

Parents of our Lady

On Tuesday, 26th July we celebrate the Feast of St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandparents of Jesus.

Parish Facebook Page

We are constructing a new parish Facebook page which can be reached at "facebook.com/stjohnskilkenny". In time it will contain news and information about the parish. In the meantime please visit and press the 'Like' and 'Follow' buttons.

Towards Peace

The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied, as they seek their own experience to spiritual peace, one step at a time. There is no pre-determined roadmap on this journey. Each person travels at their own pace. Please contact Towards Peace office: Tel: 01 505 3028, mobile: 086 771 0533, email: towardspeace.ie, website: www.towardspeace.ie.

*Heavy rains remind us of challenges in life.
Never ask for a lighter rain, just pray to
God for a better umbrella.
That is the attitude!*

Blessing and Prayer for Grandparents

Lord God, we bring to you in prayer
our grandparents and all
our elderly relatives.

Bless those who are still with us and those
who have already died and gone to Heaven.

We also thank you for the gift of life
they gave our parents, aunts and uncles.
We will always treasure the memories
they created and shared with us.

As they were born into a world different to
ours,

forgive us for the times we have ever
been impatient with them.

Help us to be generous with our love
and our care for them in their old age.

Also, Lord, we call down your blessings
upon those of us
who are grandparents, granduncles and aunts.

We ask Saints Joachim and Anne,
the grandparents of Jesus, to intercede for us.
We make this prayer through Christ,
our Lord. Amen.

This prayer, with our parish icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, is available on a card in the church porches in St. John's Parish.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. R95 ND2W

Email: stjohms@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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 24th July 2022

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

This Sunday is designated as the Second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Bishop Denis Nulty invites all parishes to reach out to grandparents and the elderly on this Sunday.

Bishop Denis said, "Grandparents and the elderly need to know they are valued and cherished by us - in our families, in our parishes and by the wider society. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly offers us a new opportunity to celebrate them and to let them know how much they mean to us. We need them. They have much to offer us and we have much to learn from them.



"Pope Francis' message for this year's World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly very much makes this point. He encourages the elderly to persevere in hope, to embrace the power they have to transform the world through prayer and a revolution of tenderness.

"The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's celebration is from the Psalms 'In old age they still bring forth fruit' (Ps 92:14). Pope Francis says that old age is no time to give up and lower the sails, but a season of enduring fruitfulness in which a new mission awaits us."

Bishop Denis continued, "I am very encouraged by Pope Francis' words as I look around our Church and see the long and faithful service offered by our older priests and religious and the decades long commitment of so many lay faithful to our parishes. Grandparents and the elderly are at the heart of our parishes.

"My favourite line from the Pope's message is when he invites us to be poets of prayer: 'Let us too become, as it were, poets of prayer: let us develop a taste for finding our own words, let us once again take up those taught by the word of God. Our trustful prayer can do a great deal: it can accompany the cry of pain of those who suffer, and it can help change hearts. We can be "the enduring 'chorus' of a great spiritual sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise sustain the community that toils and struggles in the field of life.'

"What a wonderfully uplifting challenge to all of us to become poets of prayer! I invite parishes across the country to celebrate grandparents and elders, not forgetting our more senior priests and religious. I would also encourage parishes to ensure that their local nursing care home is included in this important annual celebration."

The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly was celebrated for the first time in July 2021. The annual celebration takes place on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saint Joachim and Anne, parents of Mary and Grandparents of Jesus.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: **Kieran Crotty**, The Weir, Castlecomer Road. Requiem Mass at 11.00am on Monday in St. Canice's Church, Kilkenny. Funeral afterwards to St. Kieran's Cemetery.

Elizabeth (Bella) Scott, Walkin Street. Requiem Mass at 11.00am on Monday in St. Mary's Cathedral. Funeral afterwards to Foulkstown Cemetery.

Thomas Molloy, Birmingham and late of Lord Edward Street.

Ned Larkin Jnr, Lakeside and late of Patrick Street. **John Power**, Loughboy Park.

Owen O'Neill, Fr Murphy Square.

Months Mind: Martina Foran (7.00pm)

Anniversaries: Mary Carey (6.00pm); Chris Murphy (8.00am); John Dowling (10.00am); Tony & Eileen McEvoy (11.00am); Mary McEnery (11.30am); Derek Shealy; Catherine Moriarty; Bridie & Dan Herlihy; Milo Butler; Elizabeth Brennan;

*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 Betsy Rice
11.00am Pierce Lennon & Liam Maddock
11.30am Paula Rogers
7.00pm Joan Galwey

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €880. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Wearing Masks in Church

While it is not obligatory to wear masks in public places at the moment we strongly encourage members of the congregations to wear masks in church. With a reported increase of the spread of the virus it is important that we do all in our power to protect ourselves and our vulnerable neighbours and friends. Please use masks in church, use the hand sanitisers and refrain from coming to church if you feel unwell.

Society of St Vincent De Paul Says 'Thank You'

A sincere thank you for all your generous support at last weekend's collection. Remember the local conference can be contacted in writing through the Parish Office or on 086 895 1239.

Croagh Patrick Pilgrimage

Reek Sunday 31st July 2022. Holy Mass on the Summit 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 12.00pm, 1.00pm & 2.00pm. Beidh an Aifreann ag 10.00am as Gaeilge. Confessions on the Summit 7.30am & 2.00pm. For more information see www.westportparish.ie.

The Annual Camino Jenkinstown Walk

The walk will take place on Sunday, 24th July (Eve of the Feast of St. James) beginning at Jenkinstown Church Car Park at 2.30pm. This is to coincide with the jubilee celebrations in St. James Cathedral. Santiago De Compostela. All Covid-19 protocols to be adhered to.

Foulkstown Cemetery Mass

The Mass at Foulkstown Cemetery will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 28th July 2022. Please inform relatives and friends, especially those who are away from home.

St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund

The draw will take place on next Wednesday 27th July. Draw Tickets are available from the Parish Office, the sacristies and from Ann Brennan, Johnswell. We encourage your support for St. Mary's, our Diocesan Cathedral. The annual prize fund is €60,000 and the subscription is €120 per annum or €10 per month. Our parishioners won first prize in last month's draw. Be in to win!

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 25th July

Monday: (8.00am) Derek Shealy
Friday: (10.30am) Catherine Moriarty
Saturday: (10.30am) Bridie & Dan Herlihy
(6.00pm) Brid Maher
Sunday: (10.00am) Martin Hanlon
(11.00am) MM Joan Costigan
(11.30am) Clive O'Carroll
(7.00pm) Nicola Kirwan

*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

All Masses and Services at St. John's Church are broadcast on at stjohnskilkenny.com and on Radio on 106.8FM. Please tell those who live away and those who are unable to attend Mass in our church.

Weekdays

8.00am and 10.30am.

Saturdays

10.30am and 6.00pm.

Sundays

8.00am, 11.30am 7.00pm.

Points to Ponder

Sometimes we miss what is hidden in plain sight. Today's Gospel is not just about prayer it amounts to a call to arms. It begins with the disciples asking Jesus how to pray. Immediately Jesus pivots them to a radical message by praying not to 'My' or 'Your' Father but to 'Our' Father. In this way the centrality of the community in the Christian life is powerfully highlighted. Later on Jesus escalates the social message by asking us to make God's Kingdom come 'on earth as it is in heaven'.

This is important correction to those who believe in a 'suck up your suffering' philosophy. Of course, there are certain sufferings like illness or bereavement that we may be able to avoid. However, there is also unnecessary suffering that we could and should avoid like dehumanising poverty. Jesus understood that the Kingdom of God which he was inaugurating was coming into this world. It was not a spiritual or other-worldly kingdom. It was in this world, but not of this world – The Kingdoms of this world were kingdoms of greed, inequality, where abuse of power was the norm, kingdoms which came into existence through violence, and were maintained by violence, and were maintained by violence. The Kingdom of God was a Kingdom of non-violence, equality, caring and sharing, reaching out to the unwanted, where power was given to serve, not oppress. This new Community was a Kingdom over which God, in the person of Jesus, reigns. The Kingdom of God was to be in this world, a light for all to see, a community which lives together in solidarity and equality.

Feast Day of St. Martha

Next Friday, 29th July is the annual feast day of St. Martha. Some of us are like Martha and some of us are more like Mary; but there is in all of us a built in need to combine the two within us, for without sitting and listening to God our work for God can only lead to anxiety and anger and without doing the work our faith is clearly nothing.

National Novena to Knock

This year's Novena will take place from Sunday, 14th to Monday, 22nd August, offering pilgrims nine days of reflection and prayer and a chance to connect with their faith in the unique and sacred space of Knock Shrine. This year's theme is 'A Journey in Hope'.

Commenting about the Novena, Fr Richard Gibbons, PP and Rector at the Shrine said. "The purpose of the Novena is to recognise the unique role that Knock, as an International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine, has to play in the life of the Irish Church and to honour Our Lady. So many of the people who joined us online over the course of the pandemic are now coming back to visit the Shrine which is great to see." For more on this year's Novena see www.knockshrine.ie