

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 13th February 2022

St Valentine

Saint Valentine was a Catholic priest who had also worked as a doctor. He lived in Italy during the third century AD and served as a priest in Rome.

Historians don't know much about Valentine's early life. They pick up Valentine's story after he began working as a priest. Valentine became famous for marrying couples who were in love but couldn't get legally married in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who outlawed weddings. Claudius wanted to recruit lots of men to be soldiers in his army and thought that marriage would be an obstacle to recruiting new soldiers. He also wanted to prevent his existing soldiers from getting married because he thought that marriage would distract them from their work.

When Emperor Claudius discovered that Valentine was performing weddings, he sent Valentine to jail. Valentine used his time in jail to continue to reach out to people with the love that he said Jesus Christ gave him for others.

He befriended his jailer, Asterius, who became so impressed with Valentine's wisdom that he asked Valentine to help his daughter, Julia, with her lessons. Julia was blind and needed someone to read material for her to learn it. Valentine became friends with Julia through his work with her when she came to visit him in jail.

Emperor Claudius also came to like Valentine. He offered to pardon Valentine and set him free if Valentine would renounce his Christian faith and agree to worship the Roman gods. Not only did Valentine refuse to leave his faith, he also encouraged Emperor Claudius to place his trust in Christ. Valentine's faithful choices cost him his life. Emperor Claudius was so enraged at Valentine's response that he sentenced Valentine to die.

The First Valentine

Before he was killed, Valentine wrote a last note to encourage Julia to stay close to Jesus and to thank her for being his friend. He signed the note: "From your Valentine." That note inspired people to begin writing their own loving messages to people on Valentine's Feast Day, February 14th, which is celebrated on the same day on which Valentine was martyred.

Valentine was beaten, stoned, and beheaded on February 14, 270. People who remembered his loving service to many young couples began celebrating his life, and he came to be regarded as a saint through whom God had worked to help people in miraculous ways. By 496, Pope Gelasius designated February 14th as Valentine's official feast day.

Happy Valentine's Day to all couples in our parish.

Remembering Those Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Fr. Mick Reynolds CSSp, Talbot's Inch, Kilkenny.
Ann Boyle, College Square. Requiem Mass at 11.30am at St. Canice's Church followed by burial in Foulkstown Cemetery.
Mary (Maud) Murphy, Castle Road and late of Kanturk.
Vera Larkin, St. Rioch's Street. Angela Corley (nee O'Dwyer), Blessington.
Teresa McGrath, Friary Street. Sr. Dolores O'Keeffe, Loreto Convent, Kilkenny.
Catherine Brannigan, Granges Road. Maura Walker, Dublin.

Months Mind: Ann Gibbons, Kilree

Anniversaries: Paddy Fogarty (6.00pm); Mary Butler (10.00am); Michael Loftus (11.00am); Liam Kelly (11.30am); Geoff Doyle, Stasia & Nicholas Power (7.00pm); Liam Reidy; Joan Tallis; Sheila Rice; Peter Long; Ann O'Neill; Francie Murphy; Breda Rafter; Maura Butler; Mary Geoghegan; James & William McGrath; Joseph Lawlor; Michael Cantwell; Kitty & John Browne; Michael Brennan; John O'Keeffe; James Dooley; Mary Moll Jordan; Catherine Ryan; Thomas Duggan; Tomás Hackett; Richard Walsh; Michael & Desmond Mahony; Kathleen and Charlie Bartholomew.

*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 Bridget Ahern
8.00am Paula Rogers
10.00am Betsy Rice
11.00am Christy Murray & Maise Powell
11.30am Deirdre Dowling
7.00pm Joan Galwey

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection:
€1,275. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

Society of St. Vincent De Paul Collection

The Monthly Collection for the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul will take place next weekend, 19th and 20th February. A sincere thank you for all your generous support. Please remember the local conference can be contacted in writing through the Parish Office or by telephone on 086 895 1239.

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.

Divine Mercy

Holy Rosary Hour will take place in the Dominican Black Abbey each day, 3.00 to 4.00pm.

Medjugorje - Evening of Prayer.

Prayer for Healing, Rosary, Mass, and Adoration will take place in St Fiacre's Church, Loughboy next Monday, 14th February at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Greeting Cards and Mass Cards

We have a modest selection of Mass cards, get well cards and Christening cards available at the Parish Office during office hours. This service is for your convenience and, if people show an interest, we will expand our stock and provide a greater variety.

Mass Intentions for week beginning 14th February

Monday: Peter Long (10.30am).
Tuesday: Ann O'Neill (10.30am).
Wednesday: Francie Murphy (8.00am).
Mary Geoghegan (10.30am).
Thursday: James & William McGrath (10.30am)
Friday: Joseph Lawlor (10.30am);
Saturday: Michael Cantwell (10.30am);
Joseph (Joey) Lawless (6.00pm);
Sunday: John Bergin (8.00am).
Joe Doherty (Month's Mind) 11.00am);
Philomena Drohan (11.30am).
Frank Rodney McCormack (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.**

Volunteer Readers

We need extra volunteers to proclaim God's Word at all Masses in our parish churches and we are asking you to step up and join the lists of those who have given such generous service. If you are interested in putting your name on the rotas please contact one of the priests or leave your name to the Parish Office.

The Synodal Pathway

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. In the weeks ahead plans will be made for these conversations. We will keep you informed. On our parish website you will find a video outlining what synodality is all about.

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

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

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

Life Saving Training

Interagency certified Life Saving Training will take place in the Ormonde Hotel on Saturday 12th March. Included in the course is: Adult and Child CPR; Life Support for victims of heart attack; Cardiac Arrest and Choking; Recognising signs of stroke. Numbers are limited. To secure a place contact kilkennycivildefence@gmail.com before 21st February

Anam Cara

Anam Cara Tipperary the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Monday, 21st February at 7:20pm in the Horse and Jockey Hotel, Thurles. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of death, or whether their death was recent or not.