

Advent Retreat

"Following Jesus in the Footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi as a Lay Person". The Secular Franciscan Order is holding an Advent Retreat at the Capuchin Friary from 3.00pm to 5.00pm this Sunday 3rd December. Open to everyone. All welcome.

Calm the Soul

The Poor Clares in Galway have just published an updated 10th anniversary edition of their number one best-selling book *Calm the Soul*.

The new material in the book includes reflections and prayers for those coping with anxiety as well as prayers for young people and for those challenged by aging, family conflict, bullying, internet use and fear of missing out. A new section on accompanying the sick and dying is also among the topics treated in the book. *Calm the Soul* is published by Hachette Ireland and is available in bookstores. An ideal present for someone this Christmas. For more information see www.poorclares.ie/calm-the-soul

Collection for the Ossory Priests Society

Thank you for your generous support for last weekend's Ossory Priests Society collection. The amount collected was €2,233. Your support is very much appreciated.

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. Ailish Higgins, 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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Public Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place at St. John's Church from 11.00am until 1.00pm on Wednesdays. We are delighted with the number of people who faithfully keep watch each Wednesday.

Scripture Group

This informal group meets on Thursdays at 7.30 pm in St John's Presbytery. We read over, and chat about the readings for the following Sunday. This week, it will be the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

The Irish Catholic

The Irish Catholic newspaper is available for sale in the porch of St. John's Church at a cost of €3. Please put your contribution in the wall safe.

Blessing the Advent Wreath

Why not make a simple wreath at home?

Loving God,

let your blessing come upon our home

as we light this Advent wreath.

May it be a sign of hope for us

as we prepare for your coming

and may it turn our hearts to you

in the days ahead.

Give us your peace and love

as we wait in joyful hope.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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 First Sunday of Advent - 3rd December 2023

The Season of Advent

The word 'Advent' stems from the Latin 'Adventus,' meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'. In the Church calendar, the First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new year. Over the Four Sundays of the Advent Season, we ready ourselves for the joy of Christmas when we remember and commemorate the birth of Christ. But Advent is also about preparing ourselves for His second coming. We are reminded of this second coming in many phrases that we hear or say at Mass, for example 'as we look forward to his second coming', 'when he comes again in glory', 'as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour'. This second coming is a central theme from the beginning of Advent right up to the 17th December. At that point, our attention and preparation shifts more to the commemoration of His first coming on the feast of the Nativity.

Waiting in hope this Advent, we know that Jesus is our light, our salvation, the One for whom we long. How will you ready yourself to welcome Christ into the centre of your life, with all its bits and pieces, once more? As a new Church year begins, will you give yourself the gift of a new relationship with Christ? For through Him hope overcomes despair, peace overcomes division, joy overcomes desolation, love overcomes hatred. Come, Lord Jesus!

The Advent Wreath

One of the most familiar and universal symbols of this Season is the Advent wreath with its five candles, which Christians have been using for more than a thousand years.

- Its circular shape gives it no beginning or end - perfectly symbolising the eternity of God and his love, and the everlasting life that Christ wants to give all of us.
- The branches traditionally used in Advent wreaths are from evergreen trees, trees that remain green even during the coldest, darkest days of winter. They remind us that Christ's love remains fresh and strong even in life's most difficult moments - he never abandons us.
- Four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Some traditions also say that they represent the four thousand years that Christians used to believe passed between the Fall of Adam and Eve and the Birth of Jesus.
- The fifth candle - which is lit of Christmas Eve - represents Christ himself, who is the light of the world: his Word shows us how we should live, and his love, expressed especially in the Eucharist, fills our hearts with comfort, like the warmth of a supernatural fire. We light the candles gradually throughout Advent because we know that the joy of salvation doesn't come fully into our lives all at once. Rather, life as a Christian is a journey, a relationship with Jesus that has to be constantly renewed, just as a new candle is lit each week.



Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Willie Coll, St. Johnston, Co. Donegal (Bishop Niall's father). Funeral arrangements later.

Kathleen Slattery, Assumption Place
Gretta Quigley, Thomas Square
Kathleen Wall, De Loughry Place
Sr Sheila Sheehy, Presentation Convent

Breda Phelan, Loughboy
Pat Morrissey, College Square
Fr Cathal Gallagher, Peru

Month's Mind: Peter Mulhern (Mon. 10.30am).

Anniversaries: Peggy, Tom and Sheila Bourke (6.00pm); Bridie Sloyan (11.00am); Michael Reynolds (11.30am); Larry O'Shea (7.00pm); Marie and Seamus Parsons; Mary Shelly; Tommy & Peggy Dowling; Mary Malone; Ann and Francie Murphy; P.J. and Maura Mealy; Lou Leydon; James and Annie Donnelly; Christy and Kitty Galvin; Joe Murphy; Seán and James Jnr Donnelly; Patrick J. Crotty; Jack Byrne; John and Catherine O'Keeffe; Andrew Murphy.

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

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Mary Lynch
8.00am Mary Elliott
10.00am Elaine Bennett
11.00am Christy Murray & Maise Powell
11.30am Mary Hanafin & Mary Lynch
7.00pm Marie Fogarty



Weekly Attendance and Collections

Envelope Collection:		€1,065.00
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm Vigil	135	183.00
8.00am	94	202.00
Johnswell	58	94.00
Dunmore	71	122.00
11.30am	210	349.00
7.00pm	112	177.00
	680	€2,176.00

Your support is greatly appreciated.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Collection

The Society of St Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection will take place next weekend, 9th and 10th December. Your donation will help families in our parish with basics such as food and fuel. Please give what you can, you could save someone from impossible choices this winter.

Johnswell Organ Restoration Concert

Thanks to all who supported the concert in Johnswell this weekend. The concert, which was held to raise funds to restore the church organ, was a wonderful success. Thanks to those who provided sponsorship, provided raffle prizes and purchased tickets.

Dunmore Cake Sale

Join us for our Annual Christmas Bake Sale in Dunmore Hall on Sunday, 10th December after the 11.00am Mass. Please drop baked goods and raffle prizes into the Hall before Mass. Everyone is most welcome to come along for a chat and refreshments.

Year for Vocations To Diocesan Priesthood – Take A Risk for Christ

This year has been set aside to prayer for Diocesan Vocations under the theme 'Take A Risk For Christ'. As part of this Year of Prayer, you are invited to join with St. Joseph's Young Priests Society and Ossory Vocations in a Holy Hour, which will take place in St. Michael's Church, Danesfort on Monday, 4th December at 7.00pm as we come together to pray for vocations.

Tweet for Each Day of Advent

Thoughts, reflections, prayer and ideas - why not take a few moments each day during Advent to pause in prayer. Follow us on Twitter @ ossorydiocese. Simple booklet available for download now at www.ossory.ie

Advent Sunday Gospels

A guidebook for each Sunday of Advent to guide us through the gospels for each of the Sundays of Advent. Available for download now at www.ossory.ie

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 4th December

Monday: 10.30am MM Peter Mulhern
Tuesday: 8.00am Special Intention
Wednesday 10.30am Michael Reynolds
Thursday: 10.30am Marie and Seamus Parsons
6.00pm Mary Shelly
Friday: 8.00am Tommy and Peggy Dowling
10.30am Mary Malone
7.00pm Ann and Francie Murphy
Saturday: 10.30am P.J. and Maura Mealy
6.00pm Thomas Dowling
Sunday: 11.00am Jerry O'Neill
11.30am Alice & Joseph Bambrick
7.00pm Aaron Molloy

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

May their souls through the mercy of God 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

Well Done to Our Leinster Champion Hurlers

O'Loughlin Gaels 0 - 22

1 - 18 Na Fianna

Congratulations to our O'Loughlin Gaels Senior Hurling Team who won the AIB Leinster Club Hurling Championship final by beating Na Fianna of Dublin in Croke Park on Saturday afternoon. Well done to the management team and to all associated with the senior panel. All in St. John's Parish are very proud of your achievements.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

On Friday we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception. It is a holy day of obligation. Masses in St. John's Church will be at 6.00pm on Thursday evening, 8.00am and 10.30am on Friday morning and 7.00pm on Friday evening. Please note there will be no Masses in Johnswell or Dunmore Churches on Friday.

The Kilkenny Choir

Join the Kilkenny Choir for an uplifting evening of specially selected Christmas music, which includes a mix of traditional and contemporary carols for all the family to enjoy, on Sunday, 10th December at 4.30pm in St. Canice's Catholic Church. The choir will be accompanied by the wonderful soprano Claudia Boyle. Tickets €20 on Eventbrite or at the door. U18s free.

Annual Candlelight Procession

The Annual Candlelight Procession, organised by the Fatima Apostolate, will take place on Friday, 8th December leaving The Parade, Kilkenny, at 8.00pm. All welcome.

Christmas Mass Times in St. John's Parish 2023

The Parish Pastoral Council has agreed that Masses over the Christmas will be as follows:

Saturday, 23rd December St John's: 10.30am and 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday Morning, 24th December St John's: 8.00am and 11.30am
Christmas Eve St John's: 6.00pm and 9.00pm
Dunmore: 7.00pm
Johnswell: 8.00pm
Christmas Day, 25th December St John's: 8.00am and 11.30am
Johnswell: 10.00am
Dunmore: 11.00am
St John's: 12.30pm (Polish Mass)
Christmas Week St. John's: 10.30am each morning

Please inform your relatives and friends of the above times and invite them to come along.