

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?

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.

Stations of the Cross

We will pray the Stations of the Cross in St. John's Church at 7.00pm each Friday during Lent. We invite you to make the effort to come along and walk the Way of the Cross in preparation for the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday.

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

Prayer for the Sick to St John Of God World Day of the Sick Sunday, 11th February

Good Saint John,
Lover of those who suffer
And special Patron of the Sick,
How patiently you bore the sufferings of your
own disease!

Teach me to carry with cheerful resignation.
The cross that God has given me.

Let me never complain or lose courage.
Help me to understand that suffering is a very
important means of sanctifying my soul, of
atoning for my sins, and of reaping a
plentiful harvest of merit for Heaven.

I trust in your great love for the sick and in the
power of your intercession to help them. Help
me, good St John, and I beg the God whose

name you bear to touch me as
He touched the sick while on earth, that
through His almighty power health may
return to my body. And as you derived
strength in your own sufferings from the cruci-
fix, so may I be able to say what you did to

Jesus Crucified:

'Lord, Thy thorns are my roses and Thy
sufferings my paradise.

Columban Daily Prayer

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 11th February 2024

The Season of Lent

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts - not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs."
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446)

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday - the first day of the Season of Lent - occurs this week. For Catholics it is a day of fast and abstinence. 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.

First Confession

The boys and girls from Johnswell National School (on Monday) and the boys and girls from St. John's Junior School (on Tuesday) will celebrate their First Confession this week. This is an important milestone on their faith journey, and they have been preparing very well for this Sacrament. We keep them in our prayers as they celebrate God's forgiveness in their lives and as they continue the journey of preparation for their First Holy Communion in May.

Day of Prayer for Temperance

This Day of Prayer is celebrated on Sunday, 11th February. As we lead into the Season of Lent we consider and pray for temperance in our lives. The word temperance, like the word fortitude, is perhaps another of those words that are not used much in ordinary conversation. But the idea of temperance is suggested in some words that are used in everyday speech. *Balance* is one of those words, I think. We speak of wanting to lead 'balanced' lives, of wanting our judgments to be 'balanced,' our big decisions in life to be the result of 'balanced reflections.' We speak of a person being unbalanced. We speak of balanced diets. We try to balance our professional lives with our personal lives. We know what people mean when we hear these phrases. Balance is something like the virtue of temperance. Why not consider taking the pledge for Lent? Visit www.pioneers.ie for more information.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Eddie Byrne, Fr. Albert's Place. Requiem Mass at St. Patrick's Church at 11.00am on Monday. Burial in Foulkstown.
Stephen Murphy, Thomas Square. Requiem Mass at St Patrick's Church at 12.00 on Sunday.
Paul Smith, Meadow Way. Funeral arrangements later.
Patricia (Pat) Lewis, England. (11.00am) Anne Delahunty, Shellumsrath.
Letitia Hanrahan, Spain formerly Gortlug (Sun. 11.30am)
Kitty Walsh (nee O'Keeffe), Conahy & late of Ballasalla
Esther Murphy, Lovers Lane, Newpark. Stephen Sheehan, Kilsheelin Heights.

Months Mind: Jimmy Butler (10.00am).
Phyllis Lawlor (7.00pm).

Anniversaries: Esther Ryan; Paddy Fogarty (6.00pm); Geoff Doyle; Statia & Nicholas Power (11.30am); Kate Foley; Hannah Heaney; Michael & Mai Loftus; Peter Long; Theresa Roche; Eileen & John Maher; Ann O'Neill; Joe Lawlor; Francie & Ann Murphy; Cissy Rafter; Maura Butler; Michael & Desmond Mahony; Mary Moll Jordan; Brigid Bergin; Abraham & Margaret Anderson; Catherine & Thomas Ryan & Ryan Family; Ellen Lanigan; John O'Keeffe; John & Patrick Ryan; Fr Philip Ryan; Pat Langton; Richard Walsh.

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Mary Lynch
8.00am Billy Phelan
10.00am Seán Colgan
11.00am Stephanie Butler & Roger Curran
11.30am Bobbie Lahart & Rosemary McPhilips
7.00pm Linda O'Leary



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€1,340.00
<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Baskets</u>
6.00pm St. John's	160	385.00
8.00am St. John's	87	366.00
10.00am Johnswell	51	224.00
11.00am Dunmore	74	198.00
11.30am St. John's	209	632.00
7.00pm St. John's	125	648.00
	706	2,453.00

Why Do We Receive Ashes on Ash Wednesday?

We receive ashes on our forehead as a sign to ourselves and to others that we are sinners who believe in the good news of God's abundant mercy.

Scripture Study Group

Pope Francis wrote in 2022: "Opening the word of God to God's people requires serious study, deep love and openness to the beauty and power of Scripture. The best incentive for understanding comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with the heart. If we approach it this way, its beauty will amaze and constantly excite us."

The Scripture Group meets on Thursdays at 7.30 pm in St John's Presbytery. We always have a relaxed and enjoyable chat while opening our hearts and minds to what is being said to us by the Scriptures from the following Sunday.

Some who cannot attend, receive the notes that are prepared each week by email. If you would like to receive these please email paulmckiernan@live.ie.

Medjugorje - Evening of Prayer

Rosary, Mass, Adoration, Prayer for Healing will take place in St. Fiacre's Church, Loughboy on Monday, 12th February at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Society of St Vincent De Paul Collection

The Monthly Collection for the local conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will take place over next weekend, 17th & 18th February. A sincere thank you for all your generous support. Please remember the local conference can be contacted in writing through the Parish Office or by telephone on 086 895 1239.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 12th February

Wednesday 10.30am Peter Long
Thursday: 10.30am Theresa Roche
Eileen & John Maher
Friday: 8.00am Francie & Ann Murphy
Saturday: 10.30am Ann O'Neill; Joe Lawlor
6.00pm Joey Lawless;
MM Eoghan Moran
MM Mary Lahert
Sunday: 10.00am Mary Butler; Catherine Dowling
11.00am Jim & Kitty Rice
Michael & Mai Loftus
11.30am Chris Harding; Joan Tallis
7.00pm Noel 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

A Day of Fast and Abstinence

There are two days each year when Catholics are asked to fast and abstain - Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting means that one full meatless meal can be eaten in the day. Two other meatless meals may be taken to maintain strength but together they should not exceed one full meal. Those in good health between the age of 18 and 59 are asked to observe the fast.

Prayer for Vocations

A Holy Hour to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life led by Fr Mark Condon, Danesfort will take place in St Joseph's Home, Little Sisters of the Poor, Ferrybank on 20th February at 7.00pm. All are welcome.

Happy Anniversary

To mark St. Valentine's Day this week we welcome to our 11.30am Mass on Sunday, 11th February couples who are celebrating wedding anniversaries. We thank them for their example and commitment and pray God's blessing upon them and their families.

Medjugorje Day of Prayer

Kilkenny Medjugorje Youth Group presents Medjugorje Day of Prayer on Saturday, 17th February in Brother Edmond Rice Centre, Callan, Co. Kilkenny. Starting at 9.00am, the day finishes at 3.00pm. Rosary, Prayer, Holy Mass, Confessions, Stations of the Cross, Testimonies, Adoration and lunch. No cover charge, donations on the day. All welcome to attend including families with young children. For further information please contact Joe: 086 312 8838 or Kalem: 083 024 0497.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Usually celebrated on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (11th February) we anticipated the World Day of Prayer for the Sick in our parish this year. We marked the occasion with a special Mass at St John's Church at which many people offered prayers for those who are ill and celebrated the Sacrament of the Sick with those present. Thanks to all who made the effort to come along and participate.

Trócaire Lenten Fast Boxes

The annual Trócaire Lenten Campaign begins on Ash Wednesday. Trócaire is the Irish word for Mercy. For the past fifty-one years people have shown great Trócaire to people who are poor and suffering all over the world. Trócaire boxes are available in all our churches. Please take a box and use it to support the work of Trócaire this Lent. (www.trocaire.org)