

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis has established a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will take place for the first time on Sunday, 25th July 2021 on the theme 'I am with you always' (Mt 28:20). Bishop Denis Nulty, chair of the Bishops' Council for Marriage and the Family has welcomed Pope Francis' World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, as a timely reminder for the whole Church to be close to all the elderly and grandparents at this time of pandemic. Bishop Nulty said, "There have been so many unsung heroes and heroines during the pandemic – grandparents and elders, including our older priests and religious – all who are to be applauded for how they have coped with the challenges and uncertainty brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. As a society we have learned a lot from their stoicism and pragmatism in the face of so many challenges.

We look forward to celebrating our Grandparents and Elderly on the weekend of 25th July.

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; 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

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 18th July 2021

Remembrance Tree

Thanks to all who joined us for the planting of the Remembrance Tree in the grounds of St. John's last Sunday despite the inclement weather, it was a wonderful emotional service. The Tree represents the deceased members of our Parish who had funerals curtailed during the pandemic. The names of the loved ones were written on a decorative leaf which were placed in our sacred space during the ceremony. If any person would like to collect their loved ones names, they can call to the sacristy after Mass any day during the week.

Baptisms, Communions and Confirmations

RTE News reported on Friday that "The Government has asked the National Public Health Emergency Team to consider the resumption of religious ceremonies including christenings, communions and confirmations, as well as a safe to allow indoor summer camps over the summer. NPHE is expected to advise the Government in the next two weeks." By Government instruction all such services were suspended from 5th July 2021 (see www.gov.ie).

St. John's Parish continues to follow clear Government and NEPHT advice and has postponed Baptisms, First Holy Communions and Confirmations for the moment. We will continue to monitor the situation and resume the celebration of these sacraments when it is safe to do so.

St. John's Parish Office

Please note the Parish Office is open from 9.30am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday for all bookings, anniversaries, parish business, newsletter inserts, etc. Ms. Áine Butler is our Parish Secretary and she will assist with all enquires and parish business. Our telephone number is 056 772 1072 and we can be contacted on the parish email at stjohns@ossory.ie.

Individual priests may be contacted through the parish telephone number or on their mobile numbers given in the information panel provided elsewhere on this newsletter. Our parish website, which is updated regularly, is available at www.stjohnskilkenny.com.

Knock Shrine

You are invited to join Knock Shrine online for Jesuit Week from Sunday, 25th July to Sunday 1st August. There will be three 20-minute sessions each day. Participants are also encouraged to join us online for Mass at 12 noon each day. Facilitated by Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, Raphoe Diocese, Paula McKeown (Down & Connor) and Patricia Mc Carthy, Prayer Guides Co-ordinator at Knock Shrine. Daily Schedule 10:30am – Retreat Talk by Bishop Alan McGuckian; 12:00pm – Mass from Knock Shrine (join online); 4:00pm – Guided Meditation: with Patricia McCarthy 8:30pm – The Examen (Review of the Day): with Paula McKeown No booking/registration necessary. This event is free of charge. Donations welcome. These events will take place online on the Knock Shrine website www.knockshrine.ie/watch.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased: Ann-Marie Beehan, Dunbell & late of Ossory Park. Requiem Mass at St. John's Church at 11.30am on Monday followed by interment in St. Kieran's Cemetery. Seamus Cleary, Belfast & late of Co. Clare. Margaret (Peg) Hickey, St Fiacre's Place.

Anniversaries: Larry Nolan (6.00pm); Ellen, Martin, Christy, Martin Jnr & Tom Brennan (11.00am) Paddy Bergin (11.30am); Mary Power O'Shea (7.00pm); Brenda Flynn; Sr Gabriel McMahon; Clare Drennan; Ailbe Martin Cleary; John Joe Dowling; Eamonn Reidy; Peter Daly; Dermot Delaney; Martin & Bridgid Keane;

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

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm	Máirín Bergin
8.00am	Jo Browne
10.00am	Seán Colgan
11.00am	Esther Comerford & Philip Comerford
11.30am	Deirdre Dowling
7.00pm	Joan Galwey

Society of St. Vincent De Paul

The monthly collection for the Society of St Vincent De Paul in our parish will take place this weekend, 17th and 18th July. A sincere thank you for all your generous support. The members of the local conference continue to work hard to support those in need in our community and they need your assistance. Please be as generous as possible.

Take a Break

We all need a break sometimes. I remember once reading a selection of entries for a Mothers' Day competition, in which people were asked why their mother deserved to win a prize. They all had themes in common - she never does anything for herself; she is always thinking of other people; I can't remember the last time she took a break.

In today's Gospel, the disciples need a break. They have returned from their mission, eager to catch up with Jesus, but there is so much happening that they barely have time to eat. Jesus sees their need and invites them to take a boat with him to a quiet place and rest for a while. But there is no time for rest, as the crowds have followed them on foot. Jesus is moved by them because they are 'like sheep without a shepherd'. He is the Good Shepherd who always cares for his flock, and he responds with compassion and love.

No doubt the disciples are drafted in to help: it turns out it is not break time! We can imagine their exhaustion. We all feel tired or overwhelmed from time to time, from work or family pressures or simply trying to balance everything. Postponing our own needs to care for others is familiar to every parent or caregiver. We don't know if the disciples got a rest at that point, but we know that Jesus valued time apart as he later sends the disciples off in the boat again while he goes away by himself to pray. In the chaos of life, even when there are demands on our time and energy, it is important to take some time to reflect and to pray.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Larry Nolan (6.00pm).
Sunday: Oliver John Bennett (10.00am)
Ellen, Martin, Christy, Martin Jnr & Tom Brennan (11.00am).
Paddy Bergin (11.30am).
Mary Power O'Shea (7.00pm).
Monday: Brenda Flynn (8.00am)
Tuesday: Sr Gabriel McMahon (10.30am).
Friday: Clare Drennan (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.*

Pope Francis Out of Hospital

Earlier this week Pope Francis was released from hospital following stomach surgery. By all accounts he is making a good recovery. Let us continue our prayers on his behalf. During the week Pope Francis Tweeted the following messages:

I thank all those who have been close to me with prayer and affection during my hospital stay. Let us not forget to pray for the sick and for those who assist them.

In these days of being hospitalized, I have experienced how important good health care is, accessible to all. This precious benefit must not be lost which needs everyone's contribution.

Let us pray for all the sick that may no one be left alone, that everyone receive the anointing of listening, closeness and care. We can all give it with a visit, a phone call, an outstretched hand.

I am touched by the many caring messages received in these days. I thank everyone for their closeness and prayer.

The Pope's Twitter account is @Pontifex

Croagh Patrick Pilgrimage

Normally the National Pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick takes place on the last Sunday of July. For this year, Reek Sunday has been extended to incorporate the whole month of July; each weekday from Wednesday to Saturday in order to facilitate those who wish to fulfil the Reek Sunday Obligations. Mass on the Summit: Wednesday to Friday 12 noon; Mass on Saturday 10am (Weather permitting). Confessions before and after Mass 11.00am to 11.45am and 12.45pm to 1.15pm.

Let us all look after each other

There is a concerning increase in reported cases of Coronavirus, due to the Delta variant. This reminds us to be extra vigilant and to observe health authority advice while attending church. Please

- Follow the directions of the Stewards
- Use facemasks at all Masses and ceremonies
- Use hand sanitizer before entering the church
- Observe social distancing both inside and outside the church
- Receive Holy Communion in the hand only
- Allow for social distancing

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!

“Let us not forget to pray for the sick and for those who assist them”

Thank you!