

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.

Lough Derg Pilgrimages 2021

Lough Derg regrets that it will not be possible in 2021 to reopen Station Island for the Traditional Three-Day Pilgrimage or even for the autumn programme of Day Retreats.

Lough Derg, the penitential island in Co. Donegal, will again offer the opportunity to "Do Lough Derg from wherever you are" on 3rd - 5th July. The outdoor Pilgrimage on the Lough Shore Pilgrim Path will also be available as the summer goes on.

Further information from Lough Derg Office 071 986 1518 or www.loughderg.org.

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

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - 13th June 2021

'It is like a mustard seed'

Something we may not often think about is Jesus' earthly relationship with creation. Jesus walked everywhere, went to quiet places to pray, preached from mountains, from boats on the water; his followers included fishermen in tune with the rhythm of the sea. In Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common Home*, he reminds us that Jesus 'was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder' (*Laudato Si'*, 97). Jesus' parables are full of imagery from the natural world and in today's Gospel we have an example of this in the parable of the mustard seed. People of Jesus' time may have preferred the image of the lofty 'cedars of Lebanon' to explain God's kingdom, mustard plants however, only stand a few feet tall. Jesus is turning the ideals of power and triumph on their head. There is an ancient text which forbade planting mustard seeds in Palestinian gardens because the shrub takes over wherever it is planted and attracts unwanted birds. Author and activist, Shane Claiborne, compares it to *kudzu*, a wild vine that could blanket entire mountain areas, smother trees, even crack cement buildings. This mustard seed image of God's dream for this world is one which suggests that it will grow even in places where it is not wanted, putting cracks in seemingly mighty structures.

The New Testament not only tells us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout all of creation (Col 1:19-20). 'The very flowers of the field and the birds which (Christ's) human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence' (*Laudato Si'*, 100). As we watch out for traces of the mustard seed kingdom this week, let us also embrace the joy of Christ in all of creation.

Prayer for the Coming of God's Kingdom

O God, at whose bidding the seed will sprout and the shoot grow towards full stature, hear the prayer of your assembled people. Make us trust in your hidden ways, that we may pray with confidence and wait for your kingdom now growing in our midst.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leaving Cert Examinations

We wish continued good luck to those sitting the Leaving Certificate Examinations at the moment. The last two years have been hard on you, and we wish you every blessing as you sit your final exams in secondary school. We continue to pray for you and light candles in your names as you work through these difficult weeks.

Our other secondary school students have begun their Summer holidays. We wish you well. May you enjoy health and happiness and be safe and well.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased: John O'Leary, New York and Kilkenny.

Margaret (Peg) Matthews, Assumption Place. Requiem Mass at St. John's Church at 11.30am on Monday. Interment in St. Kieran's Cemetery.

Martin Morrissey, Waterbarack and late of Muckalee.

Tom Murphy, Clara.

Marie French, Newbawn, Co. Wexford.

Eamonn Molloy, Greenshill.

Month's Mind: Margaret Brennan

Anniversaries: Phil Drohan (6.00pm); Kit & Baby Bill Bennett (10.00am); Richard Hennessy (11.00am); Thomas Drennan (11.30am); Catherine Codd (7.00pm); Johnny Nolan; Kitty McCarthy; Dave 'Blondie' Hanlon; Richard Bergin; Brigid, Jim and Terence Doherty; Margaret and Abraham Anderson; Mary Harris; Joe Heffernan; Mary Dermody; Tim Hickey; John and Catherine McGuinness; Peter Donnelly; Dan Carroll; John Brennan; Jim Fitzpatrick; Brigid Murphy. Jaquillin Biju. *May they rest in peace.*

Readers for Next Weekend – Page 98

6.00pm	Máirín Bergin
8.00am	Martin Blake
10.00am	Seán Colgan
11.00am	Jim Kavanagh & Claire Hanrick
11.30am	Mary Lynch
7.00pm	Joan Galwey

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.

Music in Church

Celebrating and supporting the work of cantors in our Church the Advisory Committee on Church Music invites you to take part in a Celebration by Zoom on Wednesday, 16th June from 7.30pm – 8.30pm. Included in the Event will be topics such as "Sharing the Experience of Cantors", "Input on Repertoire", "Copyright", "Caring for your Voice". This will be of interest to all who lead the music and song in our parish churches. The event is free but participants must register to receive the Zoom link. Visit www.eventbrite.ie/e/keeping-the-song-alive-the-advisory-committee-onchurch-music-tickets-155812189453

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.

Annual Cemetery Masses

We believe that it is inadvisable to hold annual Cemetery Masses at this time. Please inform relatives and friends, especially those living outside our parish, that the Masses will be rearranged for a later time.

Tobar Na Gaeilge

There will be a Leaving Certificate Irish Course running in Johnswell this summer. This course will primarily focus on the Irish Oral Exam and will also feature lessons on grammar, essay writing, comprehension etc. All the benefits of Gaeltacht style classes without having to travel far from home!

Áit: Johnswell Community Hall. Dáta: 16th - 20th August. Am: 10.00am - 1.00pm. Táille: €80

Uimhir Teangmhála/Contact : Maria 087 667 3302 / Nick 087 225 5751

"Beatha teanga, í a labhairt!"

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Phil Drohan (6.00pm).
Sunday: Kit & Baby Bill Bennett (10.00am).

Thomas Drennan (11.30am).
Catherine Codd (7.00pm).

Monday: Johnny Nolan (10.30am).

Tuesday: Kitty McCarthy (10.30am).

Wednesday: Dave 'Blondie' Hanlon (10.30am).

Thursday: Richard Bergin (10.30am).

Friday: Margaret Brennan (10.30am).

Saturday: Brigid, Jim & Terence Doherty (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!

Pope Francis on Marriage

In a recent reflection on marriage Pope Francis said:

Is it true, what some people say—that young people don't want to get married, especially during these difficult times?

Getting married and sharing one's life is something beautiful. It's a demanding journey, at times difficult, and at times complicated, but it's worth making the effort. And on this life-long journey, the husband and wife aren't alone; Jesus accompanies them. Marriage isn't just a "social" act; it's a vocation that's born from the heart; it's a conscious decision for the rest of one's life that requires specific preparation. Please, never forget this. God has a dream for us—love—and He asks us to make it our own.

Let us make our own the love which is God's dream for us. And let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience. Because a great deal of patience is necessary in order to love. But it's worth it, eh?

We have delighted in celebrating two marriages in our parish during the past week. In this time when some of the pandemic restrictions have been lifted we join with Pope Francis in wishing all those preparing to celebrate marriage in the coming months every blessing and great happiness.

Mass Stewards

We are very grateful to all our Mass stewards who volunteer their time in helping keep us all safe during our celebrations in St. John's Parish. Though most people are very obliging and happily follow the directions of the stewards, others are less so.

We ask you to please be mindful that our stewards are there for the benefit of all. We ask the congregation to be patient and to follow their advice and directions. This is important if we are to adhere to Government/HSE guidelines in combatting Covid-19. Again, we thank our church stewards and appreciate the good work that they are doing to ensure the safe celebration of the Sacraments in our parish.

It is also very important that we wear face coverings, wash our hands and keep a safe social distance while inside and outside the churches.