

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. Helpline 086 895 1239.

Car Parking at St. John's

We appeal to drivers not to park in the grounds of St. John's Church unless you are a resident or present on Church business. Sadly, because of the selfishness and laziness of some drivers, parishioners including the elderly and those with limited mobility, have been denied free access to Masses, funerals, baptisms and weddings. We appeal for your understanding and cooperation. We have no words for those who park on the grass!!

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. We have a great selection of bibles, religious books, rosary beads, and cards.

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. We have an array of Christmas cards and seasonal gifts. Shop is open 9.30am to 5.00pm on Mon. to Friday.

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

Care for the Vulnerable and Elderly

During this inclement weather we ask that you keep an eye on vulnerable and elderly neighbours. Keep your eyes open: an unintrusive visit or a telephone call could be a life saver for an old person in need.

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 income for the parish and the priests. Thanks!

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



Third Sunday of Advent - 11th December 2022

Gaudete! Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. (Phil 4: 4-5).
This Sunday is traditionally called "Gaudete Sunday" or the "Sunday to rejoice." It goes back to a time when Advent was more deeply penitential than it is today. Gaudete Sunday signalled the halfway mark signifying that Advent was almost over. People were invited to rejoice that Christmas was near.

A Place of Dreams

I don't know where life may be defeating you this Advent. I don't know how Jesus may be disappointing you this Advent. But I would suggest to you this Advent that any disillusionment you feel may not necessarily be a bad thing. For what is disillusionment if not, literally, the loss of an illusion? And, in the long run, it is never a bad thing to lose the lies we have mistaken for the truth.

There was once a woman who was disappointed, who was disillusioned, who was depressed. She wanted a good world, a peaceful world, and she wanted to be a good person. But the newspaper and television showed her how far we were from such a reality. So she decided to go shopping. She went to the shopping centre and wandered into a new shop - where the person behind the counter looked strangely like Jesus. Gathering up her courage she went up to the counter and asked, "Are you Jesus?" "Well, yes, I am," the man answered. "Do you work here?" "Actually," Jesus responded, "I own the shop. You are free to wander up and down the aisles, see what it is I sell, and then make a list of what you want. When you are finished, come back here, and we'll see what we can do for you."

So, the woman did just that. And what she saw thrilled her.

There was peace on earth, no more war, no hunger or poverty, peace in families, no more drugs, harmony, clean air.

She wrote furiously and finally approached the counter, handing a long list to Jesus. He skimmed the paper, and then smiling at her said, "No problem." Reaching under the counter, he grabbed some packets and laid them out on the counter.

Confused, she asked, "What are these?" Jesus replied: "These are seed packets." Surprised the woman blurted out, "You mean I don't get the finished product?" "No," Jesus gently responded. "This is a place of dreams. You come and see what it looks like, and I give you the seeds. Then you plant the seeds. You go home and nurture them and help them to grow and someone else reaps the benefits." "Oh," she said, deeply disappointed in Jesus. Then she turned around and left the shop without buying anything.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: John Smith, 4 Nuncio Road, Kilkenny City, Kilkenny/Kingscourt, Cavan. Reposing at Johnston's Funeral Home on Sunday from 5.00pm to 7.00pm pausing for Rosary and Vigil Prayers at 6.30pm. Requiem Mass on Monday at 10.30am in St. John's Church. Funeral afterwards to St. Kieran's Cemetery.

Geraldine Bourke, Castlecomer and late John's Quay, Kilkenny. Funeral arrangements later.
 Mattie Lawlor, Kincora, Sion Road. Breda Kieran, 9 Rosehill Court, Kilkenny.
 Helen Dunne, Conahy/Walkin Street. Clodhna Corcoran, Barrack Street/Dublin.
 Br. Timothy O'Shea, Waterford and Kenmare.

Anniversaries: Thomas Dowling (6.00pm); John Joseph, Thomas and Nora Kinsella (10.00am); Thomas Guilfoyle (11.00am); Mary Shelly (11.30am); Mary Malone (7.00pm); Tommy O'Neill; Tommy and Petra McGuinness; Nan Brennan; The Nolan and Ryan Families; Seán Hennessy; Michael O'Neill; William, Ellen and Liam Bergin; Betty and Billy Brennan; Frances Guidera; Billy Loughman; John and Ann Fogarty; Debbie Newcastle.

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

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Claire Coogan
 8.00am Padraig O'Neill
 10.00am Elaine Bennett
 11.00am Eddie Holohan & Liz Holohan
 11.30am Kay Purcell
 7.00pm Linda O'Leary



Weekly Attendance and Collections

Envelope Collection:	€1,320.00	
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm Vigil	183	263.00
8.00am	96	456.00
Johnswell	45	123.00
Dunmore	72	134.00
11.30am	188	389.00
7.00pm	151	333.00

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 this 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 at the door. 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 this weekend, 10th and 11th December. Your donation will help families with basics such as food and fuel. Please make a contribution to this 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.

Children's Rosary

Every Thursday evening 7.00pm in St. Fiacre's Church, Loughboy. Part of Blythe Kauffman's worldwide group <https://childrensrosary.org>. Come along and encourage our young people to pray the rosary.

Johnswell Choir

Johnswell Choir sing at the 10.00am Mass on each Sunday during Advent as well as at Christmas. Rehearsals are in Johnswell Church on Thursdays at 7.30pm.

Christmas Afternoon Tea Dance

St Canice's Neighbourhood Hall, Butts Green will hold a Christmas Afternoon Tea Dance and Raffle on next Wednesday, 14th December from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Music by Seán Shortis. Come and join us for Tea, Cake and Dancing.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 12th December

Monday: (10.30am) Funeral
 Tuesday: (10.30am) Tommy & Petra McGuinness
 Thursday: (10.30am) Nan Brennan
 Friday: (8.00am) Nolan & Ryan Families
 (10.30am) Seán Hennessy
 Saturday: (10.30am) Michael O'Neill
 (6.00pm) Thomas, Seanie, Toddie O'Connor
 Sunday: (11.00am) John, Mary & Catherine Butler
 (11.30am) Maura & P.J. Mealy.
 (7.00pm) Dylan Whearty

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.*

May they rest in peace!

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

Christmas Cribs in our Homes

Why not take part in our Diocesan Virtual Display of Cribs this Christmas – send images of the crib in your home, parish, school or club to afd@ossory.ie and they will be featured on the Ossory Diocesan Website - www.ossory.ie.

Diocesan Carol Service

Join us for our Diocesan Carol Service which will take place in St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, 18th December at 7.30pm - an evening of reflection, music, song and prayer focused on the Christmas story.

Scripture Reflection Group

The St John's Parish Scripture Group continues to meet on Wednesday evenings. A small group of us gather 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 Masses.

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.

It's That Time of Year Again, Christmas!

Gift time again and we all need gift tags...well look no further! Our 'tag elf' Amelia has been working hard behind the scenes since last Christmas to have beautiful hand made tags ready for you all. Help Amelia raise funds to Support Kilkenny Homeless this year. Contact her on 087 380 9442 to book your tags... Tags can be bought in JB's Bar John Street; The White Feather Ladies Wear and Holistic Shop, John Street or meet at Eurospar Bottle Bank, Kilkenny every Thursday at 1.00pm (only if tags booked). Prices €1 for 5 in a bag. Large tags 50c.

Medjugorje - Evening of Prayer, Rosary, Mass & Adoration

Prayer for Healing will take place in St Fiacre's Church, Loughboy on Monday, 12th December at 7.30pm. All are welcome.