

Readers' Rota

The Readers' Rota for the coming year is available for collection in the sacristy

First Friday Visits

As next Friday is the first Friday of December the priests of the parish will bring the Blessed Eucharist to the sick and homebound in their homes. Call the office if you would like to be added to the usual lists.

Please Take Care

As the number of cases of the coronavirus continues to rise we should take extra care in observing the Government guidelines and protocols so that we will protect ourselves and others from this deadly virus. Please observe all guidelines in our parish churches.

Everyone needs to take steps individually and collectively in our everyday lives to keep this risk under control, in particular by

- acting fast, isolating and getting tested if we have symptoms;
- wearing our face masks;
- making sure that indoor spaces are well ventilated;
- maintaining adequate social distancing whenever appropriate;
- covering our coughs and sneezes and
- keeping our hands clean by using sanitizers.

Society of St. Vincent De Paul Collection

A sincere thank you for your generous support of last weekend's Society of St Vincent De Paul collection. Please remember the local conference can be contacted in writing through the Parish Office or by telephone on 086 895 1239.

9 Day Rosary Novena for Ireland

We are inviting you to join in a 9 Day Rosary Novena beginning Tuesday, 30th November and ending on Wednesday, 8th December. People all over Ireland will pray the Rosary together each evening at 9.00pm. If you are gathering to pray in groups, we encourage you to gather safely adhering to local Covid 19 regulations.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. **Email:** stjohms@ossory.ie

Website: www.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.

Counselling 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

First Sunday of Advent - 28th November 2021

Retired Priests' Collection

The Annual Collection for the Ossory Retired Priests' Society takes place outside the churches on this weekend 27th and 28th November. This Society is responsible for making suitable financial provision for the care of the priests in Ossory in infirmity, sickness and old age. Please support this diocesan collection.

Get Ready, Get Set... Wait!

Today marks the beginning of the Season of Advent, a time of preparation, a time of going toward the coming again of the Messiah, a time of great expectation and great anticipation. But exactly what is it that we anticipate? What are we getting ready for? What do we expect to happen? Do we anticipate the end of the world, as some religious cults always do at this time of the year? Are we preparing our hearts and spirits to receive again the coming of the Christ child into the world? Or are we preparing for yet another month-long shopping spree.

For the many who faithfully observe the consumer Christmas, Advent is the inevitable prelude to disappointment. For the majority of these people, Christmas somehow hardly ever measures up to their fantasies. Even for those who manage to have some of their Christmas wishes fulfilled, the season is over so quickly that the need to make New Year's resolutions to lose those added pounds, or to be more patient with all those idiots who somehow managed to get a driver's license bears down on them even before the decorations come down.

But the Advent we celebrate in the Church – the one that has nothing at all to do with the number of shopping days left until Christmas – is altogether different. The hanging of the greens, the lighting of the first Advent Candle – all these invite us to dream dreams of a better world, to allow expectant visions that have nothing to do with sugar-plum fairies to dance in our heads. Advent invites us to fill the cup of today with a full measure of tomorrow. Both the passage from Isaiah and the words from the Gospel of Matthew express the Christian hope for a different, brighter future.

The way we see Advent and Christmas will determine our approach to the celebration. The essential work of Advent is not the hanging of decorations but the opening of our lives to the coming Christ. You see, Christmas is a gift from God that arrives whether we're ready for it or not...

Eastern Environs Community Group

To abide by NPHE recommendations and in the interest of public health and safety, the Eastern Environs Community group has decided to cease operating for the foreseeable future. All planned activities including the 'Christmas Dinner' will be postponed. During these difficult times we encourage all our participants to follow Government protocols and guidelines. Please stay safe.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased: Michael Walsh, Golf View, Granges Road. Requiem Mass at St. Patrick's Church at 11.00am on Monday.
John O'Rourke, Ardnore. Requiem Mass at St. Fiacre's Church at 12.00 noon on Sunday.
Martin Joseph Donnelly, Kennyswell Road. Requiem Mass at St. Canice's Church at 11.00am on Tuesday.

Hannah Byrne, John's Street.
Paddy Barron, Windgap.

Rita McMahon, Ayrfield, Kilkenny.
Joan Clarke, Edenvale Close.

Month's Mind: Lena Cantwell

Anniversaries: Joe & Alice Bambrick (6.00pm); John Joseph, Thomas & Nora Kinsella (10.00am); Liam Sullivan; Jerry Tobin (11.30am); Helen Purcell (7.00pm); May Cleary; Liam (Lou) Leydon; Eileen Barry; The Cantwell Family; Jack Rowe;

*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 Martin Blake
10.00am Teresa Dowling
11.00am Esther Comerford & Tom Comerford
11.30am John Joyce
7.00pm Marie Fogarty

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,185. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

Vocations Ossory

Beginning on Saturday, 4th December Vocations Ossory is holding a series of Zoom meetings for young people who wish to explore questions about life and faith on three Saturdays in December from 10.00am – 11.00am. On Saturday, 4th December the topic will be 'Your Life: God's Vision and Your Dreams'

For further information and a link to these meetings simply drop an email to vocations@ossory.ie giving your name and the name of your parish. See our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Vocations-Ossory-109568687936204> or follow us on twitter @vocossory.

Vacancy – Data Protection Officer – DPO

(Dioceses of Ferns, Kildare & Leighlin and Ossory)

This will be a 3 Year Part-Time Fixed Term Contract (16 hours). The purpose of this role is to assist the three Dioceses of Ferns, Kildare and Leighlin and Ossory and their constituent parishes and agencies to ensure continued compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Catholic Church recognises that good pastoral care and respect for the dignity of every person requires that personal data should be sourced, stored, processed, and eventually disposed of in an appropriate manner and welcomes the essential principles underlying the GDPR.

Further information and application procedure available at ferns.ie and kandle.ie or Ossory.ie
Closing date for applications by post on or before 10th December 2021 to:
Ossory Diocesan Office, James's Street, Kilkenny R95 NH60; Email admin@ossory.ie; Telephone 056 776 2448.

The Dioceses of Ferns, Kildare and Leighlin and Ossory are equal opportunity employers. Canvassing will disqualify.

Priory Institute: Free of Charge Online Advent Retreat

Lectio Divina reflections on the Advent and Christmas Gospels. The Priory Institute is delighted to offer a free of charge online retreat which is a repeat of the popular Advent Retreat we ran in 2018. Visit our website prioryinstitute.com or click <https://bit.ly/3DWrtKx> to register.

Mass Intentions for week beginning 29th November

Thursday: May Cleary (10.30am).
Friday: Lena Cantwell (10.30am).
Saturday: Liam Lou Leydon (10.30).
Ann Murphy (6.00pm).
Sunday: Jerry O'Neill (11.00am).
Mary Shelly (11.30am).
Clive O'Carroll (7.00pm).

*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.*

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 welcome!

The Meaning of Advent

The word 'Advent' is from the Latin 'Adventus,' meaning 'coming.' Advent marks the beginning of a new Church year and lasts from the fourth Sunday before Christmas, until the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord. Advent is a period of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to the time when Christ will come again and to the remembrance and celebration of the first coming of Christ to us at Christmas.

The Meaning of the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath has a rich meaning. The circle of the wreath, with no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God. The evergreen reminds us of the everlasting life we have in Christ while any pinecones or pods in the wreath represent new life and resurrection. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Purple is traditionally a colour of penance and prayer while the rose/pink candle that is lit on the Third Sunday marks our joy as we move ever closer to Christmas.

We are the people of Advent... for Advent is now and not just back then. Therefore, we can see all the characters of Advent that was 'then' in our Advent which is 'now'. Where in our lives is John the Baptist, provoking us to become more aware of new things happening in our lives? Where is Zachariah in our lives, not immediately open to what is so new, so hard to understand? Where is Elizabeth, so ready, through the wisdom of living, to appreciate the coming of the Lord? Where is Joseph, so gracious when all was so strange? And where is Mary in us, trusting in the providence given to her, welcoming the word in her heart? For, where we find Mary in ourselves, there we find Christ being born in our souls.

Prayer Cards

To mark the Year of St. Joseph the parish has prepared some special prayer cards featuring a photograph of the statue of St. Joseph in the sanctuary of the parish church. These are available at the doors of our churches - feel free to take copies home with you.

Online Theology Open Evening

Is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Email enquiries@prioryinstitute.com to find out more about our Online Open Evening on Thursday, 2nd December at 7.00pm.

Handel's Messiah with Irish Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir Ireland

For many Advent would not be complete without attending Handel's Messiah. Handel's masterpiece tells the universal story of triumph over trial, where life's sorrows and despairs are met by overriding hope and unbridled joy. The Messiah will be performed at St. John the Evangelist Church, Kilkenny on next Saturday, 4th December at 8.00pm. Tickets are available from www.musicinkilkenny.org (Please note: tickets are not available at the Presbytery).