

Glenstal Abbey Retreats

“Opening to the Divine Light – Exploring the Transfiguration” with the Monks of Glenstal, Co Limerick takes place on Saturday, 11th February from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Lunch and refreshments provided. Suggested donation €70. For further information please email events@glenstal.com or 061 621 005.

Kilquan Players

A Three Act comedy *Anyone Could Rob a Bank* will take place in Coon Hall from Friday, 3rd to 5th February and 10th to 11th February, 8.00pm. Admission €10. No Bookings.

Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 23rd to 28th May 2023

Fares from €879 per person sharing. Return bus journey to/from Dublin airport from Loughboy Shopping Centre car park. Direct flight from Dublin to Lourdes. Transfer on arrival to hotel in Lourdes. 5 nights' hotel accommodation. Breakfast, lunch and dinner each day. Pilgrims contribution for daily use of the shrine is also included in the fare.

- Full religious programme facilitated by the Diocese of Ossory.
 - Bookings are subject to the terms and conditions available on JWT website.
- Contact niamh@jwtravel.ie or 01 685 2244. www.joewalshstours.ie

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues in St. John's Church between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesdays. Thanks to all who are so faithful to this prayer ministry. Others are invited to come and join in prayer for any length of time.

St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund

This month's draw will take place on Wednesday, 22nd February. Tickets are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests. We encourage your support for St. Mary's, our Diocesan Cathedral. Subscription is €120 per annum or €10 per month.

Thought for the Day

We can easily see how Jesus should be the light of the world. Even though the words are familiar, we are perhaps unaccustomed to reflecting on ourselves as the light of the world and salt of the earth. This is an act of profound trust in us by God. Jesus has faith in us to be bearers of his Good News in our time.

How are we to be that? Not first by our words or even by our deeds. We are the light and salt on account of who we are as disciples. As the Gospel text puts it, a city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. We cannot help being seen as his disciples, for that is who we are.

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 - dip@ossory.ie

OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Máirín Bergin; Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

Counselling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline
1800 313 316 - www.towardshealing.ie

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: 2nd Sat. Monthly, 7.00pm; **Weekdays:** 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only).

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 4th February 2023

50th Anniversary of Trócaire

On 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord, in 1973, the Irish Bishops wrote to the Christian people of Ireland establishing Trócaire. As we mark 50 years of Trócaire, we mark 50 years of perseverance, courage, participation, accountability and solidarity.

From supporting human rights defenders in Central America, to leading the relief effort in Vietnam following the war, to providing essential emergency assistance in the midst of crisis, Trócaire has been proud to work on behalf of the people of the island of Ireland in fighting injustice across the world.

We thank God for our supporters and partners who empower us to do this vital work. We pray that the next fifty years will see all the people of the world working together for a more just world, and that the fruits of this work will be clear to see.

“The aim of Trócaire will be two-fold. Abroad, it will give whatever help lies within its resources to the areas of greatest need among the developing counties.

At home, it will try to make us all more aware of the needs of these countries and of our duties towards them. These duties are no longer a matter of charity but of simple justice.”

From the Pastoral Letter of the Irish Bishops establishing Trócaire, 1973

Bank Holiday Mass Arrangements

Monday is a bank holiday in honour of St Brigid and we all hope to enjoy the long Spring weekend break. Please note there will be no 8.00am Mass in St John's Church on Monday. The only public Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am. Enjoy the break.

Envelope Distributors

We offer a sincere thank you to parishioners who have returned their Christmas contribution envelopes. The ‘Christmas Offering Collection’ goes towards the salaries of the priests of the parish as well as our parish's contribution towards the bishop's salary. We are very conscious of the sacrifices that you make as you support these collections, and once again we take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all who do so.

Some of our envelope distributors have retired or are taking a well earned break and we are currently looking for some new envelope distributors for a few areas in the parish. Thanks to all who distribute envelopes in your areas.

We need further help with distributing envelopes on the Sion Road, New Orchard Estate, Lintown Area, Newpark Close and the Ballyragget Road. If you live in any of these areas and have an hour to spare, we would be very grateful for your assistance. You can speak with one of the priests or call into the Parish Office or Sacristy any day.

Trócaire

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Rose Phelan, Ballybough Street. Reposing in Johnston's Funeral Home on Monday from 5.00pm with Rosary and Vigil Prayers at 6.30pm. Requiem Mass on Tuesday at 10.30am in St. John's Church. Funeral afterwards to St. Kieran's Cemetery.

Jack Walsh, Sevenhouses. Reposing at his residence on Sunday from 3.00pm concluding with Rosary and Vigil Prayers at 7.30pm. Funeral arriving to St. Michael's Church, Danesfort for Requiem Mass on Monday morning at 11.00am. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery.

Ann Purcell, Bennettsbridge
Neddie Roche, McCauley Place
Sheila Hamilton, Maudlin Street
Conor Delahunty, Castleinch.

Months Mind: John Smith (6.00pm)

Bridie Sloyan (11.00am);

Seamus Mahoney (10.30am - Monday, 6th)

Anniversaries: Sarah Prendergast (10.00am); Michael & Angela White (11.30am); Helen O'Neill (7.00pm); Robert, Eileen, Denis & Jimmy Dowd; Bridie & Tommy Casey; James Shortall; Joseph Lawlor; Ben Little; Bill Carroll; Maura Gaffney; Patrick Murray; Isabella Doyle; Margaret Carroll; Mary & Joe Daly; Mary Downey; John Joe Bergin; Michael, Sarah & Desmond Mahony.

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Bridget Ahearn
8.00am Padraig O'Neill
10.00am Elaine Bennett
11.00am Christy Murray & Maise Powell
11.30am Mary Lynch
7.00pm Anne Marie Grace



Weekly Attendance and Collections

Envelope Collection:	€1,390.00	
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm Vigil	116	215.00
8.00am	81	282.00
Johnswell	44	89.00
Dunmore	55	94.00
11.30am	200	452.00
7.00pm	128	220.00

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

Prayer on the Anniversary of Trócaire

We pray for God's blessing on the work of Trócaire.

We pray that all people may continue to work together for the respect of our shared human dignity and shared human rights.

We thank God for the partners and generous supporters who have enabled Trócaire to continue their work for over fifty years, empowering communities to work together for a just world.

We pray for peace and may that peace be mine and yours, and with all people experiencing crises in our world. Amen.

First Holy Communion Preparation

This weekend we welcome the children who are preparing for First Confession and First Holy Communion and their parents and family members to our 6.00pm and 10.00am Masses. We keep them in our prayers at this very special time in their lives.

Pope's Intentions February 2023

For Parishes: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

St. Brigid

This weekend we are delighted to celebrate our new bank holiday in honour of St Brigid, the secondary patron of Ireland. To mark Brigid's feast on last Wednesday and to recognise our new holiday Jane has prepared a beautiful reflective space before the altar in St John's Church. We invite you to come and spend a few moments in quiet prayer.

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: The local parish priest once told his con- :
: gregation, "Every blade of grass is a :
: sermon." :
: A few days later, a parishioner saw him :
: mowing his lawn. 'That's right, Father,' :
: the man said, 'cut your sermons short!' :
:.....

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 6th February

Monday: (10.30am) MM Seamus Mahoney
Tuesday: (10.30am) Robert, Eileen,
Denis & Jimmy Dowd
Wednesday:(10.30am) Bridie & Tommy Casey
Thursday: (10.30am) James Shortall
Friday: (8.00am) Bill Carroll
(10.30am) Joseph Lawlor
Saturday: (10.30am) Ben Little
(6.00pm) Liam Kelly
Sunday: (10.00am) Mary Butler
(11.00am) Mick Loftus
(11.30am) Geoff Doyle &
Statia & Nicholas Power
(7.00pm) Paddy Fogarty

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

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

Points to Ponder this Week

In this Sunday's Gospel passage, immediately after the Beatitudes, Jesus says to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world' (Mt 5:13-14).

Who were these disciples? They were fishermen, simple people... But Jesus sees them with God's eyes, and his assertion can be understood precisely as a result of the Beatitudes. He wishes to say: 'If you are poor in spirit, if you are meek, if you are pure of heart, if you are merciful... you will be the salt of the earth and the light of the world!'

We who are baptised Christians are missionary disciples and we are called to become a living Gospel in the world: with a holy life we will 'flavour' different environments and defend them from decay, as salt does; and we will carry the light of Christ through the witness of genuine charity. The Christian should be a luminous person; one who brings light, who always gives off light! A light that is not his, but a gift from God, a gift from Jesus. We carry this light. If a Christian by name only, who does not carry lights; his life has no meaning.

I would like to ask you now, how do you want to live? As a lamp that is burning or one that is not. Burning or not? How would you like to live? It is truly God who gives us this light and we must give it to others. Shining lamps! This is the Christian vocation.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Feast Day Saturday 11th February

On this day in 1858 Our Lady first appeared to the fourteen year old Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes in France. Later Bernadette was to learn that the mysterious lady was the Blessed Virgin and to hear from her lips: 'I am the Immaculate Conception'.

World Day of the Sick

Next Saturday, 11th February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is World Day of the Sick. On 13th May 1992, a number of years following an assassination attempt on his life that led to a time of suffering and the experiences of being seriously ill in hospital, Saint Pope John Paul II launched a World Day of Prayer for the Sick which coincides each year with the Feast Day of our Lady of Lourdes. Pope Benedict and Pope Francis have continued this special world day. It is a time to reflect on the needs of all who suffer, to pause and be prayerful in solidarity with those who experience illness and with all who care for those who are facing sickness. We will include special prayers for the sick during our 10.30am Mass on next Saturday morning. The sick who are able to get to the church are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Sick during this Mass. Frs Dan and Raymond are happy to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick with parishioners in their own homes at any other time.