

Pope Leo XIV

At 7.23pm (Roman Time) the first American-born pope, Leo XIV, came onto the balcony amid roars from the crowd. His first words as Holy Father were in Italian: “Peace be with all of you!” He referenced his background in his initial address to those gathered in St. Peter’s Square: “I am a son of Saint Augustine, an Augustinian.” He said, “With you I am a Christian, for you a bishop. So may we all walk together towards that homeland that God has prepared for us.”

Pope Leo XIV was born 14th September 1955, in Chicago. He joined the Augustinian Order in 1977, making his solemn vows in 1981. He joined their mission in Peru in 1985 and largely worked in that country until 1999, when he was elected head of the Augustinians’ Chicago-based province. From 2001 to 2013, he served as Prior General of the worldwide order.

In 2014, Pope Francis named him bishop of Chiclayo, in northern Peru, and the Pope asked him also to be apostolic administrator of Callao, Peru, from April 2020 to May 2021.

Pope Francis called him to the Vatican in January 2023. During a talk at St. Jude’s Parish in Chicago in August, the then-cardinal said Pope Francis nominated him “specifically because he did not want someone from the Roman Curia to take on this role. He wanted a missionary; he wanted someone from outside; he wanted someone who would come in with a different perspective.” The new Pope speaks English, Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese and can read Latin and German.

Irish Bishops Welcome New Pope

Archbishop Martin of Armagh welcomed the appointment of Pope Leo XIV and commented that he “is a missionary at heart with a breadth of international experience and background – having ministered in three continents. His opening words about peace and ‘building bridges’ indicate that he wishes to work for reconciliation and unity in the Church and in the world.”

Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin welcomed Pope Leo XIV saying that he brings a great wealth of experience to his new mission: as a missionary, as an American, as a diocesan bishop and his experience of the worldwide Church in his previous work as world leader of the Augustinian Order. Commenting that there would be continuity with the work of Pope Francis, though distinguishing him to being the successor of St. Peter rather than successor of Pope Francis.

Bishop Martin Hayes of Kilmore rejoiced at the announcement of Pope Leo XIV giving thanks “for a mathematician, a canon lawyer, a religious missionary priest, a bishop of the global south, and a cardinal familiar with the workings of the Church in Rome who will now lead the Catholic Church throughout the world”.

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon him
with all the graces he needs
to be a courageous and gentle shepherd.
Fill him with faith, hope and love.

May he govern with wisdom
and fidelity to Christ and the Gospel.

May he be an inspiring missionary
of peace, healing and reconciliation in the world.

Give him health and strength
to do all that you ask of him.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Seamus Clifford, Pearse Street

Michael Griffin, Slieverue

Mary Coleman, Essex

Months Mind: Mark Whelan; Maureen O’Keeffe; Mary Cremin (6.00pm).

Cathy Dunne; Maurice Dunne (11.30am).

Anniversaries: Bridget & Thomas Comerford (11.00am); Nan, Willie, Noel & Martin Meany; Michael Malone; (11.30am); Jim Kelly (7.00pm); Patrick O’Brien; Babs Foley; Thomas McGuinness; Pat & Mai Shortis; Shelia Lane; Arthur & Barbara Blake; Margaret Rita Trehay; Bill Bergin; Jean Barry; Josie Delaney; Patrica Casey; Margaret Tyrrell; Mary Walsh; William Brophy; John Naxi Noonan; John Madden; Tom Byrne; Sally Goulding.

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 Billy Phelan
10.00am Elaine Bennett
11.00am Christy Murray & Maise Powell
11.30am Frank & Emily Bradley
7.00pm Anne Marie Grace



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection: €1,245.00

Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm St. John’s	136	278.00
8.00am St. John’s	84	367.00
10.00am Johnswell	48	211.00
11.00am Dunmore	69	223.00
11.30am St. John’s	186	711.00
7.00pm St. John’s	84	330.00
	607	€2,120.00

First Holy Communion This Weekend

Congratulations to the pupils from St. John’s Junior School and Johnswell National School who receive their First Holy Communion this weekend. They were blessed with a great day and a wonderful celebration. We look forward to and encourage their return visits to our church for Sunday Masses where they will continue to receive the Eucharist. We thank their parents, families, teachers and volunteers who put so much work into getting them ready for the Sacrament.

Rosary at the Grotto

The Rosary will be recited each Sunday during the month of May at the Grotto on the Callan Road at 3.00pm. All are welcome.

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.

Ossory Lourdes Pilgrimage Collection

The Annual Ossory Lourdes Collection will take place at all Masses next weekend.

Barn Owl Players

The Barn Owl Players present ‘The McGowan Trilogy’ a play in 3 acts in Thomastown Concert Hall on Thursday, 15th, Friday, 16th and Saturday, 17th May at 7.30pm. Tickets on Eventbrite or at the door.

Do You Want to Study Theology?

The Priory Institute Theology Open Day: is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Click here or visit our website prioryinstitute.com to find out more about our Open Day on Saturday, 24th May.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning - 5th May

Wednesday: 10.30am Thomas McGuinness
Pat & Mai Shortis
Friday: 10.30am Sheila Lane
Saturday: 10.30am John Madden
6.00pm James Gilmartin
Sunday: 8.00am Paddy Brennan
10.00am Joe Manning
11.00am Bridget & Carmel McEvoy
11.30am **MM** Sheila Gaule

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

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, 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.

Good Shepherd Sunday

“The Diocese of Ossory, in union with the Church throughout the world at this special time, prays for and actively encourages young men and women to walk as pilgrims of hope on the path of the Gospel by discerning whether the Lord is calling them to service as priests and religious. As a Diocese, let us never tire of asking the Lord for new labourers for his harvest, certain that with great love he continues to call young people to proclaim with their lives that following Christ in the ordained ministry is a great source of joy and hope. Anyone interested in finding out more about the diocesan priesthood in Ossory is kindly invited to find additional information at www.ossory.ie/vocations.

Please find here a link to a video prepared to mark this Good Shepherd Sunday here in the Diocese of Ossory, where I offer some thoughts on the importance, now and always, of the ministry of priests. If you think God may be calling you to be a priest in the Diocese of Ossory, find out more on our website: www.ossory.ie/vocations.” (Bishop Niall Coll)

‘The spirit of the Lord has been given to me; He has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken.’ (Isaiah 61:1)

Whose voice will you follow – the Good Shepherd’s or a stranger’s?

Pray for a listening heart. (John 10:1–10)

Ossory Seminarian to Speak at Masses

This weekend we welcome to our parish Eoin Madigan, who is currently studying for the priesthood in St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth. Eoin will speak at a number of our parish Masses on this Sunday. We welcome Eoin, thank him for his insights and wish him well in his preparation for the priesthood in our diocese.

Kilkenny Medjugorje Youth - Bake Sale

Kilkenny Medjugorje Youth Group is holding a Bake Sale on Saturday, 24th May in St John’s Day Centre after the 10.30am and 6.00pm Masses. Donations of baked goods are very welcome and can be dropped to the Centre before Mass. There will be a raffle with fantastic prizes donated by local businesses. Come along for a sweet treat and a chance to win a prize in our raffle. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Pope Francis’ Final Gift to Gaza

Pope Francis requested that his popemobile be turned into a health clinic for the children of Gaza. His popemobile is being transformed into a mobile health unit for the children of Gaza. It is being outfitted with equipment for diagnosis, examination, and treatment with life-saving supplies. Peter Brune, Secretary General of Caritas Sweden, commented: “It’s not just a vehicle... It’s a message that the world has not forgotten about the children in Gaza.”