

Covid-19: Please Take Care

We are delighted with the news at the time of going to print that we can celebrate with some restrictions our Christmas liturgies. It is more important than ever that we behave in a Christian way and look out for each other in these times. Please do not endanger others by coming to church if you feel unwell or display any symptoms of Covid-19. It is vital that you follow 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 volunteer ushers who will seat as many people as permitted;
- wearing our face masks;
- following the instructions for coming forward to receive Holy Communion;
- receiving Holy Communion in the hand only;
- making sure that indoor spaces are well ventilated;
- maintaining adequate social distancing inside and outside the church;
- taking any material you handled in church home with you;
- covering your coughs and sneezes and
- keeping your hands virus free by using sanitizers.

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. Please contact the Parish Office if you or your family would be willing to help with this essential work.

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent - 19th December 2021

Christmas Mass Times For Kilkenny City Pastoral Area

Christmas Eve:	4.00pm:	St. Mary's Cathedral	
	5.40pm:	Capuchin Friary	
	6.00pm:	St. John's Church (Family Mass); St. Mary's Cathedral. St. Canice's Church. The Black Abbey.	
	6.10pm:	Dunmore Church.	
	7.00pm:	Capuchin Friary.	
	7.30pm:	Johnswell Church; St. Canice's Church.	
	8.00pm:	St. John's Church; Capuchin Friary; The Black Abbey;	
	9.00pm:	St. Fiacre's Church.	
	12 Midnight:	St. Patrick's Church.	
Christmas Day:	6.30am:	St. John's Church.	
	8.00am:	St. John's Church.	
	9.00am:	St. Mary's Cathedral; The Black Abbey.	
	9.30am:	St. Patrick's Church.	
	10.00am:	Johnswell Church; St. Canice's Church; Foulkstown.	
	10.30am:	St. Fiacre's Church; Capuchin Friary (Irish); The Black Abbey.	
		11.00am:	Dunmore Church; St. Mary's Cathedral.
		11.30am:	St. John's Church; St. Canice's Church.
		12 noon:	St. Fiacre's Church. Capuchin Friary; The Black Abbey.
		12.30pm:	St. Patrick's Church.
	1.00pm:	St. John's Church (Polish).	

**There will be no evening Mass in any of the City churches on Christmas Day.
Masses in the City will be at the usual times on Sunday, 26th December.**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available in St. John's Parish Church after 10.30am Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. The priests will be available in St. John's Church from 7.00pm to 8.00pm on this Tuesday evening. If a priest is available the celebration of the Sacrament may also be requested by calling to the Parish Office during the week. Please do not come to the church if you feel sick or show any signs of Covid-19. Be conscious of the need to sanitise your hands, wear a mask and keep a social distance at all times.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased: Peter Maher, Rathmoyle. (Father of Elanor Malone, Johnswell). Tommy Brennan, Clara. Requiem Mass at St. Colman's Church, Clara at 11.00am on Monday. Denis O'Brien, Cork. Bridget Johnston, Hebron Road. Anna Keegan, St Francis Terrace. Eileen Tynan, 71 Old Callan Road.

Anniversaries: Thomas, Seanie & Toddie O'Connor (6.00pm); Paddy, Michael & Catherine Keogh (8.00am); Breda Carey (11.00am); Larry Manning (11.30am); Dylan Whearty (7.00pm); Joe Fogarty & The Fogarty Family; John Dowling; Owen Massey; Richard Gaule; Martin & Peggy Brett; Angela, Martin & John Delaney; Michael, Katie & Shauna Joyce; Rita & Michael Gaule; Ted Carroll; Lena, Bill & Danny Cassidy; Kevin McDaid.

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 -
8.00am Paula Rogers
10.00am Seán Colgan
11.00am Jim Kavanagh & Claire Hanrick
11.30am Anne Maria Walsh
7.00pm Linda O'Leary

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €990. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Diocese of Ossory Advent Carols

On this Sunday, 19th 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 home with your family for this short Advent reflection.

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: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hearts that carry Joy: Mary is the one we look to as the true example of a witness to Jesus Christ. She shows us clearly what is at the heart of a Christian Vocation - a 'Yes' to God's plan for my life which is a gift to be shared with others. When we say 'Yes' to God in a spirit of generosity and look beyond ourselves we are truly carriers of Christ, bearers of the Good News, and agents of Gospel care. We sow the seeds of Joy in a world that needs to regain its smile.

Questions for you:

When you see others in need how do you respond?

How can you as a young person bring the Love of God to other in real ways?

What are the gifts and talents you have that could bring Joy to others.

Could you see yourself giving your life to Christ as a bearer of his of hope and joy to people as priest or religious?

Do you trust that God's plan for you will be fulfilled?

For further information on diocesan priesthood contact Fr Kieran O'Shea, vocations@ossory.ie

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul

The members of the St. John's Parish Conference wish to thank you for your kindness at their Christmas collection last weekend and during the past week. Your generous contributions will be used to help those in need in our Parish. The Society can be contacted on 086 895 1239.

Mass Intentions for week beginning 20th December

Monday: Richard Gaule (10.30am).
Wednesday: Martin & Peggy Brett (10.30am).
Sunday: Mary Teresa Butler (10.00am)
Mai Loftus (11.00am).
Maura Mealy (11.30am).
James & Josephine Foley (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!

Christmas Arrangements

The schedules for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are published on the front of this bulletin. Masses on next Sunday, 26th December will be at the usual churches at the regular times. There will be no 8.00am Mass on the weekdays following Christmas. Mass will be celebrated at St. John's Church at 10.30am each day, Monday to Saturday. The Parish Office will remain closed that week but the priests may be contacted on their mobile number given on the back page of this bulletin.

Need Advice with Money?

Kilkenny MABS South Leinster Money Advice and Budgeting Service offers a free, independent and confidential money management and advice service assisting people in dealing with their existing debts, mortgage arrears and helping them to begin to manage their own resources. MABS offers free Debt Relief Advice under Personal Insolvency options. Money Management Sessions are provided for Transition/Leaving Cert Students and Community Groups. Tel: 0818 072610

Support 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. Please call the National Support and Referral Line on 0818 222 024 from 8.00am – 8.00pm, seven days a week. ALONE operates 365 days a year so they will be there to take your call when you need them most.

Calling All Men

Exodus 90 is a spiritual exercise for men, with over 50,000 who have completed it so far. It's a challenging 90-day period (17th January to Easter Sunday 2022) of prayer and asceticism, supported by a weekly fraternal gathering. Today Exodus 90 is renewing the Church by transforming men. See www.exodus90.com to learn more. Zoom information event with testimonies on Thursday, 6th January at 8,00pm. Meeting ID: 494 625 9738 passcode: 997298.

We Welcome the Crib and Christmas Tree

Cribs and Christmas trees will be erected in our churches during the coming week. We thank those who do this task at a very busy time every year. Thanks also to our team of sacristans for their hard work not just at Christmas but throughout the year.

The first Christmas crib is attributed to St Francis of Assisi. In 1223, just three years before his death, Francis went to visit the Friars living in the remote mountain village of Greccio. St Bonaventure tells us that in order to excite the people of Greccio to celebrate the birth of the Saviour with all solemnity, Francis brought together all the elements of the stable in Bethlehem into what would become the very first Christmas crib.

Francis used real people, straw and animals to bring the Christmas story to life for the people of Greccio. People came from far and wide to see this spectacle. The night was aglow with candlelight as hymns were sung in praise of the God who is with us.