

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.

Alliance Française

French Classes: The Alliance Française in Kilkenny will be enrolling students for the new term on Tuesday, 9th January from 7.00pm to 8.30pm in the Club House Hotel. The Alliance offers French classes to all levels from beginners, improvers and advanced and classes are available in person (in the Club House Hotel) or online via Zoom. There are daytime and evening classes for adults, and for students doing the Leaving Certificate. www.afkilkenny.org or info@afkilkenny.org or 087 253 9734.

Recovery – Better – Mental – Health

Recovery Group meets Tuesdays at 7.00pm St Patrick's Parish Centre, Loughboy. Call 01 626 0775 or visit www.recoveryireland.ie.

Welcome the New Year

A group of parishioners will gather in Dunmore Church around midnight on New Year's Eve to say a prayerful farewell to 2023 and welcome the New Year. All are welcome to join in scripture readings, prayer and song between 11.00pm and 00.15am as we welcome the New Year.

A Christmas Prayer

Give us, Lord Jesus, the eyes of children,
to see your birth with Christmas wonder.
Help us to share in the songs of the angels
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the Wise Men.

Close the door on hate,
and open the door of love,
all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift,
and blessing with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil,
by the blessing
Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

May Christmas morning
make us happy to be your children,
and Christmas evening
bring us to rest with grateful thought,
forgiving and forgiven. Amen.

(Robert Louis Stevenson)

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent 24th December 2023

Christmas Mass Times in St. John's Parish 2023

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



Do This in Memory

We are delighted to welcome to the 6.00pm Mass in St. John's Church those boys and girls who are preparing for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion next Spring. We keep the children, their parents and their families in our prayers as they prepare for these important Sacraments and we look forward to celebrating with them on Saturday, 11th May in Johnswell and Saturday, 18th May in St. John's Church.

Thank You

Sincere thanks to the many wonderful people who help in our parish. We say thanks to those in our parish office, sacristies, presbytery and church grounds. We are grateful for those who distributed the envelopes in the lead up to Christmas and to those who put up the banners, erected the cribs the Christmas trees. We all admire the beautiful decorations and flowers in our churches - thanks to those who provide the candles and flowers. Those who act as ushers and those who collect and count the money are also vital to the running of the parish. We are also appreciative of the work of the readers, Eucharistic Ministers, choir members and musicians. Many of you work quietly behind the scenes but please be assured that your important work helps to build up the parish and your efforts are much appreciated.

Organ Restoration – Johnswell Church

We extend a sincere thanks to all who attended our Benefit Concert in Johnswell Church on 2nd December. Thanks also to our sponsors and those who gave donations. We raised €8,555 towards the restoration of the organ.
(Organ Restoration Committee, Johnswell)

Parish Calendars

Our St. John's Parish Calendar is available (free) after all Masses this weekend. Once again, we thank Johnston's Funeral Directors, Kilkenny for their kind sponsorship.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: May Hurley, (née Blanche), Stephen Street. Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral at 11.00am on Friday. Burial in St. Kieran's Cemetery.
George Mealy, Castlecomer. Funeral arrangements later.
Kitty Roche (née Moran), Tralee and formerly of Muckalee.
Alexander (Ben) Young, St Francis Terrace. Stephen O'Beirne, Stephen Street.

Anniversaries: Declan Lanigan (6.00pm); Nancy Murphy (11.30am); Mary Theresa Butler; Breda Carey; Micéal Downey; Theresa Shine; Michael & Eileen McKenna; Edward & Sheila Lennon; Eily & John P. Francis; Richard & Joan Dempsey; John Joyce; Daniel (Danny) Leahy; Jim & Rose Magner; Margaret Phelan; Richard O'Carroll; Peggy Blanchfield; Paddy Moynihan; Rose Phelan; Eily Purcell; Ted Carroll; Mary Maher; Fr. Martin Cleere; Joseph, Catherine, James, Joe & Patrick Fogarty; Mary, Marian & Edward Kealy; Paddy Fogarty; The Barry Family; Kathleen Mealy; James (Jim) Carroll; Rosanna Smyth; Milo, Ann & Seamus Fry; Patrick & Julia Burke; Martin, Philomena & Tom Brennan; Monsignor Paul Fitzgerald; Liam Riordan; The Brennan Family; Edward Taylor; John & Mamie Brett; Terry and Seán Brett; Patricia Lewis.

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Bridget Ahearn
8.00am Pdraig O'Neill
10.00am Teresa Dowling
11.00am Martina Brennan & Tom Keating
11.30am Kathleen Ferguson
7.00pm Eileen Kinane



Weekly Attendance and Collections

Envelope Collection:		€4,055.00
<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Baskets</u>
6.00pm Vigil	132	378.00
8.00am	92	528.00
Johnswell	33	122.00
Dunmore	81	226.00
11.30am	145	431.00
7.00pm	90	248.00
	573	€1,933.00

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Scripture Reflection Group

The St John's Parish Scripture Group has concluded their meetings which focused on the readings for the Sundays of Advent. Those who attended found the sessions worthwhile, informative and prayerful. Thanks to all who attended on Thursday evenings. The group will meet again after Christmas to continue its work in preparing the Sunday readings. This group is suitable for all interested in deepening their knowledge of the Bible and should prove very interesting for those who read at Masses. All welcome. Watch this space and we will let you know the return date.

Prayer at the Crib

God our Father,
You sent your only Son, Jesus, as a little child
to love us and to be our Saviour.
Your Holy Spirit came down on Mary and gave wisdom to
Joseph so that they could prepare for his birth.
As we pray here around our Christmas Crib, open our hearts to his
love and to his gentle care.
Take away our fears and fill our hearts with joy.
Guide and care for our families and help us to care for one another,
so that we can live as the people of God.
May we know his presence within us and find deep peace in
our lives during these days of Christmas, and in the year ahead.
Amen.



Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 25th December

Monday:	10.00am	Mary Theresa Butler
	11.00am	Breda Carey
Tuesday:	10.30am	Theresa Shine
Wednesday	10.30am	Michael & Eileen McKenna
		Edward & Sheila Lennon
Thursday:	10.30am	Eily & John P. Francis
Friday:	10.30am	Richard & Joan Dempsey
Saturday:	10.30am	John Joyce
	6.00pm	Helen & Ned O'Neill
Sunday:	8.00am	John Hanaphy / John O'Gorman
	11.00am	John & Mary Butler
		Matt & Catherine Walsh
	11.30am	James & Josephine Foley
	7.00pm	Peggy Comerford

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.



Bishop Niall Coll's Christmas Message 2023

Some printed copies of Bishop Niall's Christmas Message 2023 are available in the church porches. The message is also available online at www.ossory.ie

Ossory Times

Copies of *Ossory Times*, our quarterly diocesan magazine, are available in the church porches at a cost of €2. Excellent value for a colourful and interesting magazine.

Christmas Crib Walk

The Annual Church Christmas Crib Walk will take place on St. Stephens Day beginning at the Friary Church at 11.00am. This is the 21st year of the walk which in Kilkenny traditionally took place on St. Stephen's Day. This year the Crib Walk will have a special prayer for peace. Each walker will receive a Bethlehem cross to mark this special year.

The Crib: 800 Years Celebration

This year, 2023, we celebrate 800 years since St. Francis recreated the events of the first Christmas. He did this in a cave near Greccio which is 90km south of Assisi. On Christmas Eve 1223 St. Francis had the first Nativity scene – a live one – staged for the people when they came to Mass. Two weeks before Christmas in 1223 St. Francis called on a man known only as John and asked him to help him build his crib. So it was, that on 25th December that year, in the presence of many friars who had made their way to Greccio, St. Francis, when he saw the crib with the straw, the ox and the ass, was filled with joy. According to Franciscan sources St. Francis described his desire to represent the Nativity in a way that everyone could experience and take in with a glance what happened on the first Christmas:

"I would like to represent the Baby born in Bethlehem, and somehow let people see him with their own eyes ... how he was laid down in a feeding trough and how he lay there on the straw between the ox and the ass."

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Exposition will not take place on this Wednesday. Following our return in January you are invited to join us at St. John's Church every Wednesday between 11.00am and 1.00pm for some quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament.

Ossory Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The annual Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 is now available to book! The departure will take place on 22nd May 2024 from Cork flying direct to Lourdes. It is strongly advised that pilgrims wishing to travel to Lourdes book as soon as possible. Should you require any additional information on the pilgrimage, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01 241 0800 or info@joewalshstours.ie. Assisted pilgrims should contact Fr. Anthony O'Connor 087 251 7766 or by email on maoc50@me.com.