

Rock Nativity

Come and enjoy the greatest story ever told in this musical version of the nativity performed by the boys and girls of St. John's Senior School. Join us at St. John's Church at 7.00pm on Monday evening for a wonderful and exciting performance.

St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund

This month's draw will take place on Wednesday, 20th December. Tickets cost €10 per draw and are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests. Tickets for the Cathedral draw would make a wonderful Christmas gift.

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 4th Sunday of Advent.

Advent Sunday Gospels

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

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.

Anniversary Masses

It has become increasingly difficult to accommodate in the parish Mass schedule the number of anniversary Masses requested by parishioners. This has led to disappointment when people cannot book an anniversary or months mind Mass near the desired date. From 1st January - as is the practice in other parishes - more than one anniversary remembrance will be assigned to all Masses. Please note we may need to transfer an anniversary Mass on the occasion of a funeral.

Chapter House Bookshop

St. Mary's Cathedral, Chapter House Bookshop is now open 5 days a week from 9.30am until 5.00pm. The shop has a great selection of Nativity Sets, Christmas Cards, Christmas Mass Bouquets, Nativity stories, spiritual books and other religious gifts.

Digital Advent Calendar

This year marks the tenth year of the digital Advent calendar which is a resource for families, schools and parishes on the homepage of catholicbishops.ie. During the remaining days of Advent, new content will be available behind the calendar's digital doors. Every day online viewers can enjoy reflections and prayers on this holy season. Open those doors and get ready to welcome Christ!

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

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 Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) - 17th December 2023

Advent Penitential Service - Sacrament of Reconciliation

A Penitential Service for the City Pastoral Area (St. John's, St. Mary's, St. Patrick's and St. Canice's Parishes) will be held in St John's Church on this Tuesday, 19th December at 7.30pm. Come along and join us as we heed the call of John the Baptist to "prepare a way for the Lord" this Advent and prepare to celebrate the Feast of Christmas.

This year we welcome parishioners from the four city parishes to our Penitential Service. Please come along and be part of our celebration. Priests from the other parishes will be present for the service.

The priests of St. John's Parish will make themselves available for individual confessions after all Masses during the coming week. Confessions available at the Presbytery on request.

Do This in Memory

We look forward to welcoming the boys and girls who are preparing for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion to the 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St John's on next Saturday, 23rd December. Our focus will be on the 4th Sunday of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Saviour. We keep the children their parents and their families in our prayers as they prepare for these important Sacraments.

Bambinelli Sunday

The Blessing of the Bambinelli was first instituted by St. John Paul II. On the Third Sunday of Advent, the children of Rome are encouraged to bring the baby Jesus (Bambinelli) from each of their Nativity cribs to St. Peter's Square. Following the Sunday Angelus address, the Pope blesses the figurines. This Advent tradition is a way for people to connect their Nativity scene at home to the celebration of Christmas at their church.

St Mary's Cathedral Annual Carol Service

The St Mary's Cathedral Annual "Carol's at the Cathedral" will take place this Sunday 17th December at 7.30pm. Music by St Mary's Cathedral Choir, Tanya Sewell (Soprano), The Kilkenny Youth Orchestra and The Unity Singers. All are welcome.

Best Wishes to Our Senior Hurling Champions

We send our good wishes to the O'Loughlin Gaels Senior Hurlers as they represent club, county and province in the AIB All Ireland Club Senior Hurling Championship Semi-final versus Ruairi Og from Antrim at Páirc Tailteann, Navan at 1.30pm on this Sunday. Go for it boys!! Hon the Loughs!

The Irish Catholic

The Irish Catholic newspaper is available for sale in the porch of St. John's Church at a cost of €3. This is a valuable source of good Christian news - we encourage you to take a copy. Please put your contribution in the wall safe.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Paddy Murray, Ballybought Street Jim Foley, Carrigeen
Eveleen Gough, Bennettsbridge Road. Lynn Tyrrell, Dominic Street
Patrick Cummins, Thailand, formerly Assumption Place and McAuley Place
Mary O'Hanrahan, Dukesmeadows. Requiem Mass on Monday at 11am in St Mary's Cathedral.
Bridie Gorey, Greensbridge. Requiem Mass on Tuesday at 12 noon in St. Canice's Church.

Month's Mind: Josephine O'Driscoll (Friday 22nd) Gay Noonan (Saturday, 23rd)

Anniversaries: Thomas, Seáníe, Toddie O'Connor (6.00); Seán Hennessy (8.00); Jim Shields (11.00); Nan Brennan (11.30); Dylan Whearty (7.00); The Deceased Members of the Monagle Family; Phylis Monagle; Charlie McCartney; Phylis Cleary; John & Patricia Dinneen; Ned Moran; Kevin McDaid; Owen Massey; Mary Loughman; John Butler; The Roche Family; The Ivory Family; Annie Donovan; Chrisse Comerford; Billy Phelan; Christina Barcoe & Family; Lena, Danny & Bill Cassidy.

*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 Ann Daly
8.00am Billy Phelan
11.30am Frank & Emily Bradley



Weekly Attendance and Collections

Envelope Collection:		€1,005.00
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm Vigil	132	199.00
8.00am	65	183.00
Johnswell	41	120.00
Dunmore	75	128.00
11.30am	201	376.00
7.00pm	95	184.00
	609	€1,190.00

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Advent Wreath

Today is Gaudete Sunday or Joyful Sunday; the third Sunday in Advent when the rose colour of joy replaces the purple colour of repentance in the Advent Wreath and in the priest's vestments. We are more than halfway through Advent and we are invited to look forward joyfully to Christmas. The pink candle is lighted on the Advent Wreath. The change of colour reminds us to have courage and to continue our spiritual preparation especially by prayer and fasting. Saint John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord. Let him be an inspiration for us. He reminds us today that a light has come into the world. Christ is that light!



Church Envelopes 2024

In recent weeks, thanks to our loyal envelope distributors, the annual box of envelopes for 2024 have been distributed. Our thanks to those distributors who do this very important and valuable work for the parish. Our thanks also to those who use the envelopes. No matter where you go to Mass, the envelope makes its way back to the home parish. For any changes or updates, please contact the Parish Office. These boxes enable the parish to make a claim to Revenue each year for tax rebates. In the past week, we received €40,965.98 as tax rebate for 2022. Thanks.

Recovery – Celebrating 48 years in Ireland - Better – Mental - Health

Recovery Group meets every Tuesday 7.00pm St Patrick's Parish Centre, Loughboy. For further details please call 01 626 0775 or visit www.recoveryireland.ie.

Christmas in St. John's Parish

We encourage all our parishioners to come out and join us for our Christmas Masses. It is indeed wonderful when as many as possible from the community worship together.

The community that prays together stays together.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 18th December

Monday: 10.30am The Monagle Family
Wednesday 10.30am John & Patricia Dinneen
Thursday: 8.00am Special Intention
Friday: 10.30am MM Josephine O'Driscoll
Saturday: 10.30am MM Gay Noonan
6.00pm Declan Lanigan
Sunday: 11.30am Nancy Murphy

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

Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word 'gaudete' is Latin for 'rejoice' which is the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of this Sunday's Mass: 'Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, Gaudete.' This means 'Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice.'

This is why on this Sunday we focus and contemplate upon the aspect of 'Joy' in Advent, after that of 'Hope' and 'Peace' in the earlier two Sundays of Advent and 'Love' in the next and final Sunday of Advent. This Sunday, much like its Lenten counterpart, the Laetare Sunday, marks a short and temporary break from the penitential and more sombre nature of the rest of the Advent Season, as we prepare and anticipate the coming true Joy of Christmas.

Christmas Crib

This year marks the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi constructing the first Christmas crib in a cave in Greccio, Italy. To mark this special anniversary in our faith history, the Irish bishops invite everyone to share a picture, or video, of their crib whether it is at home or in the workplace, along with a message. To help spread the spirit of Christmas, why don't you tag us in your crib post on: Facebook at Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference; Instagram on @catholicbishops; and X/Twitter on @CatholicNewsIRL.

Carols for the Homeless

Join the Kilkenny Gospel Choir for Carols for the Homeless on Sunday, 17th December at 2.00pm upstairs in the Kilkenny Design Centre on the Parade.

Society of St Vincent De Paul Says 'Thank You'

A sincere thank you for all your generous support at last weekend's collection. Remember the local conference can be contacted in writing through the Parish Office or on 086 895 1239.

Christmas Mass Times in St. John's Parish 2023

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.