

## Thank You from Trócaire

Thanks again for your continued commitment and generous giving of your time and effort in support of Trócaire's work. It is very much appreciated by all of us, not least by those communities whose lives are being changed. Watch this short video to see how your contributions are helping in South Sudan: <https://vimeo.com/536423075>.

Outstanding contributions may be returned to the Presbytery or mailed directly to Trócaire, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

## Some Useful Help Agencies

**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)

**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.

**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](http://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 telephone or by Zoom. For appointment: telephone 056 775 6538 or email [director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com](mailto:director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com).

**Address:** St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. **Email:** [stjohns@ossory.ie](mailto:stjohns@ossory.ie)

**Website:** [stjohnskilkenny.com](http://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.**

### IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN CONTACT

The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Mr Cathal Cullen, 087 100 0232 - [dlp@ossory.ie](mailto:dlp@ossory.ie)

### OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Mary Weadick; Máirín Bergin; Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

### Counseling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline

1800 313 316 - [www.towardshealing.ie](http://www.towardshealing.ie)

**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**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter - 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021**

## Re-opening of Churches for Public Worship

Your priests and the members of the Parish Pastoral Council join with the members of the congregation in warmly welcoming the Government's announcement that our parish churches may reopen for public worship on Monday, 10th May. As Bishop Denis says in his statement: "It has been a long lockdown journey since St. Stephen's Day." As we reopen the three churches in St. John's Parish for public Masses our return to worship must be gentle and gradual and strictly in adherence with the Government's guidelines. Please God we will act cautiously and with restraint and keep our families and our community safe and well. We will return to our full Mass schedule with limited attendance in all our churches from Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The Government guidelines specifically advises that 'other religious ceremonies such as Communion and Confirmations should not take place at this time.' This is disappointing news on which we must reflect over the next few days. Parents will be informed of revised dates when we are in a position to announce them.

Baptisms are permissible under the relaxed restrictions but always adhering to the guidelines. Parents are invited to contact the Parish Office from Tuesday to book the celebration of baptism. The priests will do all in their power to facilitate families and to reduce the backlog of people awaiting baptism. It is advised that families should not have gatherings at home to celebrate the baptism of their child in church. If such gatherings led to the spread of the virus, baptisms and possibly other church events could be curtailed again for the whole community.

From Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May up to fifty people may enter a church for funerals and weddings. People should wear face coverings, sanitise their hands on entering and leaving church and maintain a social distance of two metres. Only six people may attend wedding receptions held indoors and fifteen may attend if the function is outdoors. Those accompanying funerals to the cemetery should be small in number, keep a safe social distance and refrain from hugging and hand shaking.

While our society is opening up, the pandemic is still with us and we must remain vigilant. Let us do all we can to remain safe and well as we make our way back to our churches.

Bishop Denis Nulty, the Apostolic Administrator for Ossory, has issued a statement on the return to the sacraments which is available on [www.ossory.ie](http://www.ossory.ie). Please keep an eye on our parish website - [www.stjohnskilkenny.com](http://www.stjohnskilkenny.com) - for further updates concerning our parish.

## Bereavements

### Recently Deceased:

Sean Lanigan, John's Quay. Requiem Mass at St. John's Church at 11.30am on Sunday.  
Canice 'Ken' Doheny, Ballinakill. Joseph Galvin, Newpark Close.  
Patrick Fagan, Loughboy.

**Anniversaries:** Molly Dowling (6.00pm); May Butler (11.30pm); Billy Byrne; Bea Orr; Gavin McBride; Tom Byrne; The Prendergast Family; Thomas Barrett;

*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 266

6.00pm Bridget Ahern  
8.00am No Mass  
10.00am No Mass  
11.00am No Mass  
11.30am Anne Maria Walsh  
7.00pm Marie Fogarty

### Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope  
collection: €880. Thanks to all who  
contribute weekly, monthly and  
annually, as well as those who pay by  
Standing Order.  
Your support is greatly appreciated.

## May Altars in Honour of Our Lady

May is the month when Catholics traditionally focus on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. May is seen as the beginning of new life and the start of summer, which makes this a logical time for the celebrations of Mary who brought life into the world. This is also a lovely time to create a small 'May Altar' in your home or garden to pay tribute to Mary. Adults may like to do this or it might become a project for the young people in the house – especially those preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

We are inviting you to reconnect with this beautiful tradition and share a photo of your May Altar with us by emailing it to [stjohns@ossory.ie](mailto:stjohns@ossory.ie). We will try to feature some of your pictures on our parish website.

Your Altar can simply consist of a small statue, if you have one, or you could also use a picture of Mary from a prayer card or prayer book or even ask your children/grandchildren to draw a picture of Mary. Add to this a candle (be careful and don't leave a lighted candle unattended) and some flowers, perhaps a set of rosary beads or a small crucifix too if you like. Any flowers can be used for your home altar, it is surprising the amount of small, colourful flowers that are available at this time of year.

A nice idea is to have a chair or stool nearby to encourage family members to stop and sit, and perhaps offer prayers to Mary during the day. The family might gather there for a short prayer before bedtime. We look forward to receiving pictures of your May Altars.

### Friends of Calcutta Clothes Collection

Clothes Collection supporting Friends of Calcutta (CHY No: 13218 ) on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> May. Bags of clothes, footwear etc. welcome and can be left inside Church Gate (behind FOC sign) at any stage that day up to collection time at 3.00pm. All enquiries to Michael Hopkins 087 907 3074.

### 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, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

## Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Molly Dowling (6.00pm)  
Sunday: May Butler (11.30am).  
Monday: Billy Byrne (10.30am)  
Tuesday: Special Intention (10.30am).  
Wednesday: Bea Orr (10.30am).  
Thursday: Gavin McBride (10.30am)  
Friday: Tom Byrne (10.30am)  
Saturday: The Prendergast Family (10.30am).

**May they rest in peace.**

## Daily Broadcast Mass

Please join us each Sunday and weekday on our Webcam Service, [stjohnskilkenny.com](http://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!**

## National Church Synod

The Bishops want to know: What would be your preferred option for engagement in a conversation process about a national synod? The Irish Catholic Bishops announced at their Winter 2020 meeting a new Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland, leading to the holding of a National Synodal Assembly within the next five years.

Before embarking on an initial two-year phase of consultation, bishops are inviting submissions, up to Pentecost (23<sup>rd</sup> May) 2021, to reflect on what methods/models would be best to adopt in these coming two years of conversations. For e.g.: focus groups, parish hall meetings, questionnaires, deep-listening sessions; written submissions; family focused gatherings; summary of findings of assemblies that have already taken place across dioceses; and/or conferences.

Parish teams, parish pastoral councils and other parish groups, as well as individual parishioners can make their submissions, via the Bishops Conference webpage at [www.catholicbishops.ie/synod/submissions/](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/synod/submissions/)

## The Rosary

Pope Francis is encouraging the faithful to pray the Rosary for an end to Coronavirus during the month of May, when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. "I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a family, a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities."



On another occasion St. Pope John Paul II said: "Today we begin the month dedicated to Our Lady a favourite of popular devotion. In accord with a long-standing tradition of devotion, parishes and families continue to make the month of May a 'Marian' month, celebrating it with many devout liturgical, catechetical and pastoral initiatives!"