

Christmas Offering Envelopes and Weekly/Yearly Envelopes for 2022

You will soon receive your Christmas Offering envelope as well as, either your weekly envelope box, or your annual envelope. The "Weekly/Yearly/Standing Order" contributions go in their entirety to capital expenditure and maintenance of the three parish churches and buildings, as well as all the running costs of the Parish.

The "Christmas Offering Collection" goes towards the salaries of the priests of the parish. 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.

Volunteer Envelope Distributors

We are very dependent on our volunteer envelope distributors who drop the collection envelopes to homes in their areas. New envelopes are available in the Parish Office.

There are a few areas in which distributors have left the area, retired or passed away. We need extra help at the moment. Please contact Aine in the Parish Office if you or your family would be willing to help with this essential work.

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 extra and careful 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.

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

Third Sunday of Advent - 12th December 2021

Christmas Mass Times in St. John's Parish

Taking into consideration the Government's recent announcements and following our consultation with parishioners last weekend Masses will be celebrated at the following times over Christmas weekend.

Friday, 24th December: St. John's at 6.00pm; Dunmore at 7.00pm; Johnswell at 8.00pm and St. John's at 9.00pm.

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 (Polish language). Please note there will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

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.

There will be an even wider variety of Mass times in our Pastoral Area (four city parishes and religious houses). We will publish details in next weekend's newsletter.

Diocese of Ossory Advent Carols

On next Sunday 19th of December at 6.15pm, thanks to the help of our friends at KCLR96FM, the Dioceses of Ossory and Kildare and Leighlin can come together, via the radio, for a reflection of Advent Carols and prayers, led by our parishes, in the company of Bishop Denis Nulty. Why not join us from the comfort of your own home with your family for this short Advent reflection.

Johnswell – Christmas Yulefest

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

St Mary's Cathedral Draw

The next monthly draw for the Cathedral Restoration Fund will take place on this Wednesday 15th December. Tickets are available from the Parish Office, Ann Brennan, Johnswell or any of the priests. Tickets cost €10 per month. Thank you for your support.

Society of St Vincent De Paul Annual Collection

The annual Christmas collection for the Society of St Vincent de Paul will take place this weekend, 11th and 12th December. Special blue envelopes have been placed in the church and church porches. Please consider taking one and making a donation. Collectors will be available outside the doors or you may return the envelopes to the Presbytery during the week. Throughout the year, but especially at Christmas, the Society provides essential help to those in need in our parish. Sincere thanks for all your generous support.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased: Michael Reynolds, Glendine Road.
Patricia Hickey (nee Savage), formerly Glendine Heights who died in Perth, Australia.
Kay McEvoy, Freshford Road.
Anne O'Brien, Bennettsbridge.
Kitty Galvin, Dean Cavanagh Place.

Months Mind: Rita Little (8.00am).
Colette Dalton (11.00am).

Anniversaries: Tommy Dowling (6.00pm); Frank Dalton (11.00am); Mary Malone (11.30am); Michael O'Neill (7.00pm). Aaron Molloy; Seán Hennessy; Nan Brennan; Edward Moran; Thomas O'Neill; Paddy Hehir; Richard O'Carroll; Jack Byrne; Frances Guidera;

*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 Padraig O'Neill
10.00am Betsy Rice
11.00am Pierce Lennon & Liam Maddock
11.30am Bobbie Lahart
7.00pm Eileen Kinane

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection:
€1,280. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

Gaudete (Rejoicing) Sunday

The Irish Catholic bishops have asked that church bells would be rung at 9.00am on this Sunday 12th December in prayerful hope for all during this Season of Advent.

The bishops extended the invitation following their Winter General Meeting which concluded online on Wednesday, 1st December. At their meeting the bishops also reflected on the past year and looked ahead to Christmas. They said, "As Christmas approaches, we keep especially in our thoughts those who have been bereaved in the past year, and we pray for the gifts of healing and hope for all. We have now begun our Advent journey, a time of patient waiting and joyful hope. We look forward to the celebration of Christmas with quiet expectation and turn our hearts to the Lord with confidence and trust.

Only Two Weeks Left

The four weeks of Advent, well used, enable us to prepare for the Christmas Season, the celebration of the coming of Christ on earth. Christmas is a most sacred event and it challenges us to reflect on our lives of faith and on the true meaning of the event. Why do we celebrate Christmas and what is it that we celebrate?

For many Advent has become a commercial season but underneath it assures us that we are again preparing to welcome Christ into our lives and our communities. Many traditions have been lost over the years. There was a time when the Christmas Season dictated what we should do and how we should celebrate but today's society leans towards secularism and individualism that discourages social participation in every form including religious and social values.

That's the world in which we live and struggle but, for those who believe in Christ, the Season of Christmas should be much more than a passive feast. Christmas celebrates the coming of Christ to renew a broken world. It should be a time for personal reflection on where we are going ourselves in relation to God and our own spirituality. With all the complexities of living today – overshadowed by Covid – we can easily lose track of the fundamentals of our human existence.

This Sunday is also Gaudete Sunday when we are invited to rejoice as a Christian community anticipating with hope that this Christmas will be one of meaning and prudent responsibility that we share with one another.

Mass Intentions for week beginning 13th December

Monday: Aaron Molloy (10.30am).
Wednesday: Seán Hennessy (8.00am).
Nan Brennan (10.30am).
Thursday: Edward Moran (10.30am).
Saturday: Thomas O'Neill (10.30am).
Thomas, Seanie & Toddie O'Connor (6.00pm).
Sunday: Paddy, Michael & Catherine Keogh (8.00am).
Breda Carey (11.00am).
Larry Manning (11.30pm).
Dylan Whearty (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!

Religious, Christmas, Baptismal and Wedding Cards

Following many requests St. John's Parish now has available a selection of Religious, Christmas, Baptismal, Bereavement and Wedding Cards. For the moment these will be available at the Parish Office during office hours. If the project is supported we will shortly provide a larger range of religious cards and items.

Reflection for Young People - Burning Questions

What must I do in this situation or that? What must I do with my life? What must I do to deal with this issue or problem? What must I do to correct that mistake? What must I do to accept myself and others as I am and as they are? What must I do to be a good human being? What must I do to fulfil God's dream for me? What must I do to find peace and fulfilment?

What are the big questions for you?

Who creates a space for you to explore your questions?

Do you expect them to have all the answers?

Are you comfortable with uncertainty and living with the big questions?

If the above questions strike a chord with you and you would like to explore them further why not join us for a Zoom meeting on Saturday 18th December from 10.00am - 11.00am. Simply drop an email with your name and parish to vocations@ossory.ie and we will send you the link. On next Saturday, 18th December the topic will be 'Living with the Questions'.

Parish Ushers

Ushers have played a very important role in our churches during the Covid Pandemic and their assistance has proved invaluable. We thank them for their time and commitment every weekend and on special occasions. At this stage we would like to recruit more volunteers to assist especially during the Christmas Season. If you are willing to join our teams of ushers please contact the Sacristans for further information.

Medjugorje Evening of Prayer

Rosary, Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament including Prayers for Healing at St. Fiacre's Church, Loughboy on Monday, 13th December at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Parking in St. John's Church Grounds

Parking in the grounds of St. John's Church is for those who have legitimate business within the grounds of the church. In recent weeks we have experienced difficulties with people who park cars indiscriminately, blocking passageways, parking on and even driving on the lawns. There is an added problem on the days we host a funeral or a wedding in the church. Please use discretion if you park in the church grounds. We ask everyone's cooperation with this.