

May the Month of Mary

May presents us with an opportunity for a traditional May Altar in our homes. Thanks to Jane for the wonderful example in St. John's Church - we welcome donations of flowers to keep this Altar 'fresh' during the month.

We also encourage you to pray the Rosary daily, (even one decade). Consider joining the parishioners who gather at St. John's Church at 10.10am each morning to recite the Rosary.

May – Mary's Month

'May is Mary's month.' So begins the poem "The May Magnificat" written by Gerard Manley Hopkins, the English Jesuit poet. May is the month that the Church dedicates to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, a month in which we are invited to walk in hand with Our Lady. The month of May is always part of the Easter Season, the fifty days during which we celebrate in the liturgy the Resurrection of Our Lord, a time also of awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Blessed Edmund Rice

On Monday, 5th May we celebrate the Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice, founder of the Christian and Presentation Brothers. Born in Callan in 1762, he was a successful businessman who was deeply moved by the poverty and lack of education among the poor of Waterford.

Prayer for the Election of a Pope

You are the eternal Shepherd who never leaves your flock unattended. In your boundless wisdom and providence, You guide your Church through the ages. As the College of Cardinals gathers to discern the successor of St. Peter, Send forth from the Holy Spirit, The Spirit of wisdom, counsel and understanding. Enlighten their minds, purify their hearts, and align their wills with Yours alone. Grant them unity in purpose, freedom from fear or favour, and a deep love for Christ and His Church. May their choice be guided by truth, and may the one chosen be a faithful shepherd after Your own heart – Holy, humble, courageous and wise. Amen.

Prayer for the Late Pope Francis

Loving God, we grieve for our beloved Pope Francis. We know you join us in our grief, that you too weep at the death of your dear friend and companion as Jesus did at the tomb of Lazarus. Welcome our beloved Pope Francis into your waiting arms. Envelop him in your eternal love. Comfort us in our mourning as we strive to continue to follow his Gospel example to encounter Christ in all people and in all places. We thank you for the gift of Pope Francis. Through his life and teaching, you showed us how to love and serve one another, how to hear the cries of the poor and the cries of the earth and respond in compassionate love.

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

Monsignor Dan Carroll: 087 907 7769. Fr Raymond Dempsey: 089 497 1924.

Monsignor Michael Ryan (Retired)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Mary Brennan; Jo Browne; Alan Burke; Fr Dan Carroll; Claire Coogan;
Fr Raymond Dempsey; Luke Leydon; Paddy Manning; 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.

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

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

**St. John's Parish, St. Mary's Parish, St. Patrick's Parish, St. Canice's Parish
together form the Kilkenny City Pastoral Area**

Third Sunday of Easter - 4th May 2025

There will be no 8.00am Mass on this Bank Holiday Monday

Our Parish's First Holy Communion Day – Next Weekend

Next Saturday, 10th May the pupils from St John's Junior School will receive their First Holy Communion in St John's Church. We will have two celebrations: one at 10.30am and another at 12.30pm. Please note that while welcome at this Mass, regular members of the 10.30am congregation may prefer to seek Mass elsewhere.

Next Sunday 11th May the pupils from Johnswell National School will receive their First Holy Communion at 10.00am in the Church of St John the Baptist, Johnswell.

These young people have been preparing over the past number of months, and we thank their families, the teachers and volunteers who put so much dedicated work into preparing them for the Sacrament. We keep all the boys and girls, their families, and teachers in our prayers.

Pope Francis - The World's Parish Priest

The Name Francis:

When he met the international press on 16th March 2013, he revealed that he had chosen the name Francis after the Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes whispered in his ear as the votes were being counted, "Do not forget the poor." He told the press, "How I would like a Church which is poor and for the poor!"

Pope Francis' Writings:

He wrote four encyclicals in 12 years, the first of which was the completion of a text already partly written by Benedict XVI, *Lumen Fidei* (June 2013). The other three were *Laudato Si'* (2015), *Fratelli Tutti* (2020) and *Dilexit Nos* (2024). He also wrote seven apostolic exhortations: *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013), *Amoris Laetitia* (2016), *Gaudete et Exultate* (2018), *Christus Vivit* (2019), *Querida Amazonia* (2020), *Laudate Deum* (2023) and *C'est la Confiance* (2023).

Pope Francis' Travels

Francis was the second-most-travelled pope in history. By 31st December 2025, he had made 47 foreign trips and visited 67 countries. Perhaps his most memorable trip, made in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, was to war-torn Iraq in March 2021, to give hope to its long-suffering people.

942 Saints Canonized

Francis' prolificacy in naming saints outpaced even that of St. John Paul II, who canonized 482 people during his 27 years as pope, more than all of his predecessors combined. Pope Francis named almost double that number in just 12 years.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased:

Attracta Bourke, Lacken Drive. Reposing at Johnston's Funeral Home from 5.00pm to 7.00pm on Sunday afternoon with Rosary and Vigil Prayers at 6.00pm. Requiem Mass in St. John's Church at 10.30am on Monday with burial afterwards in Foulkstown Cemetery.
Carmel Larkin, Dunmore John D. Dore, Freshford Road

Anniversaries: Bea Orr; Mary Lawless (6.00pm); Ellen, Martin, Christy & Martin Jnr Brennan; (11.00am); Johnny & Mai Butler (11.30am); Margaret & Matt Deegan; Luke & Ned Murphy; Margaret Butler; Margaret, Patrick, Josie, Phil & Mary Doran; Pauline Delaney; Jim Kelly; Patrick, Mary & Seán McGrath; William, Bridget & Liam Hanrahan; Dom Malone.

*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 Claire Coogan
8.00am Jo Browne
10.00am Seán Colgan
11.00am Eddie Holdan & Liz Holohan
11.30am Anne Maria Walsh & Kay Purcell
7.00pm Joan Scott



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:			
	Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm St. John's		119	355.00
8.00am St. John's		81	402.00
10.00am Johnswell		52	221.00
11.00am Dunmore		102	391.00
11.30am St. John's		190	589.00
7.00pm St. John's		82	362.00
		626	€2,320.00

Remembering Pope Francis

Beginning on the day of his funeral the universal Church continues the traditional nine days of mourning on the death of Pope Francis. Called the *Novemdiales*, this a mourning period during which nine Masses are offered for the late Pope. The *Novemdiales* transitions into the conclave to select a new pontiff. We continue to pray intensely for the late Pope during these nine days.

The Conclave – Statistics

There are 252 cardinals in the College of Cardinals; 135 cardinals will vote in the Conclave. 117 cardinals, who are over the age of 80, attend the daily meetings leading up to the conclave on 7th May. 36 cardinals who are non-electors were appointed by Pope John Paul II; 5 cardinals appointed by Pope John Paul II will enter the conclave. Pope Benedict appointed 62 cardinals: 22 will vote in the conclave and 40 are over age the age of 80. Pope Francis appointed 149 cardinals during his 12 years as Pope: 41 are over age and will not vote; 108 will attend the conclave. The cardinals who will enter the conclave represent 72 countries: 10 from USA, 16 Italians, 55 countries have a single cardinal elector; the continents of Asia and Europe both have 18 countries represented in the conclave and Africa will have 17 cardinals. 95 countries have a represent in the College of Cardinals; the oldest is Cardinal Angelo Acerbi who will turn 100 on 23rd September; the youngest member of the College of Cardinals is Cardinal Mykola Bychok, Eparchial Bishop of St Peter and Paul of Melbourne of the Ukrainians who was born in 1980.

Follow the Conclave and the Announcement of a New Pope

Two useful websites (www.cruxnow.com and www.ncronline.org) cover Church news in a balanced and detailed manner, offering news and analysis from journalists with decades of experience reporting on the Vatican. Worth a look.

Darkness into Light

Join us on Saturday, 10th May to show support and give hope to those affected by suicide. Start location at James Stephen's Barracks, Ballybought Street, Kilkenny at 3.40am.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning - 5th May

Monday:	10.30am	Requiem Mass: Attracta Bourke
Thursday:	10.30am	Margaret & Matt Deegan Luke & Ned Murphy
Saturday:	10.30am 12.30pm 6.00pm	First Holy Communion First Holy Communion MM Mark Whelan MM Maureen O'Keeffe MM Mary Cremin
Sunday:	10.00am 11.00am 11.30am 7.00pm	First Holy Communion Bridget & Thomas Comerford Michael Malone Nan, Willie, Noel & Martin Meany MM Cathy Dunne MM Maurice Dunne Jim Kelly

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.

Blessed Carlo Acutis

Following the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday, the Vatican announced that Carlo Acutis's canonization had been delayed indefinitely. "Following the death of the Supreme Pontiff Francis... the Rite of Canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis, scheduled to take place on 27th April 2025... is suspended" the Holy See Press Office wrote in a statement on the day of Francis' death. The reason? The Vatican considers canonization to be an infallible act—which can only be performed by a pope. Acutis's canonization is therefore on hold until the conclusion of the upcoming papal conclave.

Jubilee Year of Hope - Pilgrimage to Blessed Edmund Rice Centre

Bishop Niall invites you in this Jubilee Year of Hope to join with him and the Community for the celebration of Mass in Blessed Edmund Rice Chapel, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, on Tuesday, 6th May at 7.30pm. Theme: "Edmund Rice, a man of hope."

Jubilee Year of Hope - Pilgrimage to Lough Derg

Bishop Niall Coll extends an invitation to over 18s to join him on pilgrimage to Lough Derg from Friday, 30th May - Sunday, 1st June 2025. The pilgrimage with the theme "Finding our Way in the Wilderness" will be led by young adults. For information please contact the Ossory Diocesan Office. Telephone 056 776 2448. Email admin@ossory.ie

Information Evening on Pilgrimage to Lough Derg

Friday, 9th May 2025, St Patrick's Pastoral Centre, Loughboy. Bishop Niall invites you to come along to learn more about our Jubilee Year of Hope Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lough Derg, which will take place from 30th May – 1st June 2025. The pilgrimage is organised by the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team. For further information please contact the Ossory Diocesan Office. Tel 056 7762448, email at admin@ossory.ie .

Black Abbey Novena In Honour of Our Lady of Fatima

Monday, 5th – Tuesday, 13th May: The Black Abbey, Kilkenny. Preacher: Fr John Walsh OP
Monday to Friday: Rosary each day at 10.00am and 7.00pm. Mass at 10.30am and 7.00pm.
Thursday, 8th May: Special Day of Prayer for Students.
Saturday: Mass at 10.00am and 6.10pm. Sunday: Day for the Sick with the Sacrament of the Sick at 3.00pm.

Rosary Rally

A Rosary Rally will take place on next Saturday 10th May at 4.00pm at the Statue of Our Lady of Kilkenny in James' Green, Kilkenny. All are welcome.