

Please Take Care

We continue to take care in observing the Government guidelines and protocols re the Covid-19 pandemic. Please observe all guidelines in our parish churches. With the threat of the Omicron variant everyone needs to take steps to keep this risk under control, in particular by

- following the advice of our ushers;
- 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 inside and outside the church;
- covering our coughs and sneezes and
- keeping our hands virus free by using sanitizers.

Retired Priests' Collection

Thank you for your generosity to last weekend's diocesan collection for the Ossory Retired Priests' Society. Your generosity to the care of Ossory in infirmity, sickness and old age was extraordinary. €1,315 was donated in our parish.

Possible Christmas Mass Times

Taking into consideration the Government's announcement on last Friday evening we propose the following times for our Christmas Masses. Please note these are proposed times - we welcome your comments and suggestions to any of the priests or to the Parish Office on 056 772 1072 during the coming week. Definite times will be announced next weekend.

Proposed for Friday, 24th December: St. John's at 6.00pm; Dunmore at 7.00pm; Johnswell at 8.00pm and St. John's at 12.00 midnight.

Proposed for Saturday, 25th December: St. John's at 6.30am; St. John's at 8.00am; Johnswell at 10.00am; Dunmore at 11.00am; St. John's at 11.30am; St. John's at 1.00pm (In Polish language).

Proposed for Sunday, 26th December: St. John's at 8.00am; Johnswell at 10.00am; Dunmore at 11.00am; St. John's at 11.30am; St. John's at 7.00pm.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. **Email:** stjohns@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

Second Sunday of Advent - 5th December 2021

Putting Up the Christmas Tree

While the Christmas tree is very much part of the Christmas season, over the course of Advent the tree will begin to appear in more and more homes, signalling that we are getting closer to the feast of Christmas. In the midst of winter, the evergreen tree, dressed with lights, reminds us of the life and light that comes to us through Christ. The colourful decorations of the tree are a reminder of the paradise tree of the garden of Eden, hung with the bright colour of fruit. Families in our parish are invited to say the following prayer together when they put up the Christmas tree in their home.

A Christmas Tree Blessing

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we gather around this tree.
May its light
and the cheer it gives us
be a sign of the joy
that fills our hearts.
As we delight in this tree
may we come to
the knowledge and joy
of the Christmas gift
of salvation and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Next Wednesday 8th December, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a feast day of Mary on which we remember that, from the first moment of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, Mary was preserved free from original Sin, she was full of grace. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqeUpvMXLk8&feature=emb_logo for a short video on the meaning of this feast. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times in St. John's Church are as on Sundays. Vigil Mass on Tuesday at 6.00pm, Wednesday at 8.00am, 11.30am and 7.00pm. No Masses in Dunmore or Johnswell.

Mass on Television this Weekend

The Mass on RTÉ TV at 11.00am on this Sunday, 5th December, celebrating the second Sunday of Advent, will be a Society of St. Vincent de Paul Ireland Mass. The celebrant is Fr. Paschal Scallan CM, National Spiritual Advisor. All readers will be SVP members and staff.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased:

John Holmes, Poccocke House. Requiem Mass at St. John's Church at 11.30am on Sunday.
Jorge Nardo, Philippines
Con Downey, Talbot's Inch.
Larry O'Shea, O'Loughlin Road.

Anniversaries: Ann Murphy (6.00pm); John, Catherine, Fr Bill, Kit, Oliver and Baby Bill Bennett (10.00am); Jerry O'Neill (11.00am); Clive O'Carroll (7.00pm); Mary Shelly; Mary McGuinness; Ann Stapleton and the Stapleton Family; Maurice, Anna and Jack Nolan; Marie, Seamus and Noel Parsons; Tommy and Peggy Dowling; Aaron Molloy; Tom, Peggy & Sheila Bourke; Billy Loughman; John Madigan; John and Ann Fogarty; Mary 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 Máirín Bergin
8.00am Jo Browne
10.00am Seán Colgan
11.00am Nora Guilfoyle & Fiona McGeary
11.30am Kathleen Ferguson
7.00pm Joan Galwey

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection:
€1,120. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

Johnswell – Christmas Yulefest

Outdoor Christmas Market will take place on next Sunday, 12th December from 3.00pm to 7.00pm. Festive Crafts and Baking, Food and Refreshments. Carol singing and Santa.

Christmas Fayre

At St. Canice's Cathedral: outdoors in the Deanery Garden. This Sunday, 5th December from 12.30pm to 4.00pm. Cakes, jams, tasty homemade produce, gifts, toys and Christmas crafts.

St. John the Baptist and Vocations

John is a tough one. He is made for the wilderness. He is at home there. The Bear Grylls of his day and more! God looked at John and said - this is exactly who I need for this mission. John was already in the wilderness. He has carved out an existence there and now God was going to task him with showing the world that even the wilderness, the roughest, driest, most unwelcoming, dangerous territory you could find (even though it was close to the River Jordan!) was to be the centre from where a spring of salvation would flow. Because John, made for the wilderness, said "Yes" to being the proclaimer of the Word very soon people would come and discover that the real wilderness was within themselves and only God could pave a path out of it for them.

Some Questions for you

- What are you made for? What are your strengths?
- There are wildernesses in our world today and in peoples lives. Where and what are they?
- Could you see yourself undertaking a tough assignment to be the proclaimer of God's love? Could you be the bringer of life and growth to the wilderness of today in peoples lives and in society?
- Could you become a person made for others, for hope, love, mercy, for Jesus Christ?

If the above questions strike a chord with you and you would like to explore them further why not join us for a series of Zoom meetings on Saturday, 11th and 18th December from 10.00am to 11.00am? Simply drop an email with your name and parish to vocations@ossory.ie and we will send you the link. See our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Vocations-Ossory-109568687936204> or follow us on twitter @vocossory. For further Information contact Fr Kieran O'Shea at vocations@ossory.ie

Mass Intentions for week beginning 5th December

Tuesday: Marie, Seamus and Noel Parsons (6.00pm).
Wednesday: Tommy and Peggy Dowling (8.00am).
Friday: Aaron Molloy (10.30am).
Saturday: Peggy and Sheila Bourke (10.30).
Tommy Dowling (6.00pm).
Sunday: Frank Dalton and Colette Dalton (11.00am).
Mary Malone (11.30am).
Michael O'Neill (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 on 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!

Bishop Nulty's Pastoral Letter for Advent

Bishop Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator of Ossory, issued a pastoral letter to mark the season of Advent. It is available on www.ossory.ie. Some hard copies are available in the church porches.

Prayer Cards

To mark the close of 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. The Diocese of Ossory has also issued prayer cards which incorporate the official prayer for the Synod. These are available at the doors of all our churches - feel free to take copies home with you.

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.

Thank You For Your Generosity

Frs. Dan, Lorcan and Raymond thank you sincerely for your generosity to the parish and towards the collections which make up their income. Even in these difficult times parishioners have been very generous and we appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness.