. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

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.

Age Action

Age Action is offering five hours tutoring, by telephone, to anyone who needs support using their smart device or laptop. Covering topics like how to set up an email, how to download an app, how to use video to see your loved ones etc. For more information, please call 01 475 6989 or email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie.

Covid-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to Covid-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8.00am - 8.00pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

Sustaining Faith in a time of Pandemic.

Join Pope Francis for his weekly Wednesday audience, Sunday Angelus and all Lenten Services, live from Rome, from the safety and comfort of your home.
Watching is easy! Free to air on Sky TV Channel 588 - Virgin Media 815 – www.ewtn.ie or download the app to your phone. To receive a Free Catholic TV Guide, contact EWTN, PO Box, Limerick. Call 065 683 5891 or E-mail: mail@ewtn.ie.

Preparing for the Sacraments

The Adult Faith Development Group has asked Mgr. Liam Bergin, a Sacramental Theologian, and one of the priests of the Diocese of Ossory, currently serving in Boston College to lead an evening for all parents of all children preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of First Penance, First Eucharist and Confirmation in our diocese this year. This 45 min webinar will take place on Monday, 22nd March at 7.30pm. We invite you to avail of this excellent support and encourage all parents to attend.

Details of webinar link will be given in next week's newsletter.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Paul & Michael (Icy) Lanigan (6.00pm).
Sunday: Sean Connick (11.30am).
Denis (Dinny) Brennan (7.00pm).
Monday: Sile Brennan (10.30am).
Tuesday: Jim Cody (10.30am).
Wednesday: Sean Byrne (10.30am).
Thursday: Months Mind: Jimmy Leahy (10.30am).
Friday: Ann Butler (10.30am).
Saturday: Mags Dineen (10.30am).
John O'Keeffe (6.00pm).
Sunday: Months Mind: Teresa (Tess) Hillman (11.30am).
John, Agnes & Michael Stapleton (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!

Important Message from An Garda Síochána Crime Prevention Unit

Gardaí are receiving an ever increasing number of complaints in relation to fraudulent and illegal scams. The scams can come in the form of texts, emails, telephone calls to your mobile or landline or even through social media. They can be difficult to spot as the correspondence claims to come from a reputable organisation such as your bank, card issuer or even a government department such as Revenue. The message can appear within a genuine thread of text messages that you may have received from a legitimate organisation.

Anyone can fall victim to these scams, however the Gardaí are asking the public to make vulnerable persons aware of them. The worldwide nature of these scams which are designed to steal money from unsuspecting parties means that they are particularly difficult to investigate.

How to avoid becoming a victim:

- Be suspicious of text messages received out of the blue that claim to come from a reputable organisation, such as a bank or credit/debit card issuer.
- Be cautious of text messages that prompt you to call a phone number or visit a website to resolve an issue or verify your details urgently.
- Do not respond to text messages that request personal information, such as your bank account details, without first independently verifying that they are from a genuine source.
- Never reply to text messages that request your PIN, online banking password, or any other password.
- Be wary about calling any phone number, or clicking on any link, that is embedded within a text message.

Examples of recent fraudulent messages that have been received are purporting to be from Revenue, Amazon, various couriers/delivery companies, financial institutions, Covid-19 related among others.

Gardaí would ask that we all look out for more vulnerable persons with regards to these scams

Remember never click on unknown links or divulge personal information over the phone.

Sincere Thanks

We sincerely thank all those who have contributed to the parish in recent weeks. During this time of pandemic your contributions are extremely necessary for the upkeep of the parish.