

Mass Leaflets

A number of people expressed disappointment that they are not allowed to use the usual Mass books during the pandemic. To make up for the loss we now provide leaflets which contain the readings and the text of the Mass. Please take one as you enter church, use it during the Mass and take it with you as you leave church at the end of Mass. It is important that you do not return the leaflets you have handled for fear of cross contamination. Thank you for your assistance in this.

First Friday of September

The first Friday of September occurs this week and the priests will take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. Frs. Dan and Lorcan will visit as usual. Fr. Raymond takes over Fr. Brian's list and expects to visit homes on that list during the day on Friday. Please contact the Office if you or someone known to you would like to be added to our lists.

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.

Face Coverings

We appreciate the efforts made to date regarding the wearing of facemasks. Thank you for your efforts to keep yourself and others safe. We again appeal to all who use our church to wear a facemask for the safety of all in our community. Thank you.

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 Lorcan Moran: 086 855 0521;

Fr Raymond Dempsey: 089 497 1924;

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

**Fergal Brennan; Mary Brennan; Alan Burke; Fr Dan Carroll; Fr Raymond Dempsey;
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

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - 29th August 2021

Welcome Fr Raymond Dempsey

This weekend we welcome Fr. Raymond Dempsey on his return to our parish. Fr. Raymond worked in St. John's Parish during 2004 - 2005 and makes a welcome return to the team. Raymond is a native of Kilmacow in South Kilkenny and, since his ordination in 1997, has ministered in a number of parishes in Ossory. As he moved into the presbytery on Friday he expressed his delight on returning to Kilkenny City and remarked that he is delighted to return to St. John's Parish.

We welcome Fr. Raymond and wish him well in his ministry among us.

Restoring our Common Home

Season of Creation 2021: Restoring our Common Home takes place this year from 1st September to 4th October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. During this season we are asked to join together to celebrate creation and protect our common home through prayer, reflection and action. The global Christian family is called to awaken to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and with each other and to encourage our parish communities to do the same, "for we know that things can change!" (*Laudato Si'*, 13). The elderly can be wonderful role models for the young. As our world continues to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic as well as a devastating climate and biodiversity crisis, we are looking forward to two UN Conferences in the Autumn, COP15 (on biodiversity, due to take place in China) and COP24 (on climate change, to be held in Glasgow) in the hope that world leaders take the urgent action that is needed to restore our common home.

Meanwhile, there's much you and I can do. Resources for the Season of Creation are available on www.catholicbishops.ie - take a look and see what can be done.

St. Mary's Cathedral Draw 2021/2022

The final draw of the 2020/2021 cycle concluded in this August, and, unfortunately, we had no winners in St. John's Parish. A new cycle of draws will begin in September and tickets are available from the Parish Office or any of the priests. Draw takes place on the last Wednesday of each month. Tickets cost €10 per month. To date the draw has raised almost €600,000 for refurbishing the cathedral. Please continue to support this ongoing work.

Schools Reopening

Good luck to all who return to school at this time. Best wishes to those who are making their first tentative steps on the road to education. We pray that all pupils and staff will be safe and well and enjoy the return to the classrooms.

Best wishes to those who anticipate Leaving Certificate results this week. We are praying for you.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased: Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien, St. Fiacre's Place. Sheelagh Lynch, Rothe Terrace and late of Assumption Place. Gerry Cunningham, SOS, Garringreen and Ballymack, Cuffesgrange.

Month's Mind: Pat Crowe, Newpark Lawn (Tuesday, 10.30am)
Bid Byrne-O'Carroll

Anniversaries:

Jimmy O'Neill (6.00pm); Joe Doheny (11.30am); Seamus Murphy (7.00pm); Eileen O'Connor; Tommy Cummins; Pat Wood; Edward Ryan; Nelly Brophy; Louise Kealy; Dick Maher;

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

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm	Mary Lynch
8.00am	Paula Rodgers
10.00am	Elaine Bennett
11.00am	Tom Comerford & Maise Powell
11.30am	Mary Hanafin
7.00pm	Eileen Kinane

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €850. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

"The date for the celebration of Confirmation has not changed" is all we can say to the many people who contact the Parish Office re the arrangements for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Nulty has asked that the Kilkenny City parishes celebrate the Sacrament at Nowlan Park at 6.30pm on Thursday, 9th September. We apologise that we have no further information at this time. The detailed arrangements are being hammered out at diocesan level and we hope to be in a position to give more information in emails to the candidates' parents, in future newsletters and on the parish website.

We remind all families celebrating the Sacrament of the need to be responsible as regards any social gathering that may take place after the Sacrament. Each person and family needs to take personal responsibility for their behaviour at this time.

Kilkenny Adult Learning Service

Kilkenny Adult Learning Service, KCETB has a number of courses coming up starting week beginning 13th September. Accredited IT Courses, Computers for Beginners, Everyday Technology – Using Smart Phones, Going Online, Teams, Zoom etc., Photography Course and Driver Theory. For further information please contact the KCETB on 056 776 3149 or on mobile 087 738 5691.

Millennium Court SAC

Millennium Court can offer you places for children from 5 – 12 years; homework club; very low fees; Easter and Summer programmes. Opening hours: 2.00pm - 5.45pm. Partly funded places for children through the NCS Scheme (staff available to help you apply for this). Millennium Court Community Centre, Kilkenny. Telephone 087 193 9776 and 056 776 0187.

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, 8.00am - 8.00pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday:	Jimmy O'Neill (6.00pm). Bridget Brid Lennon (11.00).
Sunday:	Joe Doheny (11.30am). Seamus Murphy (7.00pm).
Tuesday:	Pat Crowe (10.30).
Wednesday:	Eileen O'Connor (10.30).
Thursday:	Tommy Cummins (10.30).
Friday:	Pat Wood (10.30).
Saturday:	Edward Ryan (10.30am).

*Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us every day.*

Attendance at Mass

We are delighted to offer all our Masses, Funerals and Weddings at St. John's Church on webcam. Visit stjohnskilkenny.com to join any of our celebrations.

It is interesting to note that during the past week our Masses were viewed in Ireland, Australia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, India, Norway, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The average number of daily hits on last Saturday and Sunday was 156 while the average for the weekday liturgies was 57.

Please tell your relatives and friends who cannot attend St. John's Church in person that they can join in our liturgies on stjohnskilkenny.com. However, this can never be a substitute for attending in person when possible.

Speaking at Mass in Newbridge last weekend, Most Rev Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin and Apostolic Administrator of Ossory, said:

"I, like others, am somewhat concerned that there are people who haven't returned to Sunday worship not really because of a fear around the pandemic but because Mass has simply slipped off their radar. When a prudent decision was made at the beginning of this pandemic to remove the Sunday obligation, it gave permission in some ways for these people to stop attending and other attractions such as hill walking, golf, cycling, or simply staying in bed longer, has become the order of their Sunday morning. There is no anger there, no walking away, just slipping out of the habit and when we do, it's hard to reintroduce a practice, simply put it's hard to start going again.

The solution is not in my opinion to reintroduce the obligation. That would be a missed opportunity. We must teach people why Sunday is so special that they will want to go to Mass rather than feel compelled to attend Mass. People need to be reminded that a Sunday without giving God time is a Sunday less well spent. However, it is up to our parish councils, liturgy teams, our priests and faith-filled parishioners who have returned to reflect on how we might reintroduce Mass gently into the lives of these good people – our brothers, our sisters, our sons, our daughters, our grandchildren, our friends.

Mass on Sunday is a way of affirming that life has meaning and no matter what we're struggling through, we have value before God. During the depths of the pandemic when we had no public worship, there was much talk about Eucharistic starvation, as if the Eucharist was a prize to be possessed rather than a missionary mandate to go out from Mass and heal the sick, bandage the wounded, welcome the stranger.

We have met the Lord in our little domestic churches; we come to church on Sunday, in that knowledge that we can meet Him at home, but in church we meet with and are supported by a faith-filled people. In receiving Eucharist we become His body – we become what we receive. When there are some people missing, that body is incomplete."

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!