



### Hon the Loughs!

All Ireland Club Senior Hurling Final Day has finally arrived and all in St. John's Parish wish the O'Loughlin Gaels management and senior hurlers the very best as they take on St Thomas's from Galway in the All-Ireland Final in Croke Park on this Sunday afternoon. We are proud of our heroes and look forward to celebrating an unprecedented win on Sunday afternoon.

### Word of God Sunday

A Sunday designated to the Word of God was instituted by Pope Francis in 2019. The motto this year is taken from the Gospel of John: "Remain in my Word" (John 8:31). Archbishop Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin, points out that Pope Francis is highlighting the importance of Sacred Scripture in the life, worship, and mission of the Church. The Bible is not the preserve of the few. It belongs to all of us. It is the book of the people of God. It is a rich source for prayer, for contemplation and consolation. Archbishop Farrell emphasises that Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. "The Scriptures nourish and shape our prayer and our worship. They help us understand our world. They shape our world view. They teach us how to live and relate to each other. They continually call and challenge us to permit the Word of God to take flesh in our lives."

### Do This In Memory

We welcome the children from St. John's Junior School and Johnswell National School who are preparing for the Sacraments of First Penance and First Eucharist to our Masses this weekend. As they continue the *Do This in Memory* Parish Programme of preparation, we keep them in our prayers and hope that with God's help their parents and families may truly pass the light of faith on to them.

**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 – Saturday:** 6.00pm (Vigil); **Sunday:** 8.00am, 11.30am & 7.00pm.

**Holy Days:** 6.00pm (Vigil); 8.00am, 10.30am & 7.00pm.

**Adoration:** Wednesdays at 11.00am. **Weekdays:** 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only).

**Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am**

**Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am**

### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024

### Christian Unity Week 2024

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held each year at the end of January. To prepare for the annual celebration, ecumenical partners in a particular region of the world are invited to produce a basic liturgical text on a biblical theme. The materials for the 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso, in West Africa. The theme chosen is "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself" (Lk 10:27). Representatives from the Catholic Archdiocese, Protestant Churches, ecumenical bodies collaborated generously in drafting the prayers and reflections. These prayers and reflections will be part of an Ecumenical Service which will take place in St. Edmund's Church, Castletown, Co. Laois on next Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> January at 3.00pm. We hope to have representatives from different Christian denominations in attendance. Fr. Brian Griffin, who is now Parish Priest of Castletown, invites St. John's Parishioners to join with his parishioners as they gather to pray and reflect with our separated Christian brothers and sisters. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the De La Salle Centre, Castletown.

### Catholic Schools Week 2024 – 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Across the island of Ireland, from 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> January, the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week will be marked by parish communities. During this dedicated week, school communities will pray, explore and discuss the 2024 theme which reflects the contribution of Catholic schools as 'Communities of Service' in our society.

According to Bishop Tom Deenihan, Bishop of Meath, who chairs the Council for Education of the Irish Bishops' Conference, "Thanks to the commitment of our school communities – pupils, parents, staff and parishes - Catholic schools set a high standard when it comes to education provision. Our schools look to Jesus Christ as our role model and teacher.

"Generations of people have benefited from Catholic schools and our society is all the better for their contribution to the common good. Our schools, following the example of Jesus, serve every person regardless of creed, background, faith, social status or age. Jesus showed those around Him how our Heavenly Father is compassionate, courageous and forgiving by His own actions. Catholic Schools Week 2024 will reflect on the theme of our schools exemplifying communities of service."

We look forward to welcoming the pupils and staff of St. John's Senior School to our 10.30am Mass at St. John's Church on next Friday morning.

### Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

**Recently Deceased:** Paddy Lacey, Rosemount. Requiem Mass in Luggacurren, Co. Laois at 11.00am on Monday.

Eoghan Moran, Michael Street. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.  
 Mary Lahert, Newpark Close  
 Breda Murray, Thomastown  
 Larry Dowling, Greenshill  
 Jude Curran, Dominic St. late of Newpark  
 Bernard (Benny) Canavan, late of Ossory Park

Brendan O'Brien, Freshford Road  
 Andy Murray, De Loughry Place  
 John O'Neill, Loughboy  
 Billy Dunphy, Parnell Street  
 Jim Hartley, Glenmore

**Months Mind:** Pat Costigan (11.00am) Dan Kennedy (11.30am)

**Anniversaries:** Kitty Guidera; Lou Leydon; Betty Bourke (6.00pm); Billy Malone (8.00am); Lil Redmond (11.30am); Patrick & Hugh Meany (7.00pm); Statia & Tom Byrne; Maureen Fitzgerald; Ann Hawe; Johanna McEneaney; Teresa Barcoe; Tom Walsh; Johnny Brennan; Denis Guilfoyle; Joe Brennan; Catherine & Michael Delaney; Sean Barry; Kathleen & Margaret Doran; Michael Cody; Brendan O'Brien; Fr Jerry Joyce; Sarah Ryan; Cian Buckley.

*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 Padraig O'Neill  
 10.00am Fiona & Sarah Manning  
 11.00am Eddie Holohan & Liz Holohan  
 11.30am Anne Maria Walsh & Kay Purcell  
 7.00pm Marie Fogarty



### Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€2,590.00
<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Baskets</u>
6.00pm St. John's	132	322.00
8.00am St. John's	70	345.00
10.00am Johnswell	101	232.00
11.00am Dunmore	119	305.00
11.30am St. John's	189	501.00
7.00pm	85	312.00
	696	2017.00

### Ministry in our Parish

We are currently taking names of those who would like to serve as Ministers of the Word (Readers) and Eucharistic Ministers in St. John's Parish. Please give your name to one of the priests or contact the Parish Office on 056 772 1072 if interested.

The Parish Pastoral Council is working to reestablish the Ministry of Altar Server in our parish. Please let us know if you or a young person known to you would be interested in helping as an altar server.

### St. John's Junior School

St. John's Junior School is currently accepting applications for enrolment for September 2024. Application forms are available from the office (056 776 2888) or on the school website [www.stjohnsthelake.ie](http://www.stjohnsthelake.ie). Closing date for applications is Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January.

A parents' information meeting will be held in the school on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7.30pm.

### Family Carers

Are you caring for a loved one at home with additional needs? A spouse, partner, child, close relative or neighbour? Then you are a family carer! Become a member of Family Carers Ireland, the national charity supporting Ireland's 500,000+ family carers nationwide. Contact 057 937 0221 and hear how we can support you or for more info visit [www.familycarers.ie](http://www.familycarers.ie).

### Kilquan Drama Group

Kilquan Drama Group present "Separate Beds" by Sam Cree. Comedy in Three Acts in Coon Hall (Eircode R93 EC89) on 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February, and 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm nightly.

### Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Monday: 10.30am Statia & Tom Byrne  
 Tuesday: 10.30am Maureen Fitzgerald  
 Wednesday 10.30am Ann Hawe  
 Thursday 10.30am Johanna McEneaney  
 Friday: 10.30am Teresa Barcoe  
 Saturday: 10.30am Tom Walsh  
 6.00pm Richard Grace; Maura Shortall.  
 Sunday: 10.00am Nancy Comerford  
 11.00am Gemma Clancy  
 11.30am Dick Brennan  
 7.00pm Ann, Michael, Bridget & Michael Jnr. O'Connor.

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](http://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

### Scripture Reflection Group

The St. John's Parish Scripture Group meets in the Presbytery at 7.30pm each Thursday to read and discuss the Scripture passages for the following Sunday's Mass. All are welcome to come along - bring a friend. This group should prove very interesting for those who read at Mass.

### First Class Relic of St. Brigid for St. Brigid's Day Service

A first-class relic of St. Brigid will be available for this year's feast of St. Brigid. This year is the 1500th anniversary of her death. The annual St. Brigid's Day service will take place on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February in St. Fiace's Church, Loughboy at 7.30pm. Water from the well of St. Brigid in Kildare and blessed red flannel will be available on the night. Music ministry by the Kilkenny Gospel Choir. All welcome.

### Kilkenny Sub Aqua Club Church Gate Collection

Kilkenny Sub Aqua Search and Recovery Unit will be holding a Church Gate collection next weekend the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

### Preparation for Marriage Courses 2024

Preparing for Marriage? Our Grásta Preparation for Marriage Courses consist of a residential weekend course, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, for couples to focus on their relationship and what is important for them as a couple planning their married life together. Weekend residential courses available. 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024. Details: [www.grasta.org](http://www.grasta.org) or by email at [info@grasta.org](mailto:info@grasta.org)

### We Are One with You by Thomas Merton

O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with you.

You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us.

Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts.

Help us to realise that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection.

O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept you, and we thank you, and we adore you, and we love you with our whole being, because our being is your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit. Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways, united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world, and which makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love.

Love has overcome. Love is victorious.