

### Prayer for our Bishop-elect

God, Eternal Shepherd, you tend your Church in many ways and rule us with love.

You have chosen your servant, Niall Coll, to be shepherd of your flock in the Diocese of Ossory. Give him a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love.

By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he build your Church as a sign of salvation for the world. St. Kieran, St. Canice, St. Fergal and all the Saints of Ossory, protect him. Amen.

### Anam Cara Southeast

Anam Cara Southeast is hosting a new monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7.15pm in the Brandon House Hotel, New Ross. 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. info@anamcara.ie or 085 288 8888 for any queries.



### Blessing for the New Year

May God, the source and origin of all blessing, grant you grace, pour out his blessing in abundance, and keep you safe from harm throughout the year. Amen. May he give you integrity in the faith, endurance in hope, and perseverance in charity with holy patience to the end. Amen. May he order your days and your deeds in his peace, grant your prayers in this and in every place, and lead you happily to eternal life. Amen. And may the blessing of almighty God, The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you throughout the coming year. Amen.

**God, grant us  
this year a wider view,  
So we see other's faults  
Through the eyes of You.**

### Medugorje Evening of Prayer

Join us for Rosary, Mass and Adoration and Prayer for Healing at St. Fiacre's Church, Loughboy from 7.30pm on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023. All are welcome.

**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**

# Parish Of Saint John The Evangelist

*incorporating | St John's | Dunmore | Johnswell | church areas*

### MASS TIMES

**St John's - Sundays:** 6.00pm (Vigil); Sun: 8.00am, 11.30am & 7.00pm.

**Holy Days:** 6.00pm (Vigil); 8.00am, 10.30am & 7.00pm.

**Polish Mass:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. Monthly, 7.00pm; **Weekdays:** 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only).

**Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am**

**Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am**

### The Baptism of the Lord - 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Pope Benedict XVI (1927 - 2022)

American author and commentator John Allen writes that with the benefit of hindsight, Benedict XVI now seems a towering "Pope of Ironies," with three in particular standing out.



Firstly, for most of his career Benedict XVI had been seen as the great "Doctor No" of the Catholic Church. Yet once he became Pope, Benedict emphasized the Catholic "yes," rather than the church's traditional catalogue of "no's." In other words, "Doctor No" as doctrinal Cardinal became "Father Yes" as Pope.

In a second grand irony, Pope Benedict, who had acknowledged "I don't have the charism of governance", launched historic management reforms on two key sources of scandal for Catholicism, child sexual abuse and the Vatican's decidedly mixed record on money. He was the first Pope to embrace a "zero tolerance" policy on abuse, and the first to open the Vatican to outside secular inspection of its accounts.

In perhaps the most notable irony of all, a pontiff sometimes seen as arrogant and aloof was actually a man of striking personal humility. One for-instance came immediately after he was elected, when Benedict insisted on returning to his Vatican apartment to gather his things and carry them back to the papal apartments. Before he left the building, he knocked on the doors of the other cardinals who lived there - not to say goodbye, since he'd obviously be seeing them again, but to thank the nuns who did the cooking and cleaning for being such good neighbours.

When Francis did much the same thing, returning to a Rome hotel for clergy to pack his bag and pay his bill, it became a sensation. Benedict never drew the same applause, in part because the narrative of "God's Rottweiler" surrounding him made it difficult.

Of course, Benedict's voluntary abdication of power was arguably the single most humble act by a Pope in centuries, if not of all time.

Benedict was never one to cling to power for its own sake and announcing a surprise resignation on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 he would end his papacy with a spectacular demonstration of the point. It is reported that he had twice requested permission to retire during his 24 year term as Pope John Paul's doctrinal advisor - John Paul refused permission both times, saying he couldn't do without his closest aide.

After having become Pope himself, Benedict dropped hints at several points that he was open to the idea of voluntarily relinquishing the office. On a 2009 trip to Aquila, Benedict actually left the woollen pallium he wore during his 2005 inauguration Mass on Celestine's tomb (Pope Celestine, a native of Aquila, had retired as pope in 1294 and is buried in the cathedral church of Aquila).

Those bits of foreshadowing, however, did not make 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 any less stunning when Benedict used a meeting of cardinals for sainthood causes to deliver his surprise resignation announcement in typically elegant Latin prose. Cardinal James Francis Stafford, who was present and witnessed the announcement live, would later say that he sat for some time, unable to comprehend what he had heard. "I couldn't believe it," Stafford said. "I kept playing the Latin over in my mind to be sure I had heard correctly."

Benedict said at the time that he was stepping aside because "my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry. May Pope Benedict's soul rest in peace.

### Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

**Recently Deceased:** Ann Larkin, 74 Newpark, Reposing at her home on Sunday from 4.00pm concluding with Prayers at 8.00pm. Requiem Mass on Monday morning at 10.30am in St. John's Church. Funeral afterwards to St. Kieran's Cemetery.

**Patrick Ryan**, Tramore, formerly of Patrick Ryan Jewellers, Loughboy.

**Kay O'Brien**, Callan & late of Wolfe Tone Street.

**Betty Davin**, St. Francis' Terrace.

**Irene Eccles**, Freshford.

**Anniversaries:** Ned Byrne (6.00pm); Ann & John Barry (8.00am); Thomas & Catherine Lyons (10.00am); Ned Brennan, Ann & Joe Shanley, Margaret Pearson (11.00am); Bernie Little (MM) 11.30am William, Tess and deceased members of the Murphy Family (7.00pm); Marie & Seamus Parsons; Ann Kavanagh; James Cleary; Alex Dewberry; Patrick O'Shea; Michael O'Connor; Paddy, Michael & Catherine Keogh; Johnny, Sammy and Kirwan Family; John Lanigan; Jimmy Kavanagh and Kavanagh Family; Annie and Michael Ruth; Alice Buckley; deceased members of the Brennan Family.

#### Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm	Máirín Bergin
8.00am	Padraig O'Neill
10.00am	Betsy Rice
11.00am	Esther Comerford & Tom Comerford
11.30am	James Connelly
7.00pm	Marie Fogarty



#### Weekly Attendance and Collections

Envelope Collection:		€8,285.00
<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Baskets</u>
6.00pm Vigil	94	259.00
8.00am	66	278.00
Johnswell	74	102.00
Dunmore	71	110.00
11.30am	200	451.00
7.00pm	109	244.00

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

#### Pope's Intentions for January 2023

Pope Francis has asked us to pray for the following intentions during this month.

For educators We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

#### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Beginning on this week the public Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament returns to St. John's Church between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesdays. We invite you to join us and spend some time in prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

#### St John's Junior School

St John's Junior School is currently accepting applications for Junior Infants for September 2023. Forms are available from the School Office by calling 056 776 2888 or on the school website: [www.stjohnsthelake.ie](http://www.stjohnsthelake.ie) (admissions).

The closing date for receipt of the returned form is 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. An information meeting for parents will be held in the school on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm. Please feel free to contact the school with any queries you might have in relation to the above. We can be contacted at 056 776 2888 (9.00am- 2.35pm) or by email [info@stjohnsthelake.ie](mailto:info@stjohnsthelake.ie)

#### St Joseph's Young Priests Society

The St John's Branch of the St Joseph's Young Priests Society will hold a meeting in the Presbytery this Tuesday at 11.00am. The members of the society pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the diocese. New members are always welcome.

#### 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, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January. A sincere thank you for all your generous support. Please remember the local conference can be contacted in writing through the Parish Office or by telephone on 086 895 1239.

### Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 9<sup>th</sup> January

Monday:	8.00am	Fr Lorcan Moran (Birthday Rem)
	(10.30am)	Ann Larkin (Funeral)
Tuesday:	(10.30am)	Marie & Seamus Parsons
Thursday:	(10.30am)	James Cleary
Friday:	(8.00am)	Special Intention
	(10.30am)	Alex Dewberry
Saturday:	(10.30am)	Patrick O'Shea
	(6.00pm)	Michael Kinchella
Sunday:	(8.00am)	Michael Dowling
	(11.00am)	Michael (Mick) Mahony
	(11.30am)	Bernadette Egan
	(7.00pm)	Seán Tyrrell

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](http://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

### Invitation to the Episcopal Ordination of Fr. Niall Coll

Fr. Niall Coll will be ordained as Bishop of Ossory during a ceremony in St. Mary's Cathedral at 3.00pm on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023. St. John's Parish has been allocated four tickets to the ceremony and the reception which follows. If you are interested in receiving one of the invitations write your name on a sheet of paper and hand it into the sacristies or parish office. All applications will be put in a drum and a draw will take place after 10.30am Mass on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

#### Baptism is for Life

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that the public life of Jesus begins with his Baptism by John in the Jordan. John preaches a Baptism of Repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Crowds of sinners, tax collectors, soldiers, pharisees, Sadducees and prostitutes came to be baptised. All were adults. Jesus appears, John the Baptist hesitates, but Jesus insists and receives Baptism. The Holy Spirit appears in the form of a dove and a voice from Heaven proclaims, "This is my Beloved Son".

This is a manifestation (Epiphany) of Jesus as Messiah of Israel and Son of God. Jesus' promise was that he came to save and liberate us and he lived this throughout his life. Jesus' Baptism reminds us of our own Baptism, for the most part all of us were baptised as children. It has been a long tradition in Ireland that all babies be baptised and baptism allows us to receive all of the other Sacraments. A Sacrament is not something that we receive and then it's over and done with. What's involved in a Sacrament is that we make a solemn promise to our God, to the Christian Community and to ourselves. This simple, yet solemn promise and the living out of the promise make a huge difference to our Church and to humanity. Unfortunately, many people come for Baptism and the other Sacraments and have no intention of living up to the promises that they make – the day they receive the Sacrament becomes a day of celebration only. Many others are very sincere in living up to the promise they make and live the Sacraments every day. It is important that we don't abuse the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated in St. John's Parish on the first and third Saturday of each month at 4.30pm and the fourth Sunday of each month at 12.30pm. Contact the Parish Office to make a booking.