

Divine Mercy Sunday



Mercy is from generation to generation. As we celebrate the Feast of the Divine Mercy on this Sunday we are reminded of the example of Christ during his public ministry, his reaching out to the brokenness of life, healing the sick and calling for a Crusade of Mercy. The consistent theme of his ministry was that of compassion and mercy.

Looking back over our own history we have notable examples of many who joined in response to his call for mercy. People like Catherine McAuley by her response to the cholera epidemic in the mid 19th century and founding the Mercy Sisters. Likewise you had Edmund Rice of Callan who founded the Christian Brothers in a ministry of teaching. Many others like Nano Nagle who founded the Presentation Sisters and contemporary people like Mother Mary Martin and Mother Teresa who founded the Sisters of Charity which is famous worldwide.

Ireland has become a forerunner in this Crusade of Mercy and in the present situation where we have experienced the devastation of Covid-19 epidemic we cannot exclude the many people in the workplace who are caring for the victims of that virus, really the unsung heroes and prophetic agents of compassion and mercy. Agencies such as Trócaire, Concern, Goal and Bóthar and many others currently active despite the economic hardships we are experiencing at the present time. We have the testimony of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul; who have spearheaded a long lasting crusade of mercy in Ireland.

This is what Pope Francis said “The Church in Action which continues to take up the cross of suffering humanity”. Pope Francis on his recent visit to Iraq asked “open our eyes to the destructive threats of a world that is motivated by greed, violence and war”.

In this post Easter season while we rejoice as Easter people we do so in the knowledge that the God of Mercy is looking compassionately on a world that is re-awaking to a brighter future in the year ahead.

Lord, source of all Mercy we are saddened by the impact of Covid-19 and lockdown but like the disciples in the upper room we are renewed in spirit and hope that the healing power of God will look kindly on us and strengthen us on our journey. Amen.

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

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) - 11th April 2021

Reopening of Schools

Schools reopen for all primary and secondary students this week, please God. Covid19 numbers are dropping. Please keep in mind that this doesn't mean that we can throw away all caution, as the rate of spread can be alarming. Thankfully vaccinations are being rolled out. People who are fully vaccinated may socialise indoors with others who are also fully vaccinated, 14 days after the final vaccination. Restrictions are eased from Monday. Two households can meet outside for social/recreational purposes. We can move within the county. Construction of housing and childcare facilities recommence. There are still stringent restrictions on people gathering in Church. On 26th April numbers in Church for funerals will rise to 25.

First Communions and Confirmations 2021

You will appreciate that it is very difficult to schedule First Penance, First Communions and Confirmation during the current pandemic as numbers gathered in Church are restricted. Currently the plan is to have First Communions on Saturday 8th/15th/22nd May with two Masses each day so that numbers in church are kept low. The Sacrament of Confirmation is scheduled for Saturday, 19th June. The teachers will organise the schedules for both Sacraments. Whereas it is possible to control the numbers in the Church, a real concern is the gathering afterwards. Parents/guardians are reminded that there will be restrictions regarding people gathering in homes, so it will be vitally important to observe those restrictions also. A positive consideration is that we are forced to strip down the occasions to their essentials and will have to put aside some of the unnecessary trimmings that have become part of the day. Do please remember that the dates will depend on how we – you and I - are all doing to manage the virus. We may have to decide to change the dates if circumstances are dictate. So, says he with a smile, if Mums are going to buy clothes for these days, get the bigger size, just in case!!!

New Webcam in Church

Inspired by the number of people participating in our liturgies on-line we have decided to upgrade our system and install an improved camera. We hope you find the improvements helpful and find it easier to participate in the Masses and services from St. John's Church.

The Ossory Times

Some copies of this Diocesan publication have been forwarded to us, and are available at the church. Please take a copy – and be informed!! Online copies are available at ossory.ie

Divine Mercy Prayer

For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased:

Bill Dillon, Waterford
John Malone, Kells Road
Josie Cummins, Irishtown

Willie Pratt, St Joseph's Road

Anniversaries: Thomas Roche, Helen Frayne, Patrick (Paddy) Cahill, Arthur & Annie Connick, Elizabeth McGrath, Christina Barcoe, Jane Marie Butler, Ellen & Edward Delaney, *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 255

6.00pm Mary Lynch
8.00am No Mass
10.00am No Mass
11.00am No Mass
11.30am John Joyce
7.00pm Eileen Kinane

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope
collection: €3,440. Thanks to all who
contribute weekly, monthly and
annually, as well as those who pay by
Standing Order.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

During these difficult times we are happy to provide the contact details of a number of help agencies.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The St. John's Parish helpline number is 086 895 1239. Letters may be addressed to: SVP, The Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny or dropped in the presbytery letter box.

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. 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. Open from 8.00am - 8.00pm; call 0818 222 024.

Accord

Call the couples and relationships support line on 01 531 3331, staffed by counsellors Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 8.00pm. Counselling is also available to anyone wanting to talk through a relationship difficulty. Visit the accord.ie website to check for a convenient location and arrange a face to face appointment.

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.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Fintan Ryan (6pm)
Sunday: Mary Corr (11.30am).
Josie Manning (7.00pm).
Monday: The O'Brien Family - Newpark (10.30am).
Tuesday: Liz & Joe White (10.30am).
Wednesday: Lizzy, Tom & Mockey Delaney (10.30am).
Thursday: Molly Doyle (10.30am)
Friday: Elizabeth Hanlon (10.30am)
Saturday: John Byrne (10.30am)

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!

Year of St Joseph honours humble & courageous father

Pope Francis is well known for his devotion to Saint Joseph – Husband of Mary, Foster Father of Jesus, and Patron of the Universal Church. So, it shouldn't have come as a surprise that the pontiff would announce a Year of St Joseph which will run until 8 December 2021. A powerful meditation on Saint Joseph, called **Patris Corde – With a Father's Heart** was written by Pope Francis in order to “to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience.” The Pope's reflection have a special relevance to those who are on the path of priestly formation and for those who are ministering as deacons and priests in our parishes and dioceses.

In *Patris Corde* we are invited to get to know Joseph better as a man who lived his life, as we do, in the midst of a challenging and changing world. For Joseph, the only real constant was his trust in God, born of a lived faith, which knew that God is always true to his promises and that he is with us in every moment.

While all of us can learn from Saint Joseph's faith and fidelity, what is particularly relevant for seminarians, deacons and priests is the reflections offered by the Pope on the fatherly role of Joseph. For Francis, he is a father who is beloved of Jesus and Mary. He is a tender and loving father. He is obedient to the will of God as it is made known to him through prayer and reflection. He accepts with trust that which he does not fully understand, knowing that God sees the bigger picture.

He is a creatively courageous father who teaches us that “the first stage of all true interior healing is to accept our personal history and embrace even the things in life that we did not choose.” He is a father who understands the importance and the dignity of work “as a means of participating in the work of salvation.” Finally, Joseph is a father in the shadows in the sense that “Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way,” says Pope Francis.

With this portrayal of Joseph as a beloved, tender, loving, insightful, humble, creatively courageous, guardian of the treasure of God, the Pope presents a model of behaviour and attitude for all fathers and in a particularly important way for spiritual fathers.

Vocations to the Priesthood

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you.” Is Jesus trying to send you to proclaim his truth and peace as a priest, sister or brother? Speak to your local priest or Diocesan Vocations Director, or email the National Vocations Office: email:

info@vocations.ie