

Things that people are Doing for Lent Stations of the Cross

We will continue to pray the Stations of the Cross in St. John's Church at 7.00pm each Friday 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.

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.

Ministers of God's Word

New and existing Ministers of the Word are invited to join with Fr. Chris Hayden, Spiritual Director of St. Patrick's National Seminary, Maynooth to explore this sacred ministry. Venue: St. Kieran's College on Wednesday, 20th March at 8.00pm.

Chapter House Bookshop

Now open 5 days a week Monday to Friday from 9.30am until 5.00pm. In the wide range of products you can find religious gifts, for any occasion, including Holy Communion and Confirmation. We have a large variety of candles, holy water fonts, crucifixes, pictures and statues.

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 Those Away From Home

Loving God,
we pray for those whom we love,
but who are absent from us.
Keep them safe
from all harm, evil and danger.
Bless them
with peace, laughter,
wisdom, love and joy.
Grant that
we may be reunited
in the fullness of love;
in Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

Vienna Cobb Anderson

Cake Sale

Next weekend, a Cake Sale will take place in the Parish Centre after 6.00pm Mass on Saturday and 11.30am Mass on Sunday. This is to raise funds for the boys from CBS Secondary School who are travelling to Lourdes with the Ossory Pilgrimage in May. Your support is appreciated.



South Kilkenny Historical Society Lecture

Title: The Army Mutiny of 1924. Speaker: Mr John Dorney. Friday, 22nd March @ 8pm. Venue: Mullinavat Hall.

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 of Lent - 17th March 2024

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Why do we wear Shamrock on St Patrick's Day?

Most people know that St. Patrick was not born in Ireland. Some claim he was born in Wales. Others say Scotland or Brittany. But we do know that he was an immigrant to Ireland, who, it is believed, came here as a slave. St Patrick felt a call from God to spread the message of Christianity throughout this island. To help people understand better the mystery of the Triune God (Three person in one God) he used a piece of shamrock with three leaves. One leaf representing the Father, the other leaf representing the Son and the third leaf representing the Holy Spirit. This is why we wear shamrock today as a sign of our belief in the most Holy Trinity who also is worthy of all our praise and thanksgiving.

Hail Glorious St. Patrick

Did you know the hymn "Hail Glorious St Patrick" was written by Sister Mary Agnes McSweeney a native of Cobh, Co. Cork. Born in 1823 she entered the Mercy Convent in Charleville in 1843 and in 1866 she and seven other Mercy Sisters went to Bathurst, Sydney. There they established schools in the new diocese of Bathurst. Her death was recorded in the Australian Press as the 'Death of a Pioneer Sister of Mercy' and she was referred to as the 'one of the oldest Sisters of Mercy in the world' when she died in 1905.

The hymn appears to have been written at the beginning of the 1850s (c1853) and the nationalist reference to "ever bless and defend the sweet land of our birth" come just a few years after the Great Famine. The first reference to the hymn was about 1853 when it was published as No. 14 in Easy Hymns and attributed to Sr. Agnes, Convent of Charleville, Co Cork. In the convent archives in Charleville there are a number of letters dating to 1854 when Rev. Leslie Bunn, Presbyterian Archbishop of York, and Hon. President to the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland requested biographical data on Sr. Agnes, author of the hymn "Hail Glorious St. Patrick". He wanted to include it in an updated edition of a dictionary of hymns. The historical documents in Australia make reference to her proficiency in French and English literature, that she had a great interest in ancient and ecclesiastical history and as an author of both serious and humorous poetry. There is no reference to her musical ability.

Ceremony of Light

The Service of Light for those who are to be confirmed this year and their families will be celebrated in St. John's Church on this Tuesday, 19th March at 7.30pm. This service is a pre-Confirmation ceremony, which has been added to the Confirmation preparation process in recent years. The key part of the service is when parents hand the lighted Baptism candle to their child as an acknowledgement that the child is now ready to be a responsible Christian. Parents are asked to bring their child's baptismal candle, if available, to the service. If not available any candle will suffice.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Frank Murphy, Shandon Park. Dermot Phelan, Bishop Birch Place.
Margaret Power, Newpark Close. Ann Murphy, Loughboy.
Eamonn Campion, Tullaroan. Jim Lavin, Thornback Road.
Con Shanley, Talbot's Inch. Requiem Mass at St. Canice's at 11.00am on Tuesday.
Olena Tokarenko, Springhill Court Hotel and late of Ukraine.
Adam Gardas, Pennyfeather Green, Hebron Road. Frank Peagram, Ballyfoyle.

Months Mind: Claire Beale (6.00pm). Eleanor Johnston (Wed. 10.30am).

Anniversaries: Michael & Angela White (6.00pm); Seán Byrne; Benny Grogan (8.00am);
Maura & Patricia Gormley (10.00am); Billy & Jimmy McEvoy (11.00am); Margaret Dwyer
Mags Dineen (11.30am); Dixie Comerford; Frank Donovan; Mae Davitt; Jack Fitzpatrick; Josie
and Johnny Maher; Paddy and Ann Keyes.

*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 Mary Lynch
8.00am Padraig O'Neill
10.00am Teresa Dowling
11.00am Liam Burke & Liam Maddock
Eddie Holohan & Liz Holohan
11.30am Kathleen Ferguson
7.00pm Eileen Kinane



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€1,430.00
<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Baskets</u>
6.00pm St. John's	99	178.00
8.00am St. John's	98	455.00
10.00am Johnswell	45	127.00
11.00am Dunmore	81	168.00
11.30am St. John's	282	686.00
7.00pm St. John's	80	326.00
	685	1,940.00

Emigrants' Collection

The Annual Emigrants' Collection will take place at all Masses this St. Patrick's Weekend. This is a collection for the Irish Bishops' Emigrant Chaplaincy Outreach and will be used to support our emigrants who, for a variety of reasons, have fallen on poor times.

Lenten Alms Collection - Next Weekend

The annual Lenten Alms Collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend. This collection, which takes place in every parish, goes towards various charities nominated by the Pope. Your generous almsgiving will be much appreciated.

Eucharistic Adoration at Knock

Annual Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock takes place on Sunday, 14th April. Bus leaves Woodies' Carpark at 6.45am sharp. Cost €35. For details please contact 086 166 6547.

Parish Scripture Study Group

Because of the City Penitential Service and the Mass of the Lord's Supper over the next two weeks the Scripture Group meetings are postponed until after Easter.

Society of St Vincent De Paul Collection

The Monthly Collection for the local conference of the Society will take place next weekend, 23rd and 24th March. Thank you for your generous support. Please remember the local conference can be contacted in writing through the Parish Office or by telephone on 086 895 1239.

Give Blood Save a Life

Irish Blood Transfusion Service will be visiting O'Loughlin's Gaels GAA next week. Tuesday, 19th, Wednesday, 20th, Thursday, 21st and Monday, 25th March: 15.45pm to 20.00pm. Sunday, 24th March: 12.00pm to 15.30pm. Call 1800 222 111 to book an appointment. Check your eligibility at giveblood.ie. One blood donation can save up to three lives. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 18th March

Wednesday: 10.30am MM Eleanor Johnston
Saturday: 6.00pm Michael Monagle
Ann Kelly
MM Grace Sheridan
Sunday: 10.00am Mai Brophy
11.00am John, Agnes and Michael Stapleton
11.30am Eamon Hennessy
Jack and Mary Parle
7.00pm Ann Butler

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

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.

No 8.00am Mass on Bank Holiday Monday

Faith, Hope and Love: A City Lenten Retreat - This Week

The four parishes in the City Pastoral Area have arranged a city-wide Lenten Retreat on the first four days of the coming week. Fr. Billy Swan, Administrator of Wexford Parish, will lead the reflections on the first three evenings while Bishop Niall Coll will lead a Penitential Service on Thursday. Please note the different venues and make an effort to use this experience to prepare for Easter. This is a city wide event and we encourage parishioners to attend.

Monday, 18th March St Mary's Cathedral @ 7.30pm
Tuesday, 19th March St Patrick's Parish @ 7.30pm
Wednesday, 20th March St John's Parish @ 7.30pm
Thursday, 21st March St Canice's Parish @ 7.30pm – City Penitential Service

Synodal Conversations

Pope Francis is encouraging the Church throughout the world to continue with the synodal conversations - ensuring the voice of all in our Church is heard. Bishop Niall has asked that we continue that here in Ossory and therefore on Friday, 22nd March at 7.00pm in St. Kieran's College we are asking people to join with us for a conversation on how can we enhance the role of all the people of God in the mission of the Church. We look forward to welcoming you for this conversation.

Parish Senior Choir

Under the leadership of Leo Monagle and Mary Mealy this choir sings from the organ gallery at our 11.30am Mass every second Sunday and is available to sing at funerals and other services on request. The choir is long established and is currently seeking new members. They would love to hear from you. No auditions are held – just turn up and offer your services.

Annual Daffodil Day Cancer Service

The annual Daffodil Day Cancer Service will take place this year in St. Fiacre's Church, Loughboy on Wednesday, 20th March at 7.30pm. The service will be led by the Kilkenny Gospel Choir and the relic of St. Peregrine, patron saint of those whose lives have been touched by cancer, will be available for blessing.

Petitions for Lourdes Grotto

On Easter Sunday morning Fr. Dan will travel to Lourdes with the Irish Pilgrimage Trust. The trip provides a pilgrimage/holiday for young people with additional needs and an opportunity for their families to have some respite. If you would like us to place a petition at Our Lady's Grotto in Lourdes please place it in a sealed envelope marked "Lourdes Petition" and leave it into the Parish Office at your convenience. Petitions will not be opened but placed at the feet of Our Lady's statue at the Grotto in Lourdes during one of our visits to the shrine. Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette, pray for us.