

Feast Day This Week

St. Padre Pio was born Francesco to Giuseppa and Grazio Forgione, peasant farmers, in the small Italian village of Pietrelcina on 25th May 1887. Francesco was very devout even as a child, and at an early age felt drawn to the priesthood. He became a Capuchin novice at the age of sixteen and received the habit in 1902. Francesco was ordained to the priesthood in 1910 after seven years of study and became known as Padre Pio.

On 20th September 1918, Padre Pio was kneeling in front of a large crucifix when he received the visible marks of the crucifixion, making him the first stigmatized priest in the history of Church. The doctor who examined Padre Pio could not find any natural cause for the wounds. Upon his death in 1968, the wounds were no longer visible. In fact, there was no scarring, and the skin was completely renewed. He had predicted 50 years prior that upon his death the wounds would heal. The wounds of the stigmata were not the only mystical phenomenon experienced by Padre Pio. The blood from the stigmata had an odour described by many as similar to that of perfume or flowers, and the gift of bilocation was attributed to him. Padre Pio had the ability to read the hearts of the penitents who flocked to him for confession which he heard for ten or twelve hours per day. Padre Pio used the confessional to bring both sinners and devout souls closer to God; he would know just the right word of counsel or encouragement that was needed. Even before his death, people spoke to Padre Pio about his possible canonization. He died on 23rd September 1968 at the age of eighty-one. His funeral was attended by about 100,000 people. He was declared a saint by Pope Saint John Paul II on 16th June 2002 and his feast is celebrated on Friday of this week.

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.

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 Sat. Monthly, 7.00pm; **Weekdays:** 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only).

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19th September 2021

Coronavirus Guidelines

Saint John's Parish very much welcomes the changes in Government guidance for Masses and religious services. We note the government guidance is subject to "continued positive factors and sectoral guidance". Nevertheless, this enables us to make some positive adjustments to the way we welcome you and accommodate our congregations. While proceeding with caution the following advice still applies:

- Our buildings must continue to be sanitized after services
- Hand hygiene must be applied on entry and leaving the churches
- Face masks must be worn in church
- Social distancing must be maintained inside and outside our churches – every second pew is operational, and individuals and families are asked to space themselves out in the seats
- When occupying a pew please move to the inside so that others will not have to "cross" you to gain entry
- A one-way system for the reception of Holy Communion will apply in St. John's Church.
- Mass leaflets or newsletters which you have handled must be taken away

Throughout this health emergency all in our parish have done very well in heeding advice and working diligently to ensure the safety of all attending our churches and religious services. Thank you for your patience and cooperation in this.

We now invite you to consider returning to church services, particularly to our community Masses, and assure you that we are doing all in our power to maintain a safe and welcoming environment.

A Service of Reflection and Hope

Christian commitment to peace, healing and reconciliation underpins the Service of Reflection and Hope to mark the partition of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland.

A Service of Reflection and Hope to mark the centenaries of the partition of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland will take place in Saint Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh, on Thursday, 21st October 2021.

The service is being organised by the Church Leaders Group, as part of their wider programme of collective engagement around the 1921 centenaries, with an emphasis on their common Christian commitment to peace, healing and reconciliation.

Armagh has been chosen as the location due to its significance as Ireland's ecclesiastical capital – a status which has its origins in the 5th Century when the present site of the Church of Ireland cathedral was presented to Saint Patrick for building his 'great stone church'.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased: Anna Bohan, Mallow, Co. Cork
Bernadette Hegarty, Phibsborough, Dublin.
Pierce Keoghan, Drakelands
John Cody, Sutton & late of Kilkenny

Anniversaries: Una Mahoney (6.00pm); James & Margaret Butler (10.00am); Michael Roche (11.00am); Michael Denieffe (11.30am); Kathleen Maher (7.00pm); John Foley; Michael & Bridget Maher; Bernadette Woods; Maureen Delaney; May Hehir; Michael Phelan; Anthony Murphy; Bridget Cahill; Syd & Elizabeth Bluett; Nora Connick; Marie Delaney;

*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	Bridget Ahearn
8.00am	Padraig O'Neill
10.00am	Teresa Dowling
11.00am	Martina Brennan & Tom Keating
11.30am	Kathleen Ferguson
7.00pm	Marie Fogarty

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,065. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Johnswell Badminton

Johnswell Badminton training will recommence in Loreto on Monday nights from 8p.m to 10pm. New members welcome.

Society of St. Vincent De Paul Collection

The Monthly Collection for the local conference of the Society of St Vincent De Paul will take place this weekend, 18th and 19th September. A sincere thank you for all your generous support. Please remember the local conference can be contacted in writing through the Parish Office or by telephone on 086 895 1239.

Tractor Run

The Neville Ryan Memorial Tractor Run on this Sunday, 19th September in Johnswell in aid of Castlecomer District Hospital. Registration from 1.00pm. Support is very much appreciated.

Johnswell - Social Dance Classes

Social Dance Classes – Waltz, Quickstep, Foxtrot etc will commence on Tuesday, 21st September in Johnswell Hall from 8.00pm to 9.30pm. For more information, please contact Yvonne on 087 244 8535.

Kilkenny Meals on Wheels

Voluntary drivers needed for our "meals on wheels" service. We would welcome your help, if you are a licenced car owner, fully vaccinated and could spare one hour per week in our care for the housebound and our elderly. We prepare more than 100 meals per day, our meals need "wheels" to deliver. Please contact :- Kay at Kilkenny Social Services 056-7721685.

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Una Mahoney (6.00pm).
Sunday: James & Margaret Butler (10.00am).
Michael Roche (11.00am).
Michael Denieffe (11.30am).
Kathleen Maher (7.00pm).
Monday: John Foley, Michael & Bridget Maher(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!

An Invitation from Bishop Denis Nulty to Reflect and Respond

While preaching in The Capuchin Friary recently Bishop Nulty issued an invitation to Parish Teams, Liturgy Groups, Pastoral Councils and to all the people of the diocese to reflect and share with him their thoughts and ideas on how people can be encouraged and welcomed back to regular Sunday worship. A link to Bishop Nulty's homily and his invitation can be found on our parish website. Your thoughts and ideas may be forwarded by post to Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator, Ossory, Diocesan Office, James Street, Kilkenny.

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

The recent Confirmation ceremony with young people from schools in our parish may be viewed in its entirety on <https://youtu.be/rb3-Z4W3BIk>

St. Mary's Cathedral Draw 2021/2022

A new cycle of draws will begin in September with the First Draw taking place on the 29th. Tickets are available from the Parish Office, Ann Brennan, Johnswell or any of the priests. 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.

The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation or Creation Time is marked throughout the Christian world from 1st September to 4th October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. Here are some simple and practical ideas taken from the Irish Catholic Bishops.

- Start to grow some of your own food; support local producers.
- Compost your garden and food waste.
- Avoid or reduce the use of chemicals in your home and garden.
- Use vinegar, baking soda and buy eco-friendly cleaners. www.ecoverdirect.com.
- Plant pollinator friendly plants in your window box or garden at home and in your parish grounds. www.biodiversityireland.ie
- Shop wisely. Buy Fairtrade and buy locally made products when possible.
- Avoid waste. Reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, treat.
- Learn how to read your energy bills and make your home more energy efficient.
- Explore the use of renewable energy in your home, business and school, parish buildings (www.seai.ie). Many grants are available for your community.
- Consider installing water butts in your gardens.