

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 may be assigned to all Masses. Please note, we also reserve the right to transfer a previously booked anniversary Mass on the occasion of a funeral.

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 with accommodation available in the hotels La Solitude, Padoue or Agena.

With capacity being limited this year, 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: info@joewalshtours.ie or 01 241 0800. Assisted Pilgrims should contact Fr. Anthony O'Connor on 087 251 7766 or by email on maoc50@me.com.

Parish Calendars

St. John's Parish Calendars are available this weekend. Once again we thank Johnston's Funeral Directors for their sponsorship.

Recovery Ireland - Better – Mental - Health

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

A Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;

A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;

A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;

An understanding heart;

A sense of humor;

Time for quiet, silent meditation;

A feeling of the presence of God;

The patience to wait for the coming of these things,

With the wisdom to recognise them when they come.

Unknown Author

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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 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - 7th January 2024

The Baptism of the Lord

The Baptism of Jesus is a significant moment in the earthly life of Jesus. It marks the time of transition from the hidden life of Jesus at Nazareth to the very public life of preaching and teaching that ended with his death and resurrection. Prior to the baptism, John the Baptist was already at work preparing the way for Jesus. John was calling people to repentance and telling them that Jesus was coming soon. At the appointed time Jesus makes his appearance and is baptised in the Jordan river by John. As Jesus comes up out of the water the Spirit descends on him, confirming him in the mission he is about to undertake. Baptism is a significant moment in the life of every Christian person. It is the formal beginning of a life lived in the Christian faith with the promise of eternal life with God awaiting the baptised person as the end of their days. Living the promises of baptism entails a commitment to living the love of God and neighbour as modelled for us by Jesus. The same Spirit that came upon Jesus at his baptism is also given to us at our baptism and again at Confirmation. The Spirit helps us with the gifts and graces we need to live as Jesus asks us to. A Christian life is a demanding way of life and one that needs constant renewal. As we recall the baptism of Jesus today, we remember our own baptism and renew our commitment once again to living as disciples of Jesus.



During 2023 a total of 129 candidates were baptised in our parish. On this, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we pray God's continued care and blessing for them, their parents, and families.

"By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn into everlasting life. In his goodness, may God continue to pour out his blessings on these daughters and sons of his.

May he make them always, wherever they may be, faithful members of his holy people".

Baptisms in St John's take place on the First and Third Saturday of each month at 4.30pm and the Fourth Sunday at 12.30pm. All bookings can be made through the Parish Office.

Dates for Your Diary

As the new year begins we bring the following dates to your attention...

Confirmation St John's Parish - 11.00am on Friday, 26th April 2024

First Holy Communion at Johnswell Church - Saturday, 11th May 2024

First Holy Communion at St. John's Church - Saturday, 18th May 2024

St. Kieran's Cemetery Mass - Friday, 28th June 2024

Dunmore and Johnswell Cemetery Mass - Friday, 5th July 2024

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Noel O'Brien, Lyrath. Rosary on Sunday at 6.00pm in Johnstons Funeral Home. Requiem Mass on Monday at 10.30am in St. John's Church. Funeral afterwards to Foulkstown Cemetery.

Andrew Cash, Hertfordshire and late of Kilkenny. Requiem Mass Tuesday at 10.30am in St John's Church. Funeral afterwards to St. Kieran's Cemetery.

Mary Dowling, Greenshill Bernie Maher, Lintown Hall
Fr Michael Murphy OFM, Capuchin Friary, Kilkenny Finbar Kiely, Cork
Bishop William Lee, Waterford and Lismore John Holland, Ballyraggett

Anniversaries: Eileen Owens, Bernadette Egan (6.00pm); John & Patricia Dinneen (8.00am); Ned Brennan, Ann & Joe Shanley, Margaret Pearson (11.00am); Ann Larkin (11.30am); Mary & Liam Kelly (7.00pm); Alex Dewberry; James Cleary; Paddy Morris; Tom & Mary Gaffney; Bernie Kelly; Michael O'Connor; The Kiely and Barrett Families; Sarah Long; Michael and Annie Ruth; Alice Buckley; Johnny Kirwan and Kirwan Family; Mary Darcy; Ann Kavanagh; Bernard O'Gorman.

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Mary Lynch
8.00am Jo Browne
10.00am Elaine Bennett
11.00am Nora Guilfoyle & Fiona McGearry
11.30am Paula Rogers & James Connolly
7.00pm Joan Scott



Christmas Eve/Day Attendance/Collections

Envelope Collection:		€4,135.00
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm St. John's	119	376.00
8.00am St. John's	86	385.00
10.00am Johnswell	43	110.00
11.00am Dunmore	104	222.00
11.30am St. John's	212	529.00
7.00pm	88	206.00
	652	1,828.00

St Joseph's Young Priests Society

The St John's Parish branch of the St Joseph's Young Priests Society will hold their first meeting of the New Year in the Presbytery on this Monday at 11.00am. All are welcome.

Scripture Reflection Group

The St. John's Parish Scripture Group hope to continue their meetings in the New Year. Those who attend find the sessions worthwhile, informative and prayerful. The group will meet again on Thursday, 18th January at 7.30pm. 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.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thanks to those who spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays. On our return on this Wednesday, 10th January you are invited to join us at St. John's Church between 11.00am and 1.00pm for some quiet time and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intention for January 2024

For the gift of diversity in the Church: We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Medjugorje - Evening of Prayer

Rosary, Mass, Adoration, Prayer for Healing will take place in St Fiace's Church, Loughboy on Monday, 8th January at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Are You Registered in St. John's Parish?

Please contact the Parish Office on 056 7721 072 or stjohns@ossory.ie if you are new to the area or feel that you and your family may not be registered with St. John's Parish. We are anxious to welcome newcomers, update our database and build up our parish community.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 8th January

Monday: 10.30am Noel O'Brien (Funeral)
Tuesday: 10.30am Andrew Cash (Funeral)
Friday: 10.30am Alex Dewberry
Saturday: 10.30am James Cleary
6.00pm Michael Kinchella
Sunday: 8.00am Michael Dowling
11.00am Michael Mahony
11.30am Ann Gibbons
7.00pm Patrick Joseph O'Shea

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

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.

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

Like the Magi, let us offer Jesus his gifts to us on this Feast weekend of the Epiphany.

- 1) The first gift might be friendship with God. After all, the whole point of Christmas is that God's Son became one of us to redeem us and call us friends. God wants our friendship in the form of wholehearted love and devotion.
- 2) A second gift might be friendship with others. This kind of Friendship can be costly. The price it exacts is vulnerability and openness to others. The Good News, however, is that, in offering friendship to others, we will receive back many blessings.
- 3) A third gift might be the gift of reconciliation. This gift repairs damaged relationships. It requires honest, humility, understanding, forgiveness and patience.
- 4) The fourth gift of this season is the gift of peace: seeking God's peace in our own lives through prayer, the Sacramental life and daily meditation on the Word of God. It is out of humble gratitude that we give Him from the heart our gifts of worship, prayer, singing, possessions, talents, and time. As we give our insignificant, little gifts to God, the good news is that God accepts them!

Like the Magi offering their gifts of Gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we offer what we have, from the heart, in response to what that Child has given to us – Himself.

Are You Baptised?

If you were asked the question: 'Are you baptised?' Would you answer 'Yes, I was baptised' or would you answer 'Yes, I am baptised?' Which would be more correct? The answer 'Yes, I was baptised' is correct in the sense that our baptism happened on a specific date and time. But 'Yes, I am baptised' is the more complete answer.

Using the present tense informs others and reminds ourselves that our baptism is much more than a historical event. It is and remains a defining truth of who we are and who we have become - disciples of Christ and as people whose lives have been united irreversibly to his life, death and resurrection because of our baptism. It means the Spirit of Christ has been poured into our hearts crying 'Abba Father' and therefore we have become co-heirs with Christ and beloved children of God whom we dare to call Father. In the words of Pope Francis: 'Our baptism is not a formality! It is an act that touches the depths of our existence. A baptized child and an unbaptized child are not the same. A person who is baptized and a person who is not baptized are not the same. We, by Baptism, are immersed in that inexhaustible source of life which is the death of Jesus, the greatest act of love in all of history; and thanks to this love we can live a new life, no longer at the mercy of evil, of sin and of death, but in communion with God and with our brothers and sisters.'