

1st Sunday of Lent: A Reflection

During this first week of Lent we try to keep our focus on what type of journey we are starting. It is a time to recall what Jesus did for each of us. The path that Jesus walked was in the desert wilderness. Take time this week to reflect and even walk that path that ultimately led Jesus to Jerusalem... to his death and resurrection.

This path can lead us through challenges and can bring us rewards. Lent is not an easy path. We are all faced with choices and decisions. We can all be tempted to cut corners in our daily lives. Just as Jesus was tempted, we can be tempted too. Lent gives us space to model our lives on Jesus' life. If we can keep our focus on him, our journey through Lent can be an adventure in our living faith. Lent is personal and we can rekindle our personal relationship with Jesus. This Lent as we embark on the journey towards Jerusalem it is good to remember that we are not alone. Many people will walk this path of faith this Lent. Let us keep them and the Lord in our sight. Let us call on the name of the Lord in how we live our lives.

A CAT GOES TO HEAVEN

A cat dies and goes to Heaven. God meets him at the gate and says, 'You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you desire is yours, all you have to do is ask.' The cat says, 'Well, I lived all my life with a poor family on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors.' God says, 'Say no more' and instantly, a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later six mice are killed in a tragic accident, and they go to Heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer that He made the cat. The mice said, 'All our lives we've had to run. Cats, dogs and even women with brooms have chased us. If we could only have a pair of roller skates, we wouldn't have to run anymore.' God says, 'Say no more' and instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

About a week later, God decides to check and see how the cat is doing. The cat is sound asleep on his new pillow. God gently wakes him and asks, 'How are you doing? Are you happy here?' The cat yawns and stretches and says, 'Oh, I've never been happier in my life. And those meals on wheels you've been sending over are the best!'

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. **Email:** stjohns@ossory.ie

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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; Karna 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

First Sunday of Lent - 6th March 2022

The Synodal Journey in Ossory

Last October Pope Francis launched Synod 2021 - 2023 which he said would be "a journey of sharing, reflecting and listening at all levels across the entire Church". Since 1965, synods have been organized every two or three years, bringing together bishops, experts, and various delegates to discuss topics like the Eucharist, the Word of God, the Middle East, the new evangelization, the family, young people and the Amazon. The word "synod" comes from the Greek *syn-hodos*, meaning "the same way" or "the same path" and in this synod the Pope has made one major change - he wants to hear everyone's voice. To this end you are invited to attend meetings to discuss your experience of Church today and your hopes for its future - your voice counts, every voice counts.

Please let your voice be heard by coming to one of the following meetings:

- Kilkenny, St. Kieran's College, Monday, 7th March at 7.30pm.
- Durrow, Castle Arms Hotel, Monday, 7th March at 7.30pm.
- Callan, Callan Hall, Wednesday, 9th March at 7.30pm.
- Piltown, Piltown Hall, Wednesday, 9th March at 7.30pm.
- Kilkenny, St. Kieran's College, Monday, 14th March at 7.30pm.
- Urlingford, Urlingford Hall, Monday, 14th March at 7.30pm.

More dates and venues next week. Please come along and bring your friends and neighbours. This is a chance in a lifetime - let your voice count.

150th Anniversary of the Sisters of St. John of God

A liturgical celebration is planned to mark the 150th 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. Fiacc's Church, Loughboy, Kilkenny at 5.30pm on this Thursday, 10th March 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.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

"Could you not watch one hour with me?" (Mt 26:40). Could you spend an hour with Jesus? A holy hour is spending time with God. Just as communication in marriage means listening, so the holy hour means listening; only in this case it means listening to God. The holy hour places one in the presence of God to do just that. We invite you to Join us at St. John's Church following 10.30am Mass on Friday mornings and spend an hour in prayer with Jesus.



Remembering Those Who Have Died

Recently Deceased:

Rev. Father John Delaney, Coon and late of Rathdowney, Co. Laois. Requiem Mass in St. Brigid's Church, Coon on Sunday at 3.00pm with burial in the adjoining cemetery.

Marie Rochford, Glendine Road.

Mary Callan, Antrim & late of the Sycamores.

Agnes Shanley, Talbots Inch.

Stephen Power, Loughboy.

Billy Gorman, Ballinakill and late of Kilkenny City.

Anniversaries: Paddy O'Brien (6.00pm); Eileen Kinsella (10.00am); Neddy Phelan (11.00am); Margaret Dwyer (11.30am); John McEnery (7.00pm); Martin Coogan; Ellen Kelly; Mags Dineen; Margaret Cody; Phil Murray; Sr. Teresa Landy; Chrissie Fields; Bernard & Bridget Taylor; Michael Dowling; Paddy Barry; John Hodge; Dolly Blanch.

*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 Claire Coogan
8.00am Padraig O'Neill
10.00am Elaine Bennett
11.00am Bernard O'Gorman & John McGourty
11.30am Anne Maria Walsh
7.00pm Anne Marie Grace

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €965. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

Readings at Mass

Visit 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.

Mass for Peace

We were delighted with the turn out for our Mass for Peace on last Wednesday evening. About 360 people attended in church and we prayed fervently for peace in the world. Bishop Denis Nulty, our Chief Concelebrant, urged us to light a candle in church and at home imploring God to grant peace to this part of the world. Bishop Denis also asked us to pause at the Sign of Peace at all Masses and pray silently for peace. Finally, the Bishop asked everyone to say a prayer for peace each day.

€1,754 was donated at the church door. This is being forwarded to Church agencies helping in Ukraine and along its borders. Thanks for your generosity.

Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen



Mass Intentions for week beginning 7th March

Monday: Martin Coogan (10.30am).
Tuesday: Ellen Kelly (10.30am).
Wednesday: Phil Murray (10.30am).
Thursday: Seamus Campion (10.30am).
Saturday: Mags Dineen (10.30am).
Paul & Michael 'Icy' Lanigan (6.00pm).
Sunday: John, Agnes & Michael Stapleton (11.00am).
Seán Connick (11.30am).
Lucy Doyle Month's Mind (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!

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 this Tuesday, 8th March, Gemma Mulligan
- St. John's Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 15th March, Jim Maher
- St. Canice's Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 22nd March, Meadh Mahon
- St. Mary's Cathedral at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 29th March, John Moloney
- St. Mary's Cathedral at 5.30pm on Sunday, 3rd April, Sacrament of Reconciliation

The guest 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.

St. John's Day Centre

The Day Centre has reopened on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10.00am to 3.00pm. If anyone is interested in availing of this service where you can meet, socialise, and have dinner contact the Parish Office any weekday from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

St. Patrick's Brass and Reed Band

After an absence of two years... St. Patrick's Brass and Reed Band are delighted to be able to perform once again for the local community and beyond. On Monday, 7th March 2022 at 8.00pm in St. Patrick's Church, Kilkenny. Come along and enjoy a wonderful evening of music to suit all tastes and genres. The concert will also be live streamed on St. Patrick's Church webcam. Go to stpatricksparishkilkenny.com and click on Webcam - St. Patrick's.

Chapter House Gift and Bookshop at St Mary's Cathedral

The Chapter House Bookshop is open on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9.30am - 5.00pm. The shop has a wide range of books and gifts suitable for Confirmation and First Holy Communion children: bibles and rosaries, prayerbooks all suitable for young people.

First Penance

Congratulations to the boys and girls from St. John's Junior School and Johnswell National School who celebrated the Sacrament of Penance for the first time this week. Thanks to the parents, teachers and staff who prepared the children for the occasion. All were very well prepared and we enjoyed a wonderful celebration.

Trócaire Family Fast Boxes

Please take a Trócaire Box home with you or you can donate online at www.trocaire.org or by phone: 1850 408 408. 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.