

### Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

The Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023 will be led by Bishop Niall Coll. Pilgrimage Director: Very Rev Anthony O'Connor. 23rd May for 5 Nights. €879 per person includes return flights and transfers, full board, taxes. Full religious programme facilitated in conjunction with the Diocese of Ossory.

Contact Joe Walsh Tours 01 241 0800 or email [info@joewalshstours.ie](mailto:info@joewalshstours.ie).

### First Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus,  
Bless the children coming forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

May this day be an initial step into a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship.

May their hands, extended in anticipation of your Body and Blood, inspire all of us to cherish this sacred sacrament.

*Amen.*

### May is the Month of Mary

We encourage you to pray the Rosary, (even one decade), particularly during May.

### Bring Flowers of the Rarest

Bring flowers of the rarest bring blossoms the fairest, from gardens and woodlands and hillside and dale;

Our full hearts are swelling, our glad voices telling the praise of the loveliest flower of the vale!

Chorus:

O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today!  
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.

O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.

### St Mary's Cathedral Bookshop

St Mary's Cathedral Bookshop, situated in the grounds of our diocesan cathedral, is now open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5.00pm. We have a large selection of Confirmation and Holy Communion Gifts, Prayer Books, Rosaries, Crosses, Holy Water Fountains and other popular goods.

**Address:** St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. R95 ND2W

**Email:** [stjohns@ossory.ie](mailto:stjohns@ossory.ie) **Website:** [www.stjohnskilkenny.com](http://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](mailto:dlp@ossory.ie)

### OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

### Counselling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline

1800 313 316 - [www.towardshealing.ie](http://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**

### Sixth Sunday of Easter - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### First Holy Communion Day

Congratulations to the girls and boys of St John's Junior School who received their First Holy Communion on this Saturday morning. We thank the teachers and volunteers who put so much dedicated work into preparing them for the Sacrament. We keep all the boys and girls, their families and teachers in our prayers during this time.

First Holy Communion in Johnswell will take place on next Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am.

### The Paschal Candle

The Easter candle burns in our churches every day during the seven weeks, proclaiming: Christ is risen, and we too may rise!

The Easter Candle is extinguished at Pentecost but appears in our liturgy on two other very significant occasions: baptisms and funerals.

Whenever people are baptized, we light the Easter candle. The resurrection of Christ foreshadows our own resurrection. Baptism incorporates us into the Body of Christ and gives us a share in his resurrection. Whenever the baptismal waters are poured, the Easter Candle burns bright. Parents and godparents light a baptismal candle from the Easter Candle. They accept the responsibility of keeping the flame of faith alive in the heart of the newly baptized. Parents carry this candle home, where it may shine on baptismal anniversaries to symbolize the first news of the Risen Christ.

We also light the Easter Candle at funerals. In the midst of our grief, we call upon the symbols which enliven our faith. Several images of baptism reappear at the funeral: the sprinkling with holy water, and the lighting of the Easter Candle. Christ rose from the dead so that we too might pass from death to life. Every death reminds us of Easter. And every Easter gives us hope that death is not the end, but the passage from darkness to eternal light.



### Prayer for Those Preparing for Exams

Dear God, as I approach the exams which are ahead of me,

Gift me with the skills that I need in order to do my best.

I bring before you my nervousness and my fears along with my hopes and dreams.

I invite you to be with me.

I pray that I may experience the calmness that the Holy Spirit brings.

And, whatever the outcome, I will truly believe in the unique person that I am. Amen

**Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died**

**Recently Deceased:** Aoife Corr, Stephen Street. Requiem Mass in St. Mary’s Cathedral at 11.00am on Monday.  
Margaret Trehy, The Sycamores and formerly Emmet Street. Requiem Mass in St. Mary’s Cathedral at 11.00am on Tuesday.  
Tim Kennedy, Kell’s Road. John Dunne, Callan. Joe Walton, Dean Cavanagh Place.

**Months Mind:** Rose Marie Maher

**Anniversaries:** Liam & Margaret Walsh (6.00pm); Nan, Willie & Noel Meany (8.00am); Ellen, Martin, Paddy, Christy & Martin Jnr Brennan (11.00am); Damien Mahon (11.30am); Michael Malone (7.00pm); Maureen Phelan; Tommy McGuinness; Pat & Mai Shortis; Shelia Lane; Mick & Julia Roche; Brian Mahoney; Mary Brophy; Bridget & Margaret Brennan; James Quirke; Thomas Dowling; Sally Goulding; Margaret, Patrick, Josie, Phil & Mary Doran; Pauline & Bill Delaney; Margaret Tyrrell; John ‘Naxie’ Noonan.

*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!*

**Readers for Next Weekend**

6.00pm Claire Coogan  
8.00am Martin Blake  
10.00am Elaine Bennett  
11.00am Liam Burke & Liam Maddock  
11.30am James Connolly  
7.00pm Marie Fogarty



**Weekly Attendance and Collections**

Envelope Collection:		€690.00
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm Vigil	128	269.00
8.00am	96	380.00
Johnswell	46	95.00
Dunmore	49	81.00
11.30am	139	403.00
7.00pm	97	265.00

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

**Give Blood – Donation Clinic**

Support your local blood clinic! – O’Loughlin Gaels GAA  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023  
3.45pm to 8.00pm  
Call 1800 222 111 to book an appointment.  
Check your eligibility at giveblood.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 important parish prayer ministry. Others are invited to come and join in prayer for any length of time.

**Black Abbey Novena**

Novena to our Lady of Fatima (Continues until Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> May) Black Abbey, Kilkenny.  
Preacher: Fr Colm Mannion OP. Saturdays: 10.00am and 6.10pm; Sundays: 3.00pm. Monday - Friday: 10.00am and 7.00pm. All are welcome.

**Monastic Spring Craft Sale (May 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 10.00am to 5.00pm)**

Artisanal products made by the Sisters of Mary Morning Star, The Friary, Lady Lane, Waterford. First Holy Communion and Confirmation Gifts, Lemon Curd, Jams, Chutneys, Incense, Wooden Crafts, Soaps, Candles, Cards, Rosaries, CD’s and many other gifts. Please come along and support. Contact 087 607 7173.

**Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 15th May**

Monday: 10.30am Tommy McGuinness,  
Pat & Mai Shortis  
Tuesday: 10.30am Sheila Lane  
Wednesday: 10.30am Mick & Julia Roche  
Saturday: 10.30am Brian Mahoney  
6.00pm Carrie Doheny  
Sunday: 11.00am Carmel & Bridget McEvoy  
11.30am Thomas, Bridget & Michael Long  
7.00pm Bridget O’Connell  
MM Dick O’Connell

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

*May they rest in peace.*

**Parish Webcam**

Masses and Services in St. John’s Church are broadcast on stjohnskilkenny.com and on 106.8FM. Inform those who are unable to attend.

**Weekdays**

8.00am and 10.30am.

**Saturdays**

10.30am and 6.00pm.

**Sundays**

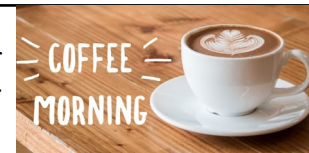
8.00am, 11.30am 7.00pm.

**Holy Days**

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

**Kilkenny Flower Club - Plant Sale & Coffee Morning**

Plant Sale & Coffee Morning in aid of: 'As I Am' the charity for autistic adults and children. Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 10.00am to 12.00 noon in Dunmore Community Hall (R95NX08) Admission: €5  
Kilkenny Flower Club would appreciate your support for this worthy cause.



**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, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May. 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.

**Popes Intention for May  
For church movements and groups**

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

**Points to Ponder**

‘I will not leave you orphaned.’ That is the promise. At some point we all want or even need to hear these words. They speak directly to some of our greatest fears and challenges, abandonment and isolation, loneliness, vulnerability. They remind us that we are not destined to walk this earth without an identity or direction. We do not stand alone. Regardless of the circumstances of our lives, storms, death, separation, we have never been and will never be orphaned by God. How strange that must have sounded to the disciples. In the same conversation Jesus tells them that he is leaving and coming.

Leaving and coming. Presence and Absence. These must be held in tension, not as mutually exclusive. That is what Jesus has set before us in today’s gospel. That tension confronts us with the question of whether Jesus, for us, is a past memory or a present reality, a sentimental story that makes us feel good or a living experience that challenges, guides, and nurtures our life.

According to Jesus the answer to that question is determined by love that is revealed and fulfilled in keeping his commandments. The commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves, to love our enemies, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Whose feet do we wash and whose feet to ignore? What are the boundaries of love? Every time we expand the boundaries of our love, we push back the orphanages of this world creating space within us where the Father and Jesus make their home.