

Ossory Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024

The 2024 Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Bishop Niall Coll, will take place from Tuesday, 21st to Sunday 26th May inclusive. The organising committee is confident in offering places to pilgrims in need of assistance, youth helpers, support staff and able-bodied pilgrims. The youth section is organised through the head of RE in secondary schools and places are limited. A follow up announcement and posters on church notice boards will carry further details. (Prices have yet to be established but the 2023 cost was €899 PPS).

The Pope's Intention for September

For people living on the margins: We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

St. Mary's Cathedral Draw 2023/2024

A new cycle of draws will begin in September and tickets are available from St. John's Parish Office or any of the priests. Draws take place on the last Wednesday of each month. Tickets cost €10 per month. To date the draw has raised almost €700,000 for refurbishing the cathedral. Please continue to support this ongoing diocesan work.

Praying the Rosary

A small group of parishioners join in reciting the Rosary before 10.30am Mass at St. John's Church each weekday morning. We invite others to come along at 10.10am and join in this wonderful prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny

1st Year Enrolment Autumn 2024 – The closing date for applications for a First-Year place is 23rd October. Applications can be made via the school website loretokk.ie.

Open Day for 6th Class Girls – An open day will take place on Thursday 28th September 2023. Further information on our website

Synod Gathering

Young people are invited to join with Pope Francis in praying for the Synod. On next Friday, 22nd September, we will join with Pope Francis and the young people invited to Rome by holding an ecumenical Taizé prayer in The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny at 7.00pm with a special invitation to young people.

Then on next Sunday, 24th September we will gather at the 5.30pm Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral to pray for the Universal Synod. All are invited to attend.

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.

Monsignor Michael Ryan (Retired)

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

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 17th September 2023

Synod 2023

The Synod on Synodality which takes place in Rome in October is officially the 16th Ordinary Assembly of Bishops. The theme of the Synod is *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission*. Pope Francis has said that it is not a parliament with winners and losers but rather an attempt to discern how the Church can better fulfil its mandate to preach the good news in every place and culture for the benefit of all God's people.

In a break with recent Synods Pope Francis has broken the general assembly into two sessions, one in October 2023 and the second in October 2024.

Who will be there? The members of the Synod have been designated in 3 different ways.

First, by reason of the function they hold as head of various Vatican Departments (Dicasteries) and the patriarchates of Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem.

Second, those who are elected to the Synod by the episcopal conferences or by the synods or councils of the 23 Oriental (Eastern Rite) Catholic churches. Pope Francis has decreed that five men religious and five women religious were also to attend – elected by the Unions of Superior Generals that represent men and women religious – previously only men attended.

Third, a number of members were nominated by Pope Francis – 50 in all. He has also chosen 70 members (35 men and 35 women) from a list of 140 given to him by the seven continental synods. 363 persons will have the right to vote including 54 women (lay and religious) who for the first time will have the right to vote.

Bishops Brendan Leahy of Limerick and Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ of Raphoe (Donegal) will represent the Irish Bishops and the Irish Church.

Sisters from St Elisabeth Convent, Belarus

Some sisters will join us at Masses this weekend and sell some of their produce at a craft stall. Visit obitel-minsk.org for further information on the sisters. Please support them if you can.

Neville Ryan Memorial Tractor and Vintage Car Run

The Neville Ryan Memorial Tractor and Vintage car Run will take place next Saturday, 23rd September starting in Johnswell at 2.30pm. All proceeds to Castlecomer District Hospital.

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, 16th and 17th September. A sincere thank you for all your generous support. The local conference can be contacted in writing through the Parish Office or on 086 895 1239.



Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: John Mulhern, Bishop Birch Place.
 Imelda McPhilomy (nee Kelly), The Paddocks and late of Newpark.
 Kathleen Doherty (nee Morris), New York and late of Ossory Park.
 Lukas Funtal, Slovakia Mary Maher, Circular Road.
 Mary Gittens, Shellumstrath.

Anniversaries: Martin Shelly (6.00pm); John & Nuala Byrne (8.00am); Margaret & James Butler (10.00am); Michael, Sharon, Jim & Mary Brennan (11.00am); Una Mahoney (11.30am); Margaret & Patrick Shortt (7.00pm); John Foley; Michael & Bridget Maher; Paddy Larkin; Diarmaid Ryan; Bridget Cahill; Kathleen Tobin; Brigid Dooley; Eamon Conway; Catherine O’Keeffe.

*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.*

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Mairin Bergin
 8.00am Padraig O’Neill
 10.00am Teresa Dowling
 11.00am Liam Burke & Liam Maddock
 11.30am James Connolly
 7.00pm Marie Fogarty



Weekly Attendance and Collections

| Envelope Collection: | | €710.00 |
|----------------------|------------|------------------|
| Mass | Attendance | Baskets |
| 6.00pm Vigil | 89 | 252.00 |
| 8.00am | 86 | 404.00 |
| Johnswell | 34 | 147.00 |
| Dunmore | 66 | 191.00 |
| 11.30am | 180 | 508.00 |
| 7.00pm | 90 | 310.00 |
| | 545 | €1,812.00 |

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Season of Creation

This is a time of grace in which the Church offers to renew its relationship with God to humanity. It began on 1st September with the World Day of Prayer and will end on 4th October with the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Prayer for Forgiveness for Sins Against Creation

O Gracious God, Creator Spirit, Source of life,
 you have given order, light and life to the world around us,
 and you have expressed delight in your creation.
 You commanded us to till and care for the garden of life.
 And yet, we have trampled on the beauty of your creation
 and neglected to keep your Word.
 As we begin Mass today,
 we seek God’s mercy and forgiveness for the times
 that we have offended against the integrity of God’s creation.
 And so, O God of Creation,



◇ You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging; the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced. Lord, have mercy.
 ◇ You created the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. Through the warming of the oceans and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled. Christ, have mercy.
 ◇ You created Mother Earth, our common home, who sustains us. Human activities are causing the destruction of her delicate ecosystems as we contaminate the atmosphere with harmful emissions. Lord, have mercy.
 May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our ecological sins, and inspire us to care for our common home. Amen

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 18th Sept

Thursday: 10.30am John Foley
 Michael & Bridget Maher
 Friday: 10.30am Paddy Larkin
 Saturday: 10.30am Diarmaid Ryan
 6.00pm Michael Denieffe
 Sunday: 8.00am Sheila Bergin
 11.00am Michael Roche
 11.30am Elizabeth Brett
 7.00pm Kathleen Maher

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

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

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

Points to Ponder

Interestingly, it’s often easier to forgive than it is to ask forgiveness. Sincerely asking for forgiveness requires that you honestly acknowledge your sin, which is hard to take responsibility for what we have done wrong. In today’s parable, the man asking patience with his debt appears to be sincere. He ‘fell down’ before his master asking for mercy and patience. And the master responded with mercy by forgiving him the entire debt which was more than the servant had even requested. But was the servant truly sincere or was he just a good actor? It seems that he was a good actor because as soon as he was forgiven this huge debt, he ran into someone else who actually owed him money and instead of showing the same forgiveness he was shown, ‘He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ Forgiveness, if it is real, must affect everything about us. It is something that we must ask for, give, receive, and give again.

Here are a few points to consider:

- Can you honestly see your sin, experience sorrow for that sin and say ‘I’m sorry’ to another?
- When you are forgiven, what does that do to you? Does it have the effect of making you more merciful towards others?
- Can you in turn offer the same level of forgiveness and mercy that you hope to receive from God and others?

If you cannot answer ‘Yes’ to all of these questions, then this story was written for you. It was written to you to help you grow more in the gifts of mercy and forgiveness. These are hard questions to face if we want to be freed of the burdens of anger and resentment. These can weigh heavily on us and God wants us freed of them.

Coffee Morning in Aid of Bosnia Food Appeal

Kilkenny Medjugorje Youth Group will be holding a Coffee Morning, Bake Sale, and Raffle in St John’s Day Centre on Saturday, 7th October from 11.00am to 1.00pm. Donations of cakes can be dropped into the Centre before 10.30am Mass. Your support for this worthy cause would be greatly appreciated.



Thought for these Gloomy Days

Wherever you go, no matter what the weather,
 always bring your own sunshine.