

Ms Geraldine Patterson Retirement

At the end of August Ms Geraldine Patterson will conclude her time as Principal of Johnswell NS. To mark her retirement after 32 years teaching in Johnswell (8 years as Principal) a Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated in St John the Baptist Church, Johnswell on Friday, 5th September at 7.30pm followed by light refreshments. All are welcome to attend and show their appreciation.

National Heritage Week at Mayfair Library
26th August at 6.00pm - James Stephens, 1825-1901 Life and Legacy. This is a free presentation on the life of James Stephens.

St John's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

A big thank you to all who travelled on our Pilgrimage to Knock on last Thursday. A great day was had by all. We convey our heartfelt thanks to Frank Cody for organising the day and to Fr. Dan, Fr Joseph Lubula & Fr David Murphy for leading the Pilgrimage.

The Priory Institute

Study Theology Online, 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. Register now to begin on 20th September. Find out more on our website, prioryinstitute.com

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; Karna 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

Leaving Certificate Students

Heartiest congratulations to those who received Leaving Certificate results on last Friday. We hope you are pleased with your achievements and find yourself in a position to acquire the college place or work placement for which you wished and worked. Well done on all your hard work and best wishes for the future.

Inner Healing Retreat Kilkenny

Faith Formation based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and Inner Healing and Adoration.

Led by Fr. Prince Clarence S.J.

Date: Wednesday, 27th August

Time: 6.30pm – 10.30pm

Confessions before Mass
Holy Mass and Adoration
Church of the Assumption,
Main Street, Paulstown

Contact: **Eugene:** 086 381 8030

Margaret: 087 231 2066

Email: ruachministry5@gmail.com

Just a Thought from the Bible...

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will be my servant also.

Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

John 12:26

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**

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time - 24th August 2025

Farewell and Best Wishes

Frs. Dan, Michael and Joseph lead the people of St. John's Parish in wishing farewell to Fr. Raymond on his transfer. This will be Fr. Raymond's last weekend in the parish, and we join in praying God's blessing on him as he takes up his new appointment as Chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital. Raymond is a native of Kilmacow in South Kilkenny and, since his ordination in 1997, has ministered in a number of parishes in Ossory, including an earlier appointment to St. John's in 2004 – 2005 and his more recent assignment here since August 2021. Fr. Raymond has been involved in many areas of parish life over the past four year and he will be missed. We wish him God's blessing as he takes on new responsibilities and duties at the hospital. All are invited to a reception in the Parish Hall following the 11.30am Mass on Sunday. *Ad multos annos.*

Day of Prayer and Reflection for Gaza

Parishes across Ireland are invited to unite in a Day of Prayer and Reflection for Gaza on this Sunday, 24th August 2025. All are invited to pray and reflect in a particular way for the suffering people of Gaza.

"Ireland's Bishops have condemned, in the strongest terms, the genocidal acts being carried out with the sanction of the Israeli government, actions that have led to the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians. Such disproportionate violence is described as "unconscionable... and immoral for world leaders to stand by inactively." The ongoing suffering of hostages held by Hamas and the cruel withholding of their remains from their families is also acknowledged and unequivocally condemned. In the face of such darkness, this call to prayer is a call to hope," Archbishop Martin said.

Parishioners at St. John's are invited to take part in this time of prayer and reflection. Whether as a parish or in the quiet of your own home, please consider:

- Offering your Sunday Mass for peace in Gaza
- Spending time in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament – we suggest you come to St. John's Church for public adoration between 3.30pm and 4.30pm on Sunday afternoon
- Praying the Rosary for peace and justice
- Lighting a candle at home or in your parish church
- Making a small personal sacrifice or act of penance
- Reaching out to your political representatives to advocate for justice and humanitarian aid
- Supporting trusted aid organisations bringing relief to Gaza

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Marie Griffin, Ardilea. Requiem Mass in St. John's Church at 10.30am on Monday followed by interment in Ennis.

David Kelly, Dublin & late of Shandon Park

Eleanor Connelly, Assumption Place

Emma Cody, Kilkenny City

Patricia Mullen, Dunbell,

Betty Cassin, New Orchard Estate

Eilish Hackett, Callan

Months Mind: Mary Pierce (11.00am).

Michael Comerford (11.30am).

Anniversaries: Jacqueline Kiely (6.00pm); Tom Tobin (10.00am); Dick Maher; Bishop Seamus Freeman; Nance O'Neill; Patrick Ruth; Dom Tynan; Theresa Ryan; Bridget & Bernard Taylor; Patricia Bobby Burke; Richard Dixie Leahy; Natalie Hunt; Mary & Paddy Halley;

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 Fiona McGeary & Anne Marie Ryan
11.30am Paula Rogers & James Connolly
7.00pm Anne Marie Grace



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection: €1,120.00

	Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm St. John's	134		218.00
8.00am St. John's	81		291.00
10.00am Johnswell	62		136.00
11.00am Dunmore	74		225.00
11.30am St. John's	201		351.00
7.00pm St. John's	92		193.00
	644		€1,414.00

My Last Weekend in St John's Parish

As I come to the last weekend in St John's Parish, I am filled with gratitude for the last four extremely happy years spent here. It has been a pleasure to minister in St. John's and my life as a priest has been greatly blessed and enriched by that experience. It is my hope that in some small and humble way I have touched the lives of the people I've encountered.

I had the privilege of marking the Silver Jubilee of Ordination to Priesthood in St. John's in June 2022 and I will always hold that memory dear. Rather than getting into a long list of people, with the danger of leaving someone out, I'd like to say a sincere word of thanks to all those (priests and people) who have been part of my life in St. John's Parish.

I am truly grateful for your kindness, support and encouragement. For any of us, no matter what our path in life, family and friends are a constant support amid all the changes we encounter, and I give thanks to God for the blessing of my parents and siblings and many great friends. Finally, I thank God who has called me and who, despite my own human failings and shortcomings, I try to serve to the best of my ability. As I move on to the next part of the journey the words of St. Paul writing in his Letter to the Ephesians seem very fitting: - "Glory be to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen."

Please keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine.

Fr Raymond

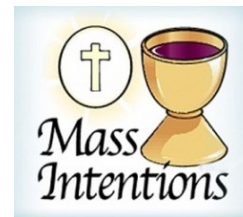
Prayer for Gaza

What can we do? This is a moment for our nation to radiate the light of Christ into the darkness, a light of peace, of justice and of hope for our world. Let us stand together, as one body in Christ, for the people of Gaza and for all who long for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land.

Please join us in St. John's Church at 3.30pm on this Sunday for an hour of quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for an end to all hostilities on Gaza.

In the face of such darkness, this call to prayer is a call to hope.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 25th August



Monday: 8.00am Dick Maher
10.30am Marie Griffin, Ardilea
Saturday: 6.00pm Mary O'Brien (nee Dowd)
Joe Doheny
Sunday: 8.00am Marian Phelan
11.00am Tom Ryan
Daniel & Ann McEvoy
11.30am MM Michael Comerford
7.00pm Mary O'Brien

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. Amen.

Charity Awareness Walk in Memory of Aislinn Nelson Comerford

A Charity Awareness Walk in Memory of Aislinn Nelson Comerford will take place in Dunmore Countryside Park, Castlecomer Road entrance, (Eircode: R95 HD50), on Saturday, 6th of September at 2.00pm. All donations received go to Thrombosis Ireland and The Irish Heart Foundation. There will also be collection 'buckets' on the day. Online donations can be made on Just Giving, 'Aislinn's Step Forward for Thrombosis.'

Donations: <https://tinyurl.com/AisieWalk>. All welcome, young and old.



Season Of Creation

In his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis urges us to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. We are more than aware that our world is facing a devastating biodiversity crisis as well as a climate crisis. To mark the Season of Creation (1st September – 4th October), St. John's Parish will introduce an eco-garden in the grounds of our parish church. This will be a small symbolic action, declaring our commitment to care more deeply for God's Creation. By doing so our parish is responding to *Laudato Si'* Goal 1: Responding to the Cry of the Earth. You can read more about the *Laudato Si'* Goals at www.laudatosiactionplatform.org. Our garden will be on the west side of the church adjacent to the accessible entrance ramp. Initially the grass will be left uncut, and the area will be established over the next while. Parishioners interested in developing this project are invited to leave their details into the Parish Office. 'All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.' (*Laudato Si'*, 14).

Society of St Vincent De Paul Collection

The Monthly Collection for the local conference of the Society will take place this weekend, 23rd and 24th August. The local conference can be contacted on 086 895 1239.

Rosary at St James's Green

Rosary will be recited at St. James's Green on Thursday, 28th of August at 6.30pm for the pro-life cause. All are welcome.

Back to School

Best wishes to all the boys and girls from our parish who start or return to school this week. We also pray God's blessings on our teachers and staff as they begin the new academic year. We wish health, happiness and wisdom for all.

O'Loughlin Gaels Senior Hurlers

Well done to our Senior Hurlers on a fine win over Ballyhale Shamrocks on Saturday afternoon.