

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

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 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. Appointment: Call 056 775 6538 or email director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com.

Accord Seeks Facilitators

Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG is currently recruiting people to facilitate on our Marriage Preparation Programmes. We would be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in training as a facilitator with Accord in 2021.

Please forward an expression of interest to adignam@accord.ie and we will be contact with you. For further information please contact Aisling on 01 505 3112 or visit our website - On Becoming a Facilitator with Accord - www.accord.ie.

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; Fr Brian Griffin; Fr Lorcan Moran; Iris O'Flynn; Karena Phelan.

IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN CONTACT

The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Ms. Kathleen Sherry, 085 802 1633 - 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

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

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

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 27th June 2021

'Talitha Cum'

In today's Gospel we hear two healing stories: Jairus' daughter and the woman with a haemorrhage. At first glance these stories might not seem to have a lot in common. The woman is a complete social outcast because of her condition, yet Jesus calls her 'daughter'. He does not let social convention dictate who can be called a child of God. Jesus reminds the people of this woman's true identity. The synagogue official surprises us, pleasantly, with his faith in Jesus and his message. What these two characters have in common is faith against all the odds as they reach out to Jesus in faith-filled action. There are those in the story who laugh when Jesus says he can bring back Jairus' daughter. They are sent away. Jesus' healing breaks down the barriers that isolate us from one another and from God.

We can all recall times when we were struggling. We needed something to move us, to help us forgive, to help us walk away or to relieve us of physical pain. In the end it can be the simple gestures that save us: a kind word, someone praying for us, a gentle touch or we reach out to someone and like the woman with the haemorrhage we suddenly feel within ourselves that we are healing. These accounts show us something of how God's grace can enter our lives and transform situations.

Mark leaves untranslated Jesus' native language when he restores the young girl to life: 'Talitha cum' – a beautiful phrase meaning: 'Little girl, get up!'. Jairus' daughter has been given new life; the woman has also been given new life. Both have overcome barriers that were keeping them from being free. We know what those barriers are for each of us. God's grace is gentle yet can bring life to situations of death. What do you need healing from today? Bring this to prayer.

Prayer on Lighting a Candle

*Oh blessed Lord, accept this burning candle as a sign of
my faith and love for you.*

*Like this candle, I am ready to be used in your service,
without asking why and to what purpose.*

*Even like this candle, I wish to stand in your presence
to be consumed in the light and warmth of your love.*

*Please hear my prayer and, if it be your will, grant my petition.
Above all, make me loyal and faithful to you in all circumstances of my life.
Amen.*

Bereavements

Recently Deceased: Annie Saunders, Loughboy.
Nicholas Deighton, Maudlin Street and late of Clogh, Castlecomer.

Month's Mind:

Anniversaries: Thomas Pat Barry (6.00pm); Michael Burke (11.00am); Mary Connick (11.30am); Teddy Kenny (7.00pm); Julia Carroll; Catherine Fitzpatrick; Michael Wall; Bridget Conway; Paddy & Bridie McKillen; Bridget Marrinan; Paul Reade; Tom Brennan; Joe Shortall; Kathleen Kiely; Patrick & Bridget Slattery.

*May their souls
and the souls of all the faithful departed
rest in peace.*

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Claire Coogan
8.00am Padraig O'Neill
10.00am Betsy Rice
11.00am Stephanie Butler & Roger Curran
11.30am John Joyce
7.00pm Linda O'Leary

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,465. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Parish Confirmation 2021

Bishop Denis Nulty, the Apostolic Administrator of Ossory, has decided to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with all candidates from Kilkenny City Parishes in a special ceremony at Nowlan Park at 6.30pm on Thursday, 9th September 2021 if restrictions and Government advice allow it. Bishop Nulty promises that this will be a "safe and memorable" celebration for those involved. He promises that "everything will be compliant with health and safety guidelines." We look forward to the celebration of the sacrament with the young people from our parish.

Peter's Pence Collection

'Peter's Pence' is the Holy See's annual collection to finance the Pope's charitable works and other priorities, including the Roman Curia. Your contributions to the Second Collection this weekend will be forwarded to the Vatican. Thank you.

Welcome to Sr. Noeleen

We welcomed into our parish this week, Sr. Noeleen Slattery of the Carmelite Order in Kilmacud. Sr. Noeleen, originally from Michael Street, is visiting her family in Kilkenny. Sr. Noeleen is in an enclosed order and was delighted to meet family and friends on her rare venture to the outside world. We wish Sr. Noeleen every blessing in her work and vocation. Sr. Noeleen's wish is that all would experience the love of God in their hearts. 'No matter what trials come we can manage them with God.' "Jesus, I trust in You".

St. Mary's Cathedral Fund Draw

The Monthly Draw in aid of St. Mary's Cathedral Restoration fund will take place on next Wednesday, 30th June. Tickets €10 per month. Tickets are available at the Parish Office.

First Friday

Next Friday is the First Friday of July. The sick and housebound will be visited at the normal times. Please inform the Parish Office or one of the priests if you have a relative or neighbour who would like this service.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Thomas Pat Barry (6.00pm).
Sunday: Michael Burke (11.00am)
Mary Connick (11.30am).
Teddy Kenny (7.00pm).
Thursday: Julia Carroll (10.30am).
Friday: Special Intention (8.00am).
Bridget Conway (10.30am).

*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.*

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).

Weekdays: 8.00am and 10.30am.
Saturdays: 10.30am and 6.00pm Vigil.
Sundays: 8.00am, 11.30am and 7.00pm.

All are welcome!

Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul

We celebrate the feast of Saints Peter and Paul on Tuesday of this week. As early as the year 258AD, there is evidence of an already lengthy tradition of celebrating the solemnities of both Saint Peter and Saint Paul on the same day. Together, the two saints are the founders of the See of Rome, through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there.

In a sermon in the year 395, St. Augustine of Hippo said of Saints Peter and Paul: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so, we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labours, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."

Perky Pigeons

Pigeons, also known as rock doves, were originally coastal birds which, long ago, would have inhabited rocks and coastal cliff faces. However, these very intelligent birds have learned that humans provide the best food sources and they have moved from coastal cliffs to our cities and towns. Pigeons are highly sociable birds; faithful partners and they mate for life.

Both parents feed the tiny chicks with a unique substance known as pigeon milk. This is not the same as the milk that you or I put on our cereal or porridge each morning. Pigeon milk is thick, milky, gloopy, secreted from the lining of their stomach. It is extremely nutritious and loaded with immune boosters which help the tiny pigeon hatchlings survive and thrive. In the wild, it is a very rare substance, and it is only flamingos and a few species of penguin which produce it.

Pigeons love to eat grains, fruits, bread, cheese, pasta, and food from bins. Discarded McDonald's take away is considered the most delicious treat of all. For many of us they are pests, but a closer look reveals a different picture. Have you ever noticed how beautiful their feathers are? As a pigeon moves in the sunshine, iridescent feathers on their neck change colour from green to purple as the viewing angle changes.

Also, pigeons may have been the first birds which humankind ever domesticated. For thousands of years, their value as a food source was immeasurable. In my life I have travelled to exotic places and lived among parrots, macaws, toucans, and other exotic birds. However, pigeons still rank very highly on my list of wonderful birds. God does not have favourites when it comes to the bird world. He loves them all the same way he loves us. We must look with new eyes to see the wonder and beauty of the Perky Pigeon.