

Flowers for the Altar

We are delighted to acknowledge a number of bouquets of flowers which were left into the parish during the week. These will be used in the sanctuaries in coming days. We also acknowledge some recent cash donations for altar flowers. Your generosity is much appreciated and thank you to the generous donors.

Theology of the Arts: does the Church need art?

The Priory Institute week-long Summer School will run from 8 - 13 August and again from 22 - 27 August. The course includes six recorded presentations & is very flexible as it is delivered entirely online. Find out more & register on prioryinstitute.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. Contact adignam@accord.ie.

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.

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; Karna 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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 4th July 2021

Clerical Changes in Ossory

Apostolic Administrator of Ossory, Bishop Denis Nulty has announced the following clerical appointments for the Diocese of Ossory which are to come into effect on the last weekend of August, the Feast of St. Augustine, 28th August 2021.

- ◆ Rev. Brian Griffin, Team Member, St John's Parish, is appointed Administrator of the Parishes of Camross and Castletown.
- ◆ Very Rev. Raymond Dempsey, on returning from sabbatical, is appointed Team Member in St John's Parish.
- ◆ Very Rev. William Hennessy P.P., Castletown, is appointed Administrator of the Parish of Conahy.
- ◆ Very Rev. Martin Delaney, P.P., Rathdowney, is appointed Administrator of Durrow, *pro-tempore*, while continuing his ministry in Rathdowney Parish.
- ◆ Very Rev. Archdeacon Seán O'Doherty, P.P., to retire as Parish Priest of Durrow, while continuing to reside in Durrow as *Pastor Emeritus*.

Frs. Dan, Lorcan, Parish Staff, the members of the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils and all who worked closely with Fr. Brian are still coming to terms with the news that he has been moved from St. John's Parish to Camross and Castletown. While we are sad to lose a dedicated, hard-working, esteemed colleague and friend we join in wishing Fr. Brian all the best as he prepares to take on his new responsibilities. Our loss is Co. Laois's gain.

Fr. Brian we pray that God will bless you with good health and contentment in your new role.

First Holy Communion

Sadly, the clear recommendation of Government issued on Tuesday, 29th June 2021 is that the celebration of First Holy Communion be, for now, postponed. This decision was endorsed by Bishop Denis Nulty, our Apostolic Administrator, on Wednesday morning. This is sad news for the children involved and for their families and we hope you will understand why St. John's Parish had to postpone the celebrations planned for next weekend. We have decided to await further advice before resetting the date. The situation will be continually reviewed throughout the summer. Let us continue to carry each other in our prayers at this time.

The Celebration of Baptism

Due to the Government's latest advice on Covid 19 restrictions, the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism will not take place in our parish from Monday 5th July until further notice. See www.gov.ie for further details. We apologise for any inconvenience or upset caused but St. John's Parish is committed to protect the community by following Government advice.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased: Eleanor Cantwell, Shandon Park. Patrick O'Shea, Kilmacow.
Ollie Deegan, late of Castle Gardens, Kilkenny
Catherine Kennedy, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.

Month's Mind: Mags Smyth (11.00am).
Richard Walsh (7.00pm).

Anniversaries: Jim Foley (6.00pm); Mick Butler (10.00am), Michael Geoghegan (11.30am);
Tom McDonald; Sr Máiréad Murphy; Renee Murphy; Dom, Tony & Ger Malone; Kathleen
Kiely; Paul Reade;

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

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Ann Daly
8.00am Paula Rodgers
10.00am Fiona & Sarah Manning
11.00am Bernard O'Gorman & John McGourty
11.30am Kathleen Ferguson
7.00pm Anne Marie Grace

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope
collection: €945. Thanks to all who
contribute weekly, monthly and
annually, as well as those who pay
by Standing Order.
Your support is greatly
appreciated.

This is the carpenter, surely?

'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house.'
We might find ourselves sympathising with Jesus in today's Gospel: no matter what a person
achieves in life, in their home place they will always be identified with their childhood selves
and their family. While this generates a sense of belonging, it can be stifling. There is always
someone to ensure we don't get ideas 'above our station'!

Returning home to Nazareth, Jesus teaches in the synagogue, but his former neighbours turn on
him. Who does he think he is, this carpenter, the son of Mary? This could have been a moment
of grace, if they were open to hearing what he had to say. Perhaps the implications of the Good
News were just too challenging coming from one of their own.

Sometimes God's Word comes in an unexpected package. As individuals and communities, we
can be guilty of silencing certain voices. Do we listen to young people with their energy and
idealism, or the elderly with their experience and wisdom? Are we biased against certain
groups in society, do we shoot them down before they speak? When our hearts are open, we
come to recognise the prophets who are bringing the dream of God to fruition among us.

'Although they heard you Lord, they failed to listen. They heard only what they wanted to hear.
The truth hurt them, you made them feel uncomfortable, and they rejected you... Show us how
we may seek your Kingdom and help to bring peace to a troubled world.' (Tony Singleton)

A Word of Caution

We are delighted to welcome so many people returning to Mass these days. This is just a gentle
reminder to people that we still need to observe the government guidelines and protocols to
protect ourselves and each other. Thank you!

- Please follow the stewards' advice
- Facemasks must be worn at all Masses and ceremonies
- Please use hand sanitizer before entering the Church
- Please observe social distancing both inside and outside the church
- Holy Communion will be given in the hand only

Thank you!

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Jim Foley (6.00pm).
Sunday: Mick Butler (10.00am)
Mags Smyth (11.00am).
Michael Geoghegan (11.30am).
Richard Walsh (7.00pm).
Monday: Sr Máiréad Murphy (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!

Remembrance Tree

At the end of May Bishop Denis Nulty, Ossory Diocesan Administrator, celebrated a special
Mass of Thanksgiving and Remembrance at St. Mary's Cathedral. During the Mass, which
was organised by the Ossory Middle Deanery Pastoral Council, the deceased members of our
parish who had funerals curtailed by the coronavirus restrictions were prayed for and remem-
bered. Each of the fourteen parishes involved were presented with a special remembrance
tree and candle which were blessed by the bishop. Our parish tree will be planted in the
grounds of St. John's Church following 11.30am Mass on next Sunday. All are invited to
attend this short ceremony in the grounds in front of the church.

Schools Out!

We take this opportunity to wish all the children, teachers, and staff of our parish primary
schools a very happy and safe holiday as they begin a well-deserved break. Congratulations
to all the sixth-class students who graduated from our Primary Schools and we wish them
well as they prepare for Secondary School.

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

A reflection on this Sunday's Gospel

- Personal prejudices and agendas can block us from listening to what another person has to
say. Who do they think they are? Perhaps you have experienced this. What difference has
it made to you when you were able to focus on the content of what was being said and
leave to one side your own prejudices about the speaker?
- It has been said that there is nothing as useless as the right advice at the wrong time. We
may want to reach out to another but may be unable to because at that moment the other
person is not ready to be helped. Like Jesus we 'do no deed of power'. As Jesus had to be
patient and wait for another opportunity, so do we. What have you learned about the im-
portance of patience in working with others?
- Religion easily brings up prejudices. Some dismiss religion as superstition, old hat, or
based on an outdated world view. Even among believers, prejudice can make it hard for
individuals to listen to an alternative way of looking at things, to consider a different way
of celebrating liturgy, or to live at peace with difference. Yet a closed mind can lead to a
stagnant faith. When have you found that a willingness to consider a different perspective
led to a deepening and strengthening of your faith?

John Byrne OSA