

Covid-19: Restrictions are Eased

We continue to proceed 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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 6th February 2022

The Diocesan Synodal group

The Diocesan Synodal group is working away to ready themselves, and in time our parishes, for the synodal process. In a recent letter Bishop Denis indicated that we will have three phases in the synodal process in Ossory.

First Phase (February – March): In these months we will create awareness of Synod/synodality throughout the Diocese.

Second Phase Lent (March and April): During our "Listening Lent" we will have consultation sessions throughout the Diocese to ensure that the voices of all in Ossory all are heard.

Third Phase (April, May): During Easter the Synod Group will collate these responses (what has been heard) to share with the bishop and each other.

Pope Francis wants to hear you - and we do too! Our Synodal Journey

The Church in Ireland and throughout the world is on a synodal journey. This is, Pope Francis is clear, not a journey to a particular destination rather it is the journey itself which is our destination. It is a Church that walks together, sharing our hopes and fears about faith, a church wherein we listen deeply to each other - that is our goal. It is not the voices of some but the voices of all that truly matter. In doing this we will hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit for the Church today. We will keep you informed.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

On next Friday next, 11th February, we celebrate 30th World Day of Prayer for the Sick. In 1992 Pope John Paul instituted the World Day of the Sick to encourage the people of God, Catholic health institutions and civil society to be increasingly attentive to the sick and to those who care for them. The theme chosen for this year, "*Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful*" (Lk 6:36), makes us first turn our gaze towards God, who is "rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4); he always watches over his children with a father's love, even when they turn away from him. Mercy is God's name par excellence; mercy, understood not as an occasional sentimental feeling but as an ever-present and active force, expresses God's very nature. It combines strength and tenderness. For this reason, we can say with wonder and gratitude that God's mercy embraces both fatherhood and motherhood (cf. Is 49:15). God cares for us with the strength of a father and the tenderness of a mother; he unceasingly desires to give us new life in the Holy Spirit. (Pope Francis).

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick during 10.30 Mass on Friday morning. Those in our community who are unwell may come and join in our communal prayer for the sick and be anointed with the Oil of the Sick. Parishioners are invited to help sick and elderly neighbours to come to Mass on that morning.



Remembering Those Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Sean Gleeson, Ryelands, Cuffesgrange. Matty Walsh, Kilmacow.
Yvonne Foran, Cypress Grove. John Kennedy, McAuley Place.
Thomas P. (Tom) Crotty, Carlow and late of Kilkenny. Fr John Condon, Templeorum.
Angela C. Mullally (nee Kelly), Gathabaun and formerly of John Street, Kilkenny.

Anniversaries: Jimmy & Patty Leahy (6.00pm); Patsy Fitzgerald (8.00am); Sarah Prendergast (10.00am); Teresa Hillman (11.30am); Patrick Joseph O'Shea (7.00pm); Mary Jo Doheny; Mark Owens; Pat Langton; Mary & Joe Daly; Mary Downey; Eileen, Robert, Denis & James Dowd; Ray Hanlon; James Shortall; The Ryan Family; Hanna Heaney; Nora Webster; Margaret Carroll; Abraham & Margaret Anderson; Philip & Delia Larkin; Bill Carroll; John O'Keefe.

*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 Ann Daly
8.00am Pdraig O'Neill
10.00am Betsy Rice
11.00am Eddie Holohan and Liz Holohan
11.30am Kay Purcell
7.00pm Marie Fogarty

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.

Ministers of the Word in our Parish

We give thanks for all those who proclaim God's Word in our parishes. This is a very important ministry proclaiming the Word so that others can hear of God's love for them. We are delighted and grateful that some people have recently volunteered to help out. There is always room for more ministers/readers so if you would like to become a reader please contact the Parish Office.

Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking

Tuesday, 8th February, is the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese nun, who as a child had the traumatic experience of being a victim of human trafficking. "I encourage those who work helping the men, women and children who are enslaved, exploited, abused as instruments of work or pleasure, who are often tortured and mutilated. It is my hope that government leaders may work decisively to remove the causes of this disgraceful scourge, it is a scourge unworthy of society. May each one of us feel committed to being a voice for our brothers and sisters, who have been humiliated in their dignity." (Pope Francis).

More information and resources are available at www.preghieracontrotratta.org

Men's Rosary

Join in Men's Rosary on Saturday, 5th March 2022 at 1.00pm at the Statue of Our Lady, James's Green, Kilkenny. Further information contact Ron at 086 669 6632 or Paul at 087 365 0492.

The Dandelion Counselling Service

Newpark Close Family Resource Centre (Dandelion Counselling) offers low-cost therapeutic services. Counselling services provided include family support, bereavement, physical or sexual abuse, life changes, relationships, loss, depression, sexuality, anxiety, self-esteem, addiction/recovery, stress. This service is confidential and affordable. For an appointment: 087 397 9033.

Mount St. Anne's Retreat Centre

This centre, at Portarlinton, Co. Laois, offers a rich variety of talks and courses in February, March and April. Visit the website for full details of all the upcoming events: www.mountstannes.com.

Mass Intentions for week beginning 7th February

Tuesday: Eileen, Robert, Denis & James Dowd (10.30am).
Wednesday: Ray Hanlon (10.30am).
Thursday: James Shortall (10.30am)
Friday: The Ryan Family (8.00am)
Hanna Heaney (10.30am);
Saturday: Nora Webster (10.30am);
Paddy Fogarty (6.00pm);
Sunday: Mary Butler (10.00am).
Michael Loftus (11.00am);
Liam Kelly (11.30am).
Geoff Doyle, Statia & Nicholas Power (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.*

Our Lady of Lourdes

Friday, 11th February is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. In 1858 Our Lady appeared for the first time to Bernadette Soubirous a poor girl. Many come to the sacred shrine every year from all over the world seeking healing of their diseases and grace to their souls. The visible miracles here demonstrate the power of Our Lady as she intercedes with her Son on behalf of the sick. An Irish proverb says "God is strong and He has a good mother" In 1908 Pope Pius X declared that the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes would be celebrated all over the world on the 11th February. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.



Dates for Your Diaries

We were delighted with the turn out and engagement of our Confirmation candidates and family members at last Tuesday evening's enrolment service. The boys and girls continue their journey towards the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. We continue to support with our prayers those who are preparing for First Penance and First Eucharist. Well done on the work to date and we look forward to the young people joining us at our regular Masses in the parish.

The following dates may be of interest to parishioners: -
Tuesday, 1st March: First Penance, St John's Junior School
Thursday, 3rd March: First Penance, Johnswell N.S.
Saturday, 2nd April: St. John's Parish Confirmation
Sunday, 17th April: Easter Sunday
Saturday, 7th May: First Eucharist, Johnswell N.S.
Saturday, 14th May: First Eucharist, St. John's Junior School

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.**

A Prayer to our Lady of Lourdes

Ever Immaculate Virgin
Mother of Mercy,
Health of the Sick,
Refuge of Sinners,
Comforter of the Afflicted,
you know my wants, my
troubles, my sufferings.
Look with mercy on me.

By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favours; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure for their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal.

I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests.

Through gratitude for your favours, I will endeavour to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory in heaven,
Amen.