

November - Month of the Holy Souls

We continue to pray for the faithful departed, those who have gone before us, our relatives, neighbours and friends. Our ancestors were faithful to the custom of attending Mass and visiting a church or graveyard to pray for the dead during November - let us not be found wanting during these last November days. May our loved ones rest in peace.

St. Vincent DePaul Society

We are living in challenging times: if you or your family or friends are struggling financially the parish Saint Vincent DePaul Society is here to help. Call our Helpline 086 895 1239.

Thanks to all who contributed to last weekend's collection for the local conference of the Society. The money will be put to good use locally.

Pilgrimage to Rome

The Ossory Adult Faith Development Group is holding a pilgrimage to Rome this coming March (9th - 14th) 2023. The all-inclusive cost for this pilgrimage is €710 p.p. sharing and places can be booked by contacting Kieran and Laura Troy at info@myriam.ie or by calling 057 935 5050. Come and visit the Eternal City with Ossory Adult Faith Group.

St. Mary's Cathedral Gift and Bookshop

The Cathedral Bookshop is delighted to announce that it will be open on Monday to Friday, 9.30am - 5.00pm in the leadup to Christmas. The shop has a great selection of bibles, religious books, rosary beads, cards and gifts available.

Online Advent Retreat

The Priory Institute is delighted to offer an online retreat "The Word was Made Flesh: An Advent Retreat. "Oh that you would tear apart the heavens and come down!" (Isaiah 64:1) Visit our website prioryinstitute.com to find out more.

The Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat

The Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat will be taking place in Newbridge College, Newbridge from 9th to 11th December. This retreat is for anyone aged 16 - 35. Great craic!!, Excellent Speakers, Inspiring Talks and Workshops, Fantastic Music, Group Activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, Reconciliation, Prayer, Drama, Games and plenty of time to chill out, meet new people and find out what it means to be young and Catholic today. Donation only. Free buses leaving from all over Ireland. Register now on www.youth2000.ie.

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

First Sunday of Advent - 27th November 2022

The Season of Advent

The season of Advent is upon us once more. Of all the seasons in the Church's year, Advent is in many ways the most beautiful and rich in meaning. Yet it passes most of us by. A lot of us ask the question 'Can it really be that time of year already?' Many associate this sacred time with the 'Christmas rush', with presents to buy and cards to send. It can be a time that is both exciting and exhausting. With all the physical preparations for Christmas we can very easily lose sight that it is in fact ourselves that need to be prepared to accept the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. This is the perfect time for us to reflect on the marvellous gift of the Son of God entering our world as one of us and the difference his coming made. It is also a time when we can reflect on our relationship with God.

Advent is a time of preparation and waiting for the coming of Jesus. The word Advent derives from the Latin word meaning 'coming'. During Advent we recall the history of God's people and reflect on how the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled. This gives us a background for the present. Advent is the time to understand and appreciate what Christmas really means.

History of the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the winter solstice - that time of year when the sun reaches its southern most point and the days are dark and gloomy. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, festooned with lights and greens in their celebration halls. Here they awaited the return of their sun god, thinking of the warmth and life he brought.

As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life: the nativity of Jesus. We think of the darkness that sometimes creeps into our lives and watch the growing hope and light as the prophets and Mary help us prepare for His saving Birth.

An Advent Wreath Blessing

Some families like to have an Advent Wreath in their homes. It helps remind family members and visitors that the celebration of Christ's birth is approaching. The following blessing may be used.

Lord, today we begin our time of preparation for the birthday of your Son. By sending Him among us. You have assured us that You are with us always.

(Dip a sprig or leaf into holy water and sprinkle over the wreath.)

We bless this wreath. An endless circle of God's Presence. An evergreen, ever-flesh outreach to us and all people. A Light to the World. May this wreath always speak to us of the presence of God in our lives. May we open ourselves to God all the days of our lives. Amen.



Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Most Rev. Martin Drennan, Bishop Emeritus of Galway and formerly an Ossory Diocesan Priest.
 Seán O'Neill, Robertshill late of Callan Road.
 Philip Fogarty, Castleinch.
 John Creegan, Ardmore.
 Patty Doody, Kilmacow.
 Michael O'Leary, Lismore, Waterford.
 Sheila Callanan (nee Phelan), Thurles and late of Radestown.
 Margaret Clarke (nee Byrne), Dublin and late of Johnswell.

Nuala Byrne, Rosemount.
 Monty Barron, London.
 Jim Maher, Melville Heights.
 John Tuohy, Drakelands.

Anniversaries: Ann Stapleton & Stapleton Family (6.00pm); Helen Purcell (8.00am); Jim Brophy (10.00am); Kitty & Jack Hennessy & Hennessy Families (11.00am); John Holmes (11.30am); William Cooke (7.00pm); Ollie Bergin; Mary O'Donnell; Seán Walsh; Rebecca Ashmore; Julia & Mick Roche; Maura Leahy; Dan McEvoy; Tom, Peggy & Sheila Bourke; Michael Maher; Sheila Butler; John Kennedy & Family; Fr Ignatius Phelan; Jimmy Meany; Jack Rowe; Elizabeth & Arthur Sommers; William Walsh; Patrick, Julia & Sally Burke; The Fitzpatrick Family; Ann & James Doran; Teresa Blowe; Mollie O'Neill; Michael Maher; Joseph Murphy.

"It is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead." (2 Mac 12: 46).

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Mairin Bergin
 8.00am Martin Blake
 10.00am Seán Colgan
 11.00am Liam Maddock
 11.30am Paula Rogers
 7.00pm Joan Galwey



Weekly Attendance and Collections

Envelope Collection:	€850.00	
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm Vigil	207	143.00
8.00am	92	218.00
Johnswell	65	83.00
Dunmore	54	45.00
11.30am	302	231.00
7.00pm	109	147.00

Thanks to all who attend and contribute.
 Your support is greatly appreciated.

Afternoon Delight Concert

A special concert will be presented at St. John's Church on Sunday, 11th December at 2.30pm. Acts include: High Hopes Choir, John Travers, Alison Kealy Hays, Treacy Millea, Eugene Dewberry, Cois Nore Choir, St. John's School Senior Choir, Loreto Girls Choir, CBS Boys' Choir, St. Kieran's College Choir. Proceeds in aid of Irish Pilgrimage Trust, a group led by Fr. Dan, which takes young people with special needs to Lourdes. Tickets at €5 from the Parish Office.

Dunmore Cake Sale

Join us for our Christmas Bake Sale in Dunmore Hall on Sunday 4th December after the 11.00am Mass. Please drop baked goods and raffle prizes before Mass or to Catherine Peters beforehand. Everyone is most welcome to come along for a chat and refreshments.

Christmas Yule Fest - Johnswell

Outdoor Christmas Market will take place next Sunday, 4th December from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. There will be a visit from Santa Claus after 4.00pm, with Carol singing. Christmas Wreaths, Christmas gifts and home baking for sale. All are very welcome to join the fun.

Coffee Morning in Aid of Lourdes Pilgrimage

St. Patrick's Parish Lourdes Fund Committee is running a coffee morning on Sunday 4th December 2022 from 10.00am to 1.00pm in St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Loughboy. Donations are very welcome and can be left into the Parish Centre between 5.00pm and 7.00pm on Saturday, 3rd December 2022. Please join us for some nice buns, a cuppa and some chat.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 28th November

Monday: (10.30am) Ollie Bergin
 Tuesday: (10.30am) Seán Walsh & Rebecca Ashmore
 Wednesday: (8.00am) Special Intention
 (10.30am) Julia & Mick Roche
 Thursday: (10.30am) Maura Leahy
 Friday: (10.30am) Dan McEvoy
 Saturday: (10.30am) Tom, Peggy & Sheila Bourke
 (6.00pm) Ann & Francie Murphy
 Sunday: (8:00am) John & Ann Breen
 (11.00am) Jerry O'Neill
 (11.30am) Eileen Tynan (nee Roche -1st Anniv)
 (7.00pm) Liam (Lou) Leydon

Please note we may transfer an anniversary Mass on the occasion of a funeral.

*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 stjohnskilkenny.com and on Radio on 106.8FM. Please tell those who live away and those who are unable to attend Mass.

Weekdays

8.00am and 10.30am.

Saturdays

10.30am and 6.00pm.

Sundays

8.00am, 11.30am 7.00pm.

Holy Days

6.00pm (Eve)
 8.00am, 10.30am 7.00pm

Scripture Reflection Group

The St John's Parish Scripture Group had its first meeting last Wednesday, and will continue to meet each Wednesday for the remaining weeks in Advent, at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery. The Group reads and reflects on the Scriptural passages for the following Sunday. All welcome. This Group is suitable for all interested in deepening their knowledge of the Bible and should prove very interesting for those who proclaim the Word of God in our churches.

First Friday Visits

This week the priests will bring Communion to the people on the 'regular' list. If we haven't been calling to you and you, a family member, or neighbour would like to receive Communion at home, please contact the parish office or one of the priests.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

We have recently reintroduced Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St. John's Church between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesdays. In recent weeks some people have volunteered to attend and we hope to expand the number of adorers and the hours and days of adoration as we go forward. Thanks to those who were present last Wednesday. We invite those who are free to join us in church on Wednesday for some quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament.

Johnswell Choir

Johnswell Choir is planning to sing at the 10.00am Mass on each Sunday during Advent as well as for Christmas. Rehearsals are in Johnswell Church on Thursdays at 7.30pm. We would be delighted to welcome former and new members.

Episcopal Ordination of Fr Niall Coll: Initiation to Choir Members

Preparations for the ordination of Father Niall Coll on 22nd January 2023, have begun. Each parish is asked to nominate five names (three sopranos and two others (alto/tenor/bass) to be part of the choir on the day. Please pray for all involved in preparing for this important celebration in the life of our diocese. Contact: choirs@ossory.ie.

Advent 2022 in the Diocese of Ossory

See posters at the church doors and our webpage and Facebook page for detailed information about resources for the Season of Advent. Among other resources there are links to Reflections on Key Scripture Passages, Diocesan Carol Service, A Thought for Each Day Booklet, A Virtual Display of Crib, Sundays of Advent Booklets and Together We Pray Programme.