

Covid-19: Restrictions are Eased

Following the easing of most restrictions we are going to progress with caution in St. John's Parish. We ask that you continue to take responsibility for your own health and the health of others, especially when visiting our churches. The following steps will remain in place.

- Do not come to church if you feel unwell or display any symptoms of Covid-19;
- Follow the advice of our volunteer ushers who will remain in place for the moment;
- Wear a face mask;
- Use the hand sanitisers;
- Continue to use the local arrangements for receiving Holy Communion;
- Receive Holy Communion in the hand only;
- Be conscience that others may be anxious about maintaining a social distance - don't 'hog' seats but move in to make good use of the space in each pew;
- The Sign of Peace will continue to be suspended;
- Holy Water fonts will remain empty.
- Continue to contribute in the buckets at the church doors - we will not pass around the collection plates for the moment.

We have done very well and supported each other during the past two years. While rejoicing in the relaxation of the restrictions let us be careful and continue to care for each other.

Some Useful Help Agencies

St. Vincent de Paul Parish Help Line: 086 895 1239.

Samaritans: We are here for you. Every hour, every day, a Samaritan is waiting to answer your call. on freephone 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.ie.

Covid-19 Support Line 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 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice. 8.00pm; call 0818 222 024.

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; Jo Browne; Alan Burke; Fr Dan Carroll;

Claire Coogan; Fr Raymond Dempsey; Luke Leydon; 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 in Ordinary Time - 30th January 2022

The Synod - Turning the Church Pyramid Upside Down

In October 2021, Pope Francis invited the world's 1.37 billion Catholics to take part in a Synod with the theme, 'For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission'. The worldwide Synod of Bishops meet in Rome and around every two years they also hold Extraordinary Synods, such as those for Youth, The Family and the Amazon. But this is different type of Synod, it's a call to rediscover our roots and the church's deeply synodal nature. What does that mean and how do we respond?



The invitation isn't just for a few, it's for us all: lay, religious, young, old, daily Mass attenders, disenchanted lapsed Catholics, people from other faith traditions and of no belief. We're all invited to get involved. The synod, and the practice of the synodal process calls us, the Church, to rediscover its nature as a pilgrim and missionary people led by the Holy Spirit. It calls us to listen to each other, to discern together within a 'culture of encounter'.

The process might have been launched by Pope Francis in Rome and by bishops in their own cathedrals, but this isn't something that starts at the top of a pyramid and filters down to parishes at the bottom. Instead, the pyramid has been turned upside down. The synod starts in parishes, at the grassroots, by consulting the whole people of God and ends at the tip of the pyramid with a Synod of Bishops. During the Season of Lent we will have consultation sessions throughout the diocese to ensure the voices of all in Ossory are heard. Watch this space for more information.

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Confirmation Candidates Enrolment Service

Enrolment Mass for Confirmation Candidates will take place in St. John's Church on this Tuesday evening at 7.00pm. We look forward to meeting all the boys and girls and their families as they enrol to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation which we hope will take place on Saturday, 2nd April. Please remember the young people in your prayers.

The Eastern Environs Group

The Eastern Environs Community Group will reassemble in the Parish Day Centre at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 2nd February. To ensure continued safety all recommended health protocols will be in place. New members welcome.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased: Joe Doherty, Assumption Place.

Seamus Butler, Dukesmeadows Avenue, Kilkenny. Requiem Mass at St. Patrick's Church at 12.00noon on Monday.

Sr. Maura Drea, Loreto Convent, Kilkenny. Br. Denis Con Hurley, Westcourt, Callan.
Sharon Croghan, Parcagowen, Waterford Road. Brian Dunne, Dublin.

Months Mind: John Joyce, Ossory Park (8.00am)
Eileen Tynan, Old Callan Road (11.30am)

Anniversaries: Ann, Michael, Bridget and Michael Jnr O'Connor (6.00pm); Nancy Comerford (10.00am); Claire & John Irwin, Renee & Jarlath Walsh (11.00am); Betty Burke (7.00pm); Billy Leahy; Bridget Brennan; Fr Larry Foley; Catherine & Margaret Cassin; Bridie & Tommy Casey; Ben Little; Martin & Brendan Doheny; Martin Browne; Maura Gaffney; Seamus Holohan; Ann & John Fox; Joe Delaney; Joe Brennan; Patrick and Elizabeth Galvin.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Claire Coogan
8.00am Jo Browne
10.00am Elaine Bennett
11.00am Pierce Lennon & Liam Maddock
11.30am Mary Lynch
7.00pm Anne Marie Grace

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection:
€1,005. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

Feast of St Blaise

Thursday is the Feast of St. Blaise. A physician before he became a bishop, he is venerated as patron of those who suffer from disease of the throat. The priests will bless throats after Masses on Thursday. Using two blessed and unlighted candles you may like to bless the throats of your family members at home with the following words: *Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, Bishop, and Martyr, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

St Mary's Cathedral – January Draw Results

Prize	Winner	Parish
1 st Prize €2,000	Paul Clarke	St Patrick's
2 nd Prize €1,000	Cathedral Restoration Fund	Diocesan Office
3 rd Prize €500	Janet Hennessy	St Canice's
4 th Prize €300	Joan & John O'Keeffe	Callan
5 th Prize €300	Brigid Feehan	Ballyragget
6 th Prize €200	Eileen O'Brien	St Mary's
7 th Prize €200	Ballycallan Parish	Fr Liam Taylor
8 th Prize €100	Kilmacow Parish	Kilmacow
9 th Prize €100	Denis Lynch	Durrow
10 th Prize €100	Emer Dunne	Borris in Ossory

Congratulations to all the winners. Sadly we did not have a winner in our parish this month. Tickets are available at the Parish Office, from the priests and from Ann Brennan, Johnswell.

Johnswell - Social Dance Classes

Social Dance Classes – Waltz, Quickstep, Foxtrot etc will commence on Tuesday, 1st February in Johnswell Hall from 8.00pm to 9.30pm. For information, contact Yvonne on 087 244 8535.

Mass Intentions for week beginning 31st January

Monday: Bridget Brennan (10.30am).
Tuesday: Fr Larry Foley, Catherine & Margaret Cassin (10.30am).
Wednesday: Bridie & Tommy Casey (10.30am).
Saturday: Ben Little (10.30am)
Jimmy Leahy (6.00pm).
Sunday: Patsy Fitzgerald (8.00am).
Sarah Prendergast (10.00am).
Teresa Hillman (11.30am).
Patrick Joseph O'Shea (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.*

Parish Webcam

You may like to know that all Masses and Services at St. John's Church are broadcast on our webcam at stjohnskilkenny.com, and our Parish Radio Service on 106.8 FM.

Weekdays

8.00am and 10.30am.

Saturdays

10.30am and 6.00pm.

Sundays

8.00am, 11.30am & 7.00pm.

All welcome!

You can stay in touch with your parish from anywhere in the world.

St. Brigid's Day Service

The annual St. Brigid's Day Service will take place on Tuesday, February 1st in St Fiacre's Church Loughboy at 7.30 pm. Water from the well of St. Brigid in Kildare and blessed red flannel will be available on the evening. Music by the Kilkenny Gospel Choir. All welcome.

Candlemas Day

Wednesday, 2nd February is Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, also known as Candlemas Day. The Blessing of candles for use both at home and in the church will take place at all Masses. Donations of candles for use in the church are very welcome and can be left at St John's Church for blessing on Wednesday.

Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

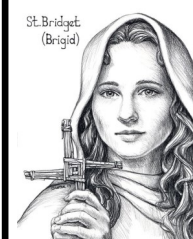
On Wednesday we also celebrate and pray for all who have consecrated their lives in the service of the Church, particularly the religious of our city and diocese who have given witness to Christ for centuries. We thank them for their dedication and pray God's blessing on them.

First Friday

Next Friday is the First Friday of February. The sick and housebound will be visited at the normal times. Please inform the Parish Office or one of the priests if you have a relative or neighbour who would like this service.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

An eight-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land takes place from 16th to 24th February 2022. Led by Fr. John Carroll (Ferns Diocese), there are still a small number of places available. The pilgrimage will visit Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and other sites in the Holy Land associated with Jesus. Price is €1,725. To reserve your place, please call Marian Pilgrimages on 01 878 8159 or email info@marian.ie



St. Brigid's Blessing

*May Brigid bless the house wherein we dwell.
Bless every fireside, every wall and door.
Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof.
Bless every hand that toils to bring its joy.
Bless every foot that walks portals through.
May Brigid bless the house that shelters us.*