

A Thought for this Weekend

“The Ascension of Jesus into heaven acquaints us with this deeply consoling reality on our journey: in Christ, true God and true human, our humanity was taken to God. Christ opened the path to us. He is like a roped guide climbing a mountain who, on reaching the summit, pulls us up to him and leads us to God”.

Pope Francis

First Holy 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.

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 Fonts and other popular goods. Please support our diocesan cathedral bookshop.

Give Blood – Donation Clinic

Support your local blood clinic! – O'Loughlin Gaels GAA
Monday 22nd May to Tuesday 23rd May 2023 - 3.45pm to 8.00pm
Call 1800 222 111 to book an appointment. Check your eligibility at giveblood.ie.



Rosary at St James's Green

Rosary will be recited at the Statue of Our Lady in St. James's Green on Thursday 25th of May at 6.30pm. It is for the Pro -Life cause.

St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund-

This month's draw will take place on Wednesday, 31st May. Tickets are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests. We encourage your support for St. Mary's, our Diocesan Cathedral.

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:

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

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

The Ascension of the Lord - 21st May 2023

First Holy Communion Day

Congratulations to the girls and boys of Johnswell National School who received their First Holy Communion this weekend. We thank the parents, grandparents, Godparents, 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.

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

Next weekend we will welcome the Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary to all our parish Masses. The Sisters will speak about their missionary work throughout the world. They will also have a door collection after Mass for the missions. Please welcome and support the sisters next weekend.

Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

The annual Ossory Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 23rd May to 28th May. For the first time the pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Niall Coll. May our Lady of Lourdes, comforter of the Sick, be with them all as they embark on their pilgrimage.

Diocesan Novena for Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood.

This Saturday evening (Vigil of the Ascension) we begin our Diocesan Novena for Vocations to diocesan priesthood. As the Irish Church has now begun a special year of prayer for Vocations, please join with us in praying for the needs of our own diocese. You can pray the Novena at home, and we will pray it at our daily Masses here in the parish. Copies of the Novena prayers are available here in the church. You can also access the Novena on www.ossory.ie or on [twitter@vocossory](https://twitter.com/vocossory) or facebook.com/vocationossory21.

Prayer Meditation for The Ascension

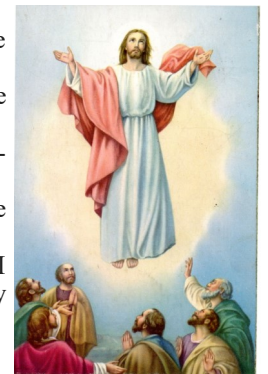
O Lord Jesus,
I adore you, Son of Mary, my Saviour and my Brother, for you are God.

I follow you in my thoughts, O first-fruits of our race, as I hope one day by your grace to follow you in my person into heavenly glory. Until then, do not let me neglect the earthly task which you have given me.

Let me labour diligently all my life with a greater appreciation for the present.

Let me realise that only by accomplishing true human fulfilment can I attain divine fulfilment and ascend to you at the completion of my work.

Amen.



Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: **Joe Manning**, Butlers' Hill, Johnswell. Reposing at his residence on Friday, 26th May from 4.00pm with funeral prayers at 7.00pm. Requiem Mass at Johnswell Church at 11.00am on Saturday, 27th May. Burial in adjoining cemetery. **Peggy Cullinan**, Riverside Drive. Requiem Mass at St. Canice's Church at 11.30am on Sunday. **Alice Shasby**, St. Rioch's Street and late of Cuffesgrange. Requiem Mass at St. Michael's Church, Danesfort at 11.00am on Tuesday. **Sr. Kathleen Moore**, Loreto Convent. Requiem Mass at St. Canice's Church at 11.00am on Monday.

Josie Rice, Callan Road

Bill Eustace, Wexford and late of Talbot's Inch

May McHugh, Clonmel and late of Newpark

Months Mind: Dick O'Connell (7.00pm)

Mary Hennessy, Thurs at 10.30am

Anniversaries: Carrie Doheny (6.00pm); Carmel & Brigid McEvoy (11.00am); Thomas, Bridget & Michael Long (11.30am); Bridget O'Connell (7.00pm); Maureen & Sheila Brennan; Seán Kelly; Philip Morrissey; Richard & Mary O'Dwyer; Peggy & Eamon Holohan; Fr Brian Flynn; Michael Gleeson; Marie Buggy; Mary Murphy.

*Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.
unseen, unheard, but always near!*

Veronica Wall, Tramore

Nora Clarke, St John's Court

Claire Keogh, Callan and late Kilkenny City

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Ann Daly
8.00am Jo Browne
10.00am Betsy Rice
11.00am Eddie Holohan & Liz Holohan
11.30am Bobbie Lahart
7.00pm Joan Galwey



Weekly Attendance and Collections

Envelope Collection:	€1,105.00
<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
6.00pm Vigil	88
8.00am	105
Johnswell	41
Dunmore	66
11.30am	201
7.00pm	106

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

"The Letter" - A Screening

"The Letter" tells the story of a journey to Rome of frontline leaders to discuss the encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* with Pope Francis. The exclusive dialogue with the Pope, included in the film, offers a revealing insight into the personal history of Pope Francis and stories never seen since he became the Bishop of Rome.

A screening will take place on Tuesday, 23rd May 2023 at 7.00pm in St Kieran's College, College Chapel. All are most 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 this weekend, 20th and 21st May. A sincere thank you for all your generous support.

Concert in St Mary's Cathedral

Lehigh University Choir (USA) will give a concert in St Mary's Cathedral on Wednesday, 24th at 7.00pm. Entry is free. Singing a variety of classical, folk and barbershop pieces the choir welcomes you to this evening of song. Donations on the night will go toward the Music Programme in Mother of Fair Love School, Kilkenny. All welcome.

Scripture Reflection Group

The St John's Parish Scripture Group is growing and continues to meet on Thursday evenings. We meet in the Presbytery at 7.30pm to read and informally discuss the Scripture passages for the following Sunday. All are 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.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 22nd May

Wednesday: 10.30am Maureen & Sheila Brennan
Thursday: 10.30am **MM** Mary Hennessy
Friday: 10.30am Seán Kelly
Saturday: 10.30am Philip Morrissey
6.00pm Philomena Campion
Sunday: 8.00am: Joan Dempsey
11.00am Barbara Teehan
11.30am Fr Willie Meany
7.00pm: **MM** Patrick (Pa) Guidera

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

Anniversary of Missing Persons Monument

The 21st anniversary of the unveiling of the National Monument for missing persons in Kilkenny Castle Park will take place on Sunday, 28th May gathering at 12 noon in the Castle courtyard, walking to the monument for a Service of Reflection and Remembrance.

The national monument is visited every year by people from all over the world and holds an important place in the hearts and memories of families of those who are missing in Kilkenny and throughout our country. The Minister for Justice will be the guest speaker. Music by the Kilkenny Gospel Choir. All are welcome to this special time of remembrance.

Points to Ponder

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Jesus appeared to us? Ask yourself: how do you think you would respond if Jesus appeared to you and then instructed you to 'Go forth and teach all nations?'

Would you be thrilled that Jesus had chosen an entrusted you with his mission of 'teaching all nations?' Or did you find yourself producing a variety of reasons and excuses why you are unable to 'go and teach all nations?' We may say: 'I have commitments, I am needed at home, I have a job and my family needs the salary. I can't just take off to go and 'teach all nations.'

And for the most of us that is true. We do have responsibilities to our families and our community. However, for the most of us our call is to preach the Gospel every day, right where we are. We can preach the Gospel every day: by what we say, how we say it, what we say, how we say it, what we do and how we do it!

The familiar adage: 'Actions speak louder than words' is very true! Every day we have the ability to 'preach the Gospel' without saying a word. We can't preach the Gospel simply by who we are, what we do and how we do it!

Words are simple and sometimes distracting. To preach how we live is a full-time commitment. The gift is: if we choose to preach the Gospel, we simply need to live our lives in a loving and generous way. However, we must make this choice! No one else can do it for us. So: what will we choose?

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