

Lent is Just Around the Corner

With Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, 14th February, we suggest some of the following exercises to those looking to do something a little special for Lent...

Daily Mass at St. John's Church

Mass is celebrated at St. John's Church at 10.30am each weekday morning and at 8.00am on Monday to Friday (except Public Holidays). Will you join us during Lent?

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.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues in St. John's Church between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesdays. Thanks to all who are faithful to this important prayer ministry.

The Most Holy Rosary

A number of parishioners gather each morning at St. John's Church to recite the Rosary at 10.10am. All are welcome to come and join in this beautiful Marian prayer.

Bank Holiday Mass Arrangements

Monday is a bank holiday in honour of St Brigid and we all hope to enjoy the long Spring weekend break. Please note there will be no 8.00am Mass in St John's Church on Monday. The only public Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am. Enjoy the break.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for February

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund

This month's draw will take place on Wednesday, 28th February. Tickets are available from the Parish Office, or from any of the priests. We encourage your support for St. Mary's, our Diocesan Cathedral. Subscription is €10 per month.

Prayer for Those Sitting "The Mocks"

Father, please clear my mind and give me the understanding and knowledge that comes only from you.

Bless me as I sit my mocks and bring the information that I've studied when it is needed in this exam.

Grant me favour as I begin this test.

I ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. R95 ND2W

Email: stjohs@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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 4th February 2024

World Day of the Sick

Next Sunday, 11th February, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is World Day of the Sick. On 13th May 1992, a number of years following an assassination attempt on his life that led to a time of suffering and the experiences of being seriously ill in hospital, Saint Pope John Paul II launched a World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Pope Benedict and Pope Francis have continued this special world day. It is a time to reflect on the needs of all who suffer, to pause and be prayerful in solidarity with those who experience illness and with all who care for those who are facing sickness.

Pope Francis' theme for World Day of the Sick 2024 is: "It is not good that man should be alone" (cf Gen 2:18). Pope Francis is very concerned for elderly people, and especially those who suffer in isolation. We are created to be together, not alone. The Pope goes on to say that "the first form of care needed in any illness is compassionate and loving closeness. To care for the sick means above all to care for their relationships: with God, - with others - family members, friends, healthcare workers - with creation and with themselves. Can this be done? Yes, it can be done if all of us are called to ensure that it happens."

We will include special prayers for the sick during our 10.30am Mass on next Saturday morning, 10th February. The sick who are able to get to the church are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Sick during this Mass. Those who cannot get to church are invited to join us at this time on webcam and radio. Frs. Dan and Raymond are happy to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick with parishioners in their own homes at any other time. Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Financial Matters

The priests of the parish join with the Parish Finance Committee in offering a sincere word of thanks to all who contribute so generously to the envelope and church collections for the upkeep of the parish infrastructure and the clergy. These are essential collections which help with the ever-increasing expenses. We appreciate your generosity in these challenging and difficult financial times. Please contact the Parish Office if you don't have a parish envelope pack. Thank you.

Eastern Environs Local History

Are you interested in the history of St John's Church? Would you like to know more about its benefactors, the funding stream and its development? If so, you are invited to join local historian Paddy Neary at 2.00pm Wednesday, 7th February, in St. John's Church, as he gives a detailed account from the initial concept to its dedication. At the conclusion of the talk light refreshments will be served in the Parish Centre. All are welcome to this free event.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Claire Beale, Glendine. Reposing at Johnston's Funeral Home from 5.00pm on Monday with Rosary and Vigil Prayers at 6.30pm. Requiem Mass at St. John's Church at 10.30am on Tuesday followed by burial at St. Kieran's Cemetery.

Gearoid Moran, McDonagh Junction and Castlecomer. Requiem in Castlecomer on Monday.

Philip Cahill, Castlecomer Road and Kilmanagh. Funeral arrangements later.

Fr. Anthony Boran OFM Cap, Dublin and Castlecomer Mary Hackett, Lacken Drive
Magaret Murray, St. Kieran's Crescent Jimmy Culleton, Old Callan Road
Nuala Prendergast, Inistioge Liam Drennan, St Fiacre's Place

Mary Kiely, Mallow

Months Mind: Noel O'Brien (7.00pm Sunday).

Anniversaries: Rose Phelan, Robert, Eileen, James and Denis Dowd; Pica Eugenia (6.00pm); Sarah Prendergast (10.00am); Claire & John Irwin, Renee and Jarlath Walshe (11.00am); Sheila Hamilton, Patrick and Ann Dockery, Pauline O'Donoghue (11.30am); Jim Byrne; Margaret Carroll; Bridie and Tommy Casey; Ray Hanlon; Richard McDonagh; Ann O'Keeffe; Bill Carroll; Philip and Delia Larkin; Isabella Doyle; Tomás Hackett; Thomas Duggan.

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Máirín Bergin
8.00am Jo Browne
10.00am Teresa Dowling
11.00am Jim Kavanagh & Claire Hanrick
11.30am Kathleen Ferguson
7.00pm Eileen Kinane



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€1,135.00
<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Baskets</u>
6.00pm St. John's	143	362.00
8.00am St. John's	72	368.00
10.00am Johnswell	62	178.00
11.00am Dunmore	87	203.00
11.30am St. John's	180	471.00
7.00pm St. John's	92	318.00
	636	1,900.00

Points to Ponder

Even Jesus struggled to find his purpose at the beginning of his ministry, but he knew how to discover it. He prayed. The one who knew God's heart better than anyone still set aside time to be alone with his Father in the darkness, to seek God's will in extended times of prayer.

Called to service, called to community, we are also sometimes called into the darkness. It is here that we meet God, and sometimes our fears, face to face. It is in solitude and darkness that we find our purpose and learn to trust completely in God's will. Being alone in the dark wilderness was not the safest place to be in the first century. For Jesus, though, it was the only place where he could talk one-on-one with his Father, without interruption.

Well, almost without interruption. The disciples would probably have preferred for Jesus to stay in Capernaum, healing from his home base, and theirs. But Jesus leads them out into their own dark wilderness: the unknown territory of introducing others to the Kingdom of God and leading them to repentance. The disciples learned that you cannot be a true follower of Jesus by sitting in the comfort of your own living room. You have to get up, as Simon's mother-in-law did, and join with others in the work of the Kingdom of God. Because for some people, we are the only Jesus they will ever meet.

(Jo Anne Taylor – pastorings.com)

A Thought for the Day

- When things are against you remember that aircraft take off into the wind.
- Other's love for you is God's gentle helping hand on your shoulder.
- Genuine listening requires a courageous open mind that is ready to change.
- Before you sleep name one thing for which you are grateful each day.
- No matter how you feel, wake up, get up, dress up, show up and try not to give up.
- To be without some of the things we want is indispensable to happiness.
- Every great event happened when someone decided not to give up.
- Children may wreck a house, but they can hold a home together.

(Des O'Donnell OMI)

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 5th February

Monday: 10.30am Jim Byrne
Wednesday 10.30am Bridie & Tommy Casey
Friday: 10.30am Ray Hanlon
Richard McDonagh
Saturday: 10.30am Bill Carroll; Ann O'Keeffe.
6.00pm Esther Ryan; Paddy Fogarty
Sunday: 10.00am **MM** Jimmy Butler
11.00am Patricia Lewis (nee Brett)
11.30am Geoff Doyle,
Statia & Nicholas Power;
Letitia Hanrahan.
7.00pm **MM** Phyllis Lawlor

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

Are You Celebrating a Marriage Anniversary?

February is the month of St. Valentine - patron of those in love! During the 11.30am Mass on Sunday, 12th February there will be special prayers and a blessing for those celebrating marriage anniversaries this year - 10th, 25th, 50th, 60th and any year in between or beyond! Couples and families are invited to come along and sit together. Let us know you are coming and the number of years celebrated by emailing St. John's Parish Office at stjohns@ossory.ie

Ministry in our Parish

We continue to compile a list of those who would like to serve as Ministers of the Word (Readers) and Eucharistic Ministers in St. John's Parish. If interested please give your name to one of the priests or contact the Parish Office on 056 772 1072. Training and orientation will be provided.

The Parish Pastoral Council is actively working to reestablish the Ministry of Altar Server in our parish. A number of young people have volunteered and we hope to begin training very soon. Please let us know immediately if you or a young person known to you would like to get involved in ministering as an Altar Server.

Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking

Thursday, 8th February, is the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese nun, who as a child had the traumatic experience of being a victim of human trafficking. "I encourage those who work helping the men, women and children who are enslaved, exploited, abused as instruments of work or pleasure, who are often tortured and mutilated. It is my hope that government leaders may work decisively to remove the causes of this disgraceful scourge, it is a scourge unworthy of society. May each one of us feel committed to being a voice for our brothers and sisters, who have been humiliated in their dignity." (Pope Francis). Join us at our Masses on Thursday as we offer prayers and petitions for this intention. More information and resources are available at www.preghieracontrotratta.org.

Ash Wednesday - the Season of Lent

This year Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February - also the feast of St. Valentine. Perhaps those in love will present ashes instead of roses or chocolates? Little chance of getting away with that trick, I would say!

For those who want to receive blessed ashes and begin Lent well we will have Mass at St. John's Church at 8.00am, 10.30am and 7.00pm on 14th February. All are welcome.