

## Lent – a Time of Renewal and Growth

As we approach the Season of Lent – a traditional and powerful time of renewal and growth – we might look at our Mass attendance. In a pastoral letter issued this weekend Cardinal Nichols of Westminster, wrote “The highest form of prayer is the celebration of the Eucharist. It is here, above all other places, that the Lord wishes to fill us with his gifts, so that we, in turn, can offer those gifts to others.”

Lent comes as a rallying call for all of us to reflect on our attitude to Mass. For some the thirst for being at Mass and for celebrating life-giving sacraments has diminished over the past two years. This Lent is the time of grace when we can usefully reflect on our commitment to the weekly celebration of the Eucharist. The Season of Lent provides the “time for a fresh start, the time to reset our patterns.”

Cardinal Nichols also invited us to reach out to our family members and friends who do not attend Mass any more. “I would like you to be ready to approach those whom you know, and who are not present here today, with a word of invitation for them to join us.” This should be done with great diffidence and kindness. “Do what you can to invite those who are missing to come with you to be part of this great family of faith and prayer.”

### First Friday of March

If you or anyone you know would like a First Friday visit from one of the priests, please contact the Parish Office on 056 772 1072. The priests hope to make the usual rounds on Friday.

### St. Mary’s Cathedral Draw

1st Prize €2,000: Fr. Frank Maher, Johnstown. 2nd Prize €1,000: Breda Noonan, Lisdowney. 3rd Prize €500: Richard & Kay Cody, Tullaherin. 4th Prize €300: John & Lisa O’Neill, Callan. 5th Prize €300: Margaret Mullally, Rosbercon. 6th Prize €200: Katie Murphy, Muckalee. 7th Prize €200: Dolores Tynan, Johnstown. 8th Prize €100: Carmel & Oliver Harrington, Ballyhale. 9th Prize €100: Maggie Sweeney, St. John’s Parish. 10th Prize €100: Dick Walsh, Thomastown.

Congratulations to Maggie Sweeney from our parish and Ann Brennan who sold the ticket.

**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](mailto: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](http://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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. Monthly, 7.00pm; **Weekdays:** 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only).

**Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am**

**Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am**

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

### Ash Wednesday and Lent

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the first day of Lent. Lent is a special season during which we can reflect, pray and act.

**Reflect:** God is full of tenderness and compassion, is this how you see God? God sees and appreciates all our efforts to change and do the right thing, does this give you hope?

**Pray:** Bring all your needs to the Lord, turn to him now... Give thanks for his mercy, his tenderness and compassion.

**Act:** During this first week of Lent make a commitment to be compassionate with all the people you meet. Gently invite others to turn to the Lord when they are in difficulty. Be part of the revolution of tenderness called for by Pope Francis.

### Distribution of Blessed Ashes

Ashes will be blessed and distributed at 8.00am, 10.30am and 7.00pm Masses.

### ASH WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH A DAY OF FASTING FOR PEACE



I invite everyone to make this coming 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace: let believers dedicate themselves intensively to prayer and fasting. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.  
- Pope Francis

### Mass for Peace

Bishop Denis Nulty will be the principal celebrant at a Mass for Peace at St. John’s Church at 7.00pm on Ash Wednesday. The people of Kilkenny City and county are invited to join with us in praying for peace in the world at this time. Ashes will be blessed and distributed during this Mass.

All are welcome to join us in prayer for this urgent intention. *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*

### Together for Lent

The four Kilkenny City Parishes invite you to celebrate Lent together. Mass with a guest speaker, will be celebrated at

St. Fiacre’s Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, Gemma Mulligan

St. John’s Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, Jim Maher

St. Canice’s Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Meadh Mahon

St. Mary’s Cathedral at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, John Moloney

St. Mary’s Cathedral at 5.30pm on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Sacrament of Reconciliation

All the speakers will talk about their personal faith and challenge us to reflect on our own situations. We invite you to come and join in our Lenten programme with our brothers and sisters in the Kilkenny City Pastoral Area.

### Remembering Those Who Have Died

**Recently Deceased:** Jim Cody, Wetlands. Requiem Mass at St. Patrick's Church at 11.00am on Tuesday followed by interment in Foulkstown Cemetery.

Joe Brennan, Bishop Birch Place.  
Thomas (Tá) Dwyer, Ossory Park.  
Anne Hanrahan, Ardnore.  
Sr Catherine Wybourne, England.  
Don Dardis, Lucan, Dublin.

Josephine Burke, Dunmore.  
Marie Lowe, Kennyswell Road.  
Andrew Phelan, Kilmacow.  
Terry Doyle, Athy,

**Months Mind:** Bernadette Egan (8.00am).

**Anniversaries:** Christina O'Connor & Dolores Dowling (6.00pm); Catherine Dowling (10.00am); Paddy Brennan (11.00am); Ken Lynam (11.30am); Michael Brennan (7.00); Michael Cantwell; Breda Byrne; Dick Marnell; James & William McGrath; Jim Kealy; Nell Delaney; Catherine Neary; John Boland; Bridget Guilfoyle; Brian Griffin;

*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 Jo Browne  
10.00am Séan Colgan  
11.00am Stephanie Butler and Roger Curran  
11.30am Bobbie Lahart  
7.00pm Linda O'Leary

### 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.

### Exploring Priesthood – Zoom with Seminarians and Priests

On Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March at 8.00pm there will be an opportunity for young men to join in a Zoom meeting to find out more about priesthood and to hear directly from two young men who are currently studying for the priesthood in our National Seminary in Maynooth. The event is being run by the National Vocations Office. Further information and registration details can be obtained by emailing [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie) alternatively by visiting [vocations.ie/zoom](http://vocations.ie/zoom)

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Beginning on this Friday we are introducing Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in St. John's Church on the Fridays of Lent immediately after the 10.30am Mass until 12.00 noon. Should a funeral take place on the day the adoration will be cancelled. We invite parishioners to come and spend some time in prayer in the presence of the Lord. (Because of Covid and the lack of ventilation we are unable to use the Adoration Chapel at this time.)

### Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

Fast from hurting words - and say kind words.  
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.  
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.  
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.  
Fast from worries and have trust in God.  
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.  
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.  
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.  
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.  
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.  
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



### Mass Intentions for week beginning 28th February

Monday: Michael Cantwell (10.30am).  
Tuesday: Special Intention (10.30am).  
Wednesday: Special Intention (8.00am).  
Breda Byrne (10.30am).  
Terry Doyle (7.00pm).  
Thursday: Dick Marnell (10.30am).  
Friday: James & William McGrath (10.30am).  
Saturday: Jim Kealy (10.30am).  
Paddy O'Brien (6.00pm).  
Sunday: Neddy Phelan (11.00am).  
Margaret Dwyer (11.30am).  
John McEnery (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](http://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!**

### St Joseph's Young Priests' Society

A meeting of the St John's Branch of the St Joseph's Young Priests' Society will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February in the Presbytery after the 10.30am Mass. The members of this society pray for and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. All are welcome.

### World Day of Prayer

The annual ecumenical prayer event will be held at St. Fiace's Church, Loughboy at 7.30pm on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022. All are welcome.

### Trócaire Boxes

Please take a Trócaire Box home with you or you can donate online at [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org) or by phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI). This year's theme is "A Better Tomorrow". Climate change and Covid are hurting loving families so please help this Lent. Every cent helps those in need.

### Life Saving Training

Interagency certified life saving training will take place in the Ormonde Hotel on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:kilkennycivildefence@gmail.com).

### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sisters of St. John of God

A liturgical celebration is planned to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. John of God and to enable us to give thanks for the service and ministry the Sisters and their collaborators have provided in the Diocese of Ossory. Throughout the years the Sisters have ministered in a number of parishes in our diocese - including St. John's Parish - and have provided all parishes and religious houses with Altar Breads. The celebration will take place at St. Fiace's Church, Loughboy, Kilkenny (R95 DK88) at 5.30pm on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and will be followed by refreshments in the adjoining Parish Centre. All those who would like to recognise and give thanks for the work of the Sisters are invited to attend. Former staff members are especially invited to attend.

### Readings at Mass

Visit [www.universalis.com/today](http://www.universalis.com/today) and each day you will find information on the Saint of the Day, the Mass readings and Morning and Evening Prayer of the Church. This is a very useful site for those who wish to follow the Church's liturgical calendar.

## **Some Useful Help Agencies**

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

**Samaritans:** We are here for you. on freephone 116 123 or email [jo@samaritans.ie](mailto:jo@samaritans.ie).