

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.

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.

First Holy Communion Programme

The programme for this year's First Holy Communion Classes continues at 6.00pm Mass at St. John's and 10.00am Mass at Johnswell next weekend. We look forward to welcoming the children and their parents.

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:

Máirín Bergin; Brenda Whately; 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

Shop at St. Fiacre's Church

St. Patrick's Parish hosts a well stocked card and gift shop in the Parish Centre adjacent to St. Fiacre's Church. Come and find a vast array of Christmas cards and seasonal gifts. Shop is open 9.30am to 5.00pm on Monday to Friday.

Christmas Masses in our Parish

Christmas Masses will be as follows:

Christmas Eve

6.00pm, 9.00pm: St. John's Church
7.00pm: Dunmore Church
8.00pm: Johnswell Church

Christmas Day

8.00am, 11.30am: St. John's Church
10.00am: Johnswell Church
11.00am: Dunmore Church
1.00pm (Polish) St. John's Church

Priests will be available for Confessions after all Masses between 17th and 24th December and on request at the Presbytery.

Parish Contribution Envelopes

Distributors please note that the Christmas and Yearly Boxes of Contribution Envelopes are now ready for collection at the Parish Office. We depend on our distributors and those who contribute to help raise essential

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

Second Sunday of Advent - 4th December 2022

The Season of Advent

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. 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. 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. 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 Prayer

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. A prayer for this week. Today we continue our reflection on ways that we can prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Is Christmas just about getting presents? Is it just about decorating our homes and Christmas trees and having relatives around to visit? What exactly are we celebrating? We do all these special activities because of the coming of Jesus. Jesus is the greatest gift God could ever have given us. So our presents this year, our decorations, our parties and gatherings, should all remind us that Jesus is among us. Jesus is always with us!

(Light the second purple candle on the Advent Wreath)

Lord, may the light of this wreath be a sign of hope to us all as we prepare for your coming. Help us to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas, May we always be aware of your presence in our lives - the presence of your spirit within us, prompting us, sustaining us, working through us, waiting for us. Amen.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Bridie Sloyan, Kilkenny. Requiem Mass at St. John's Church at 12.00 noon on Monday followed by burial at Dunmore Cemetery. (Please note: the usual weekday Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am on Monday)

Catherine Ruth, Marble Crest. Requiem Mass at St. Fiacre's Church at 12.00 noon on Sunday.

John McCarthy, St. Fiacre's Place.

Teresa Ryan, Blackmill Street.

Rita O'Brien, Dean Cavanagh Place.

Paddy Nugent, Elm Green.

Jimmy O'Hara, St. Fiacre's Gardens.

Months Mind: Kathleen Comerford.

Anniversaries: Ann and Francie Murphy (6.00pm); John and Ann Breen (8.00am); John Joe, Catherine, Fr Bill, Oliver, Kitt and Baby Bill Bennett (10.00am); Jerry O'Neill (11.00am); Eileen Tynan (11.30am); Liam Lou Leydon (7.00pm); Michael Reynolds; May Cleary; Mary McGuinness; Thomas and Peggy Dowling; Bridget Comerford; Patsy Roche; Patrick and Rose Wixted; Mary Dowling; Thomas Murray; Joan and Myra Murray; Bridget and William O'Neill; Hanna and Thomas Murray; Margaret Dwyer; Richard Walsh; Jerry O'Neill; O'Neill Family; Horahan Family; Seamus, Marie and Noel Parsons; Jack Byrne; Christy and Kitty Galvin; James Donnelly Jnr; Sean Donnelly.

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

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Mary Lynch
8.00am Jo Browne
10.00am Seán Colgan
11.00am Liam Maddock
11.30am Mary Lynch
7.00pm Eileen Kinane



Weekly Attendance and Collections

| Envelope Collection: | Attendance | €565.00 |
|----------------------|------------|---------|
| Mass | Attendance | Baskets |
| 6.00pm Vigil | 113 | 222.00 |
| 8.00am | 91 | 293.00 |
| Johnswell | 38 | 129.00 |
| Dunmore | 62 | 117.00 |
| 11.30am | 223 | 433.00 |
| 7.00pm | 122 | 311.00 |

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 next 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. A great afternoon is promised.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Collection

The Society of St Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection will take place next weekend, 10th and 11th December. Your donation will help families with basics such as food and fuel. You could give families some breathing space to pay their bills and keep their home warm. You can make sure they don't have to skip meals. You can reach out your hand to a neighbour in need. Please make a contribution to next week's collection for the St. John's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. You could save someone from impossible choices this winter.

New Readers' Rota is Available

We invite all readers to pick up a copy of the new readers' rota in the Sacristy. Thanks to all who volunteer to proclaim God's Word at the liturgies in our parish. Thanks too to those who coordinate and organise the rota every year.

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.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 5th December

Monday: (10.30am) May Cleary
Wednesday: (6.00pm) Mary McGuinness
Thursday: (8.00am) Thomas & Peggy Dowling
(10.30am) Bridget Comerford
(7.00pm) MM Kathleen Comerford
Saturday: (10.30am) Aaron Molloy
(6.00pm) Thomas Dowling
Sunday: (11.00am) Thomas Guilfoyle
(11.30am) Mary Shelly
(7.00pm) Mary Malone

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

The Immaculate Conception

The feast of the Immaculate Conception falls on Thursday of this week (8th December). It is a holy day and Masses in our parish will be at 6.00pm on Wednesday evening, 8.00am and 10.30am on Thursday morning and 7.00pm on Thursday evening. Please take note of a recent change in our schedule for holy day Masses - mid-morning Mass will be at 10.30am.

Scripture Reflection Group

The St John's Parish Scripture Group continues to meet on Wednesday evenings. We meet in the Presbytery at 7.30pm to read and discuss the Scripture 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 read at Mass in our churches.

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 a number 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 spend some time in prayer on the Wednesdays. You are invited to join us on Wednesday for some quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament.

Clothes Collection supporting Friends of Calcutta

There will be a clothes collection on Saturday, 10th December outside Johnswell and Dunmore Church up to 1.00pm and St. John's Church up to 2.00pm. Bags of clothes, footwear, curtains etc most welcome and can be left at any stage that day up to end of collection. All enquiries to Michael Hopkins 087 907 3074 who will be delighted to arrange a home collection if requested.

Charity Dance in Johnswell Hall

Come and dance your way towards Christmas at a Charity Dance in Johnswell Hall on next Friday, 9th December from 9.30pm to midnight. Music by Declan Angier.

John Rutter's Gloria and Carols for Christmas

The Kilkenny Choir presents John Rutter's Gloria and Carols for Christmas on Sunday, 11th December at 4.30pm in St. Canice's Church. The choir will be accompanied by soprano Joanne Harding and professional musicians. Tickets €15/€10 at the door. Children free.