

Host Families Required

We are very grateful to Kilkenny City Vocational College for agreeing to welcome 10 of our Italian students into its Transition Year and Year 6, but we now need to find local host families for them and wondered if any of your parishioners might be interested or know of families who might be!

The 10 students (boys and girls aged 16 and 17) will arrive on Wednesday, 21st September and will return to Italy on Wednesday, 21st December. Four of the students will then come back to Kilkenny in January and will attend college until the Easter holidays start.

We are offering €26.50 per night, which equates to €2,411 per 3 months. If anyone is interested in finding out more, please ask them to email Anne or Sam on English@InterEducation.eu.

Medjugorje Evening of Prayer

Rosary, Mass, Adoration. Prayer for Healing will take place in St Fiacres' Church, next Monday, 12th September at 7.30pm. All are welcome

Thought for the day

"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."

March for Life

The March For Life in Dublin will take place on Saturday, 17th Sept. The march will commence at the University Church side of St. Stephens Green at 2.30pm. This event will highlight the need for Government support of women in unplanned pregnancies and their babies and call on the Government to address the spiralling abortion rates in recent years. The event will be family friendly and placards will be available on the day. For information see www.marchforlife.ie

Anam Cara Tipperary

The organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Monday, 19th Sept. at 7.15pm 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 their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online meeting. For more info. please contact us on info@anamcara.ie or 085 288 8888

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

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 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; 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

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 11th September 2022

My brief experience in St John's Parish

"Good morning, Fr. Lorcan...", I greeted, "Good morning..." he responded, but with a frown. It never dawned on me, till that day, that things were heating up between myself and Lorcan. With all honesty, I never held a grudge against this senior priest; in fact, we used to sit at the kitchen table, chat and laugh about each other's life stories, etc., etc. "Why then was this cold response?" I wondered. Well, it was communicated to me later that Lorcan was very uncomfortable with formalities; he preferred being called Lorcan and not Father Lorcan. It was purely a conflict of cultures. Coming from an African traditional setting – where seniority is treasured – I felt very uncomfortable addressing him by name. His seniority in the priesthood, plus his age (slightly above that of my parents), all merited my due respect. Luckily enough, "Peace-Talking" over the issue resolved the impasse; we settled on calling him "Big Brother" and in exchange, he referred to me as "Little Brother" or simply Joseph. This "cold war" marked my first experience in this beautiful Parish of St. John the Evangelist. As I pen these few lines, I honestly feel my brief ministry in this parish was dominated by Lorcan's last days of life, which I was privileged to watch closely; there are three touching moments I wish to share. The first, is Fr. Lorcan's deteriorating health. I keenly watched how this man of God confidently carried himself around, well-knowing that his days were numbered. The courage with which he struggled to freely celebrate Mass; the heart-cracking jokes he shared with the Parish staff and visitors, etc., altogether revealed a warrior in him – one who was determined to fight to the last breath. Secondly, I admired the love he received from the Christian community. From Bishop Denis Nulty, family members, resident priests, colleagues in the diocese, the lay faithful, and close friends. Their constant calls to see and talk to him, among other encouragements, revealed their genuine sense of admiration of who he was; it was an appreciation of the pastoral services he rendered to the Church during his lifetime. I refer to the last touching moment as the "missing tooth" experience. Wade Davis – a Canadian cultural anthropologist, noted in his book *The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World*, that "[e]very fortnight an elder dies and carries with him or her into the grave the last syllables of an ancient tongue". The passing away of "Big Brother" can be equated to the "missing tooth"; he represents a generation of senior citizens who – at all odds – have upheld culture/faith and passed it on to another generation. Unfortunately, all signs seem to show that the new generation is yet to be ready for the task at hand. I could be wrong; however, if it's true, what will happen when Lorcan's generation of gallant men and women is gone? When warriors go down, who replaces them? Are the "replacements" readied for the task ahead? Will they uphold the culture/faith to the standards set by their forefathers? These – according to me – are questions that merit our deep reflection.

Fr. Joseph Lubula

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Kitty Lombard, Cork.

Eamonn Tyrrell, Friary Street.

Thomas Dowling, Shanbogh, New Ross.

Months Mind: Brian Gaynor (11.00am);

Anniversaries: Mary Marnell (6.00pm); Anne McDermott and Mary Barry (8.00am); The Gaynor Family (11.00am); Martin Shelly (11.30am); Philomena Fahy (7.00pm); Tommy Dillon; Anthony Murphy; Patrick and Mary Halley; Elizabeth and Stella O'Rourke; Kevin Cremin; Michelle Reynolds; Patrick Turney (Chicago);

*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 Ahearn
8.00am Jo Browne
10.00am Teresa Browne
11.00am Esther Comerford & Tom Comerford
11.30am Mary Hanafin
7.00pm Eileen Kinane

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €945. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

We are trying to re-establish the practice of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our parish. In the past periods of adoration were observed in St. John's Church and in Dunmore Church. We invite those who were involved in the past and any who would like to be involved going forward to give their names to Fr. Dan during the coming week. A suitable roster will be compiled.

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, 17th and 18th September. A sincere thank you for all your generous support. The local conference can be contacted through the Parish Office or on 086 895 1239.

St John's Day Care Centre

The Day Care Centre reopened on Monday, 5th September. The Centre is open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9.30am to 2.30pm. It gives elderly people an opportunity to meet, socialise and have lunch together. Should you like to attend or if you require any further information about the Day Care Centre services please contact 087 958 2127.

Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny

An Open Day for 6th Class girls will take place on Saturday 17th September and a webinar will be held on 19th September at 7.30pm. Further information will be on our website. The closing date for applications for a First Year Place in Autumn 2023 is 24th October. Applications can be made via the school website: www.loreto.kk.ie.

St. Mary's Cathedral Draw 2022/2023

A new cycle of draws will begin in September and tickets are available from the Parish Office or any of the priests. Draws takes place on the last Wednesday of each month. Tickets cost €10 per month. To date the draw has raised almost €650,000 for refurbishing the cathedral. Please continue to support this ongoing diocesan work.

Season of Creation

This is a time of grace in which the Church offers to renew its relationship with God to humanity. It began on 1st September with the World Day of Prayer and will end on 4th October with the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 12th September

Saturday: (10.30am) John Byrne
(6.00pm) Michael Denieffe
Sunday: (8.00am) Tom & Aine Dooley
(10.00am) Margaret & James Butler
(11.00am) Michael, Sharon, Jim & Mary Brennan
(11.30am) Una Mahoney
(7.00pm) MM Nancy Deevy

*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.

Farewell Fr. Joseph

This weekend we say a sad farewell to Fr. Joseph Lubula as he returns to Rome and shortly afterwards to Uganda. Fr. Joseph lived and worked in our parish since the end of June and he was certainly a breath of fresh air. We learned a lot from him and we hope he picked up a few tips from us. We wish him well on his return to ministry in his native diocese and we promise a warm *céad mile fáilte* if he decides to come and visit us again.

Parish Webcam

We apologise for the outage on our webcam service. The problem is beyond our control and, although we have received many promises from our suppliers, the camera service is still not available. We continue to lodge complaints to Eir highlighting the urgency of the situation.

Pilgrimage to Knock

The Dominican Pilgrimage to Knock take place on Sunday, 9th October. We hope to have a bus/coach from Kilkenny if there are sufficient numbers to make it possible. The fare for the journey will be €20.00. If you are interested please let us know before Sunday, 25th September. Leave your name and contact telephone at the Black Abbey hall door; or ring 056 772 1279 (preferably between 10.00am and 4.00pm). We will not be taking definite bookings until we know how many want to travel.

The Men for Christ Conference 2022

A Catholic Conference for Men will be live and exclusive on Radio Maria Ireland on Saturday, 17th September from 2.00pm. Speakers for this year's conference are Fr. Jamie Twohig SAC, John Pridmore, David Quinn, and Fr. Marius O'Reilly.

The Poor Clares

The Poor Clares, Galway are hosting Monastic Experience Day on Saturday, 24th September from 10.00am to 5.00pm. The day is designed to help young women who are exploring the possibility of a religious vocation to find out more about the Poor Clare way of life. If you are under 40 and would like to attend you can book a place at: vocations@poorclares.ie

Monastic Weekend Experience

Are you discerning your vocation and would like to know more about Glencairn Abbey and our way of life as Cistercians? We invite you to visit Glencairn for a Monastic Experience Weekend on 28th to 30th October to experience the balance and rhythm of monastic prayer and work, community, silence and *lectio divina* for yourself. There will be an opportunity to participate in the Divine Office, work alongside the sisters, receive input on Cistercian life and spirituality and talk to our sisters about your discernment for guidance and support. Please contact Sr. Sarah at: vocations@glencairnabbey.org