

### Knock Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, organised by the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, will take place on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September. Coach leaving Kilkenny at 8.00am. Cost €25. All are welcome. If interested call 087 255 9820.

### Side-by-Side Club

Following the summer break the fun-filled and exciting Side-by-Side Club resumed on last Thursday. The Club meets at the St. John's Parish Hall every Thursday from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. New members are most welcome, contact Helen on 083 406 8148.

### French Language Classes

The Alliance Française in Kilkenny offers classes in French, with enrolment on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September from 7.00pm in the Club House Hotel (where the classes will be run). So, if you are a beginner and want to know what do you say after you say "Bonjour", or you want to revive your school French, or get better value from your French holiday or are good at French but need to practice it and build on that, well, there are classes for all levels. There are Leaving and Junior Cert French classes also. Discover some *Joie de Vive* at the Alliance Française.

[www.afkilkenny.org](http://www.afkilkenny.org); [info@afkilkenny.org](mailto:info@afkilkenny.org) or call 087 429 0303 for details.

### Breast Cancer Awareness

The awareness month takes place 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025. For further information, please log onto [www.breastcancerireland.com](http://www.breastcancerireland.com).

### For Bereaved Parents

Anam Cara Tipperary, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Face to Face Parent Support Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Horse and Jockey Hotel, Thurles, E41 AP8. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age of their child, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. There is no need for registration, this is 'come-as-you-are' event. We also offer online support group meetings. Call 01 404 5378 or email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)

### Michael English and His Band

"Faith, Hope & Inspiration Concert" in Thurles Cathedral on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, in aid of the Cathedral Reroofing Project. Ticket Donation: €30 - now on sale in Parish Office, Cathedral Street, Thurles 0504 22 229, Bookworm, Liberty Square 0504 22 257 and Holycross Abbey Shop 0504 43 124.

### Parish Newsletter

Please get notices for publication into the Parish Office as early in the week as possible.

**Address:** St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. R95 ND2W

**Email:** [stjohns@ossory.ie](mailto:stjohns@ossory.ie) **Website:** [www.stjohnskilkenny.com](http://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](mailto:dlp@ossory.ie)

### OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

### Counselling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline

1800 313 316 - [www.towardshealing.ie](http://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**

### Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### Saint Carlo Acutis

Carlo Acutis (3<sup>rd</sup> May 1991 – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006) was a British-born Italian student celebrated for his devotion to the Eucharist and his use of digital media to promote Catholic devotion. Born in London and raised in Milan, he created a website documenting Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions. Diagnosed with leukaemia, he died at age fifteen. Beatified in 2020, he is regarded as a model for young believers and will be canonised as a saint on this Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September. Acutis is often referred to as the "first millennial saint".

### Canonisation of Saints Pier Giorgio Fracatti and Carlo Acutis

The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, will canonise Pier Giorgio Fracatti and Carlo Acutis in Rome on this Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September. There will be a live stream presentation of the ceremony in the Chapter House, St. Mary's Cathedral from 9.00am to 12.00 noon, organised by the Lay Dominicans. Light refreshments will be available in aid of Teach Tom.

The Community School in Castlecomer has a relic of Carlo Acutis and during school holidays it is honoured in the Parish Church in Castlecomer. A special reliquary which has been commissioned to display the relic and the sacred space can be visited until the end of the month when the relic returns to the Community School. To quote Carlo: "Our aim had to be infinite and not finite... All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies". Blessed Carlo put the Sacrament of the Eucharist as the centre of his life and referred to it as "my highway to heaven".

At 11.00am on this Sunday Bishop Coll will celebrate Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Castlecomer to mark the canonisation. The bishop will bless all present with the first-class relic of the new Saint Carlo Acutis which is currently reserved in the Parish Church

### Altar Servers

Now that the schools have reopened our young people are invited to consider the ministry of Altar Server in all our churches. Altar Servers should have received their First Holy Communion and be willing to take their place on a rota to serve at Mass. Servers are supervised by their parents under the guidance of our parish safeguarding representatives. Application Forms are available in the Sacristies or Parish Office.

### St. Mary's Cathedral Draw 2025/2026

A new cycle of draws will begin at the end of September, and tickets are available from the Parish Office or any of the priests. Draws take place on the last Wednesday of each month. Tickets cost €10 per month. Over the past ten years the draw has raised over €800,000, a figure which testifies to the generosity and commitment of so many people around the Diocese. Your renewed support and generosity towards our diocesan cathedral are greatly appreciated.

### Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

**Recently Deceased:** David Dillon, Johnswell  
Kay Casserly, Cedarwood Avenue  
Mary Reddy, Cuffesgrange  
Bridget Treacy (nee Banim), formerly Assumption Place Kathleen Renehan, Johnstown

**Months Mind:** Angela McEvoy (11.00am).  
Mary Meany (11.30am).

**Anniversaries:** Bridget and Denis Guilfoyle (11.00am); Theresa Byrne; Michael & Michelle Reynolds; Martin Shelly (11.30am); Bernadette Hayes; Edward Ryan (7.00pm); Bernard Doyle; Fran Phelan; Tommy Dillon; Catherine Carroll; Patrick Culleton; Martin Ward; Joey Downey; Maureen Holden; Anne McDermott; Mary Barry; Billy Burke; Louise Kealy; Elizabeth & Stella O'Rourke; Mark Dowd.

| Readers for Next Weekend |                                 | Attendance/Collections Last Weekend |            |           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 6.00pm                   | Mairin Bergin                   | Envelope Collection:                | €1,050.00  |           |
| 8.00am                   | Padraig O'Neill                 | Mass                                | Attendance | Baskets   |
| 10.00am                  | Eve Brennan & Anna Ryan         | 6.00pm St. John's                   | 150        | 227.00    |
| 11.00am                  | Eddie Holohan & Liz Holohan     | 8.00am St. John's                   | 92         | 220.00    |
| 11.30am                  | Anne Maria Walshe & Kay Purcell | 10.00am Johnswell                   | 62         | 145.00    |
| 7.00pm                   | Eileen Kinane                   | 11.00am Dunmore                     | 123        | 230.00    |
|                          |                                 | 11.30am St. John's                  | 182        | 452.00    |
|                          |                                 | 7.00pm St. John's                   | 93         | 274.00    |
|                          |                                 |                                     | 702        | €1,548.00 |



### Integritas, Ennisnag

The Wednesday evenings of contemplative prayer will resume here on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, at 8.00pm. They will continue on each Wednesday evening until 17<sup>th</sup> of December. On that evening, we will be launching a new edition of the booklet on contemplative prayer which is used here during these evenings of prayer.

There will be no evening of contemplative prayer here on the Wednesday evenings of Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve and these evenings will then resume on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

The next day event at *Integritas* is on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, commencing at 10.00am and not on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, as previously advertised. This evening will focus upon the relationship each of us has with the universal Church, humanity and creation as part of an ongoing course exploring the different dimensions of what Pope Francis termed 'missionary discipleship', which itself means "to bear witness to what has been contemplated, to the encounter one has had with the God of life." (Pope Leo XIV, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025).

Further information: 087 293 6951, 087 227 0969; enquiries@integritas.ie; www.integritas.ie

### Retired Teachers' Association

The Annual Mass for deceased members will be celebrated in St. Fiace's Church on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am. Our choir group will sing. Later we will meet in Springhill Court Hotel for some coffee and scones. We usually use this event as a charity fundraiser so please bring some cash to donate to the Amber Women's Refuge Centre. We hope to do a short survey at this event to find out what kind of activities our members would like to do in the upcoming months. Please invite any recently retired teachers to join us for the Mass and coffee.

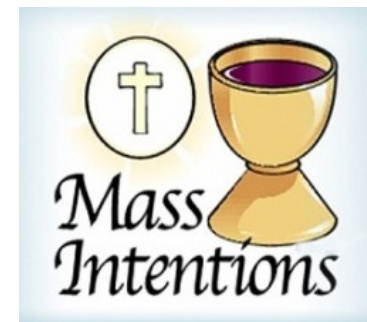
Our choir will resume on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September in Bollards at 3.00pm. We will be preparing songs for our Christmas lunch on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December (please keep this date in mind) and for a National Choir event in the Spring. New members are welcome.

### Evening of Prayer

A Medjugorje evening of prayer with Rosary, Mass, Adoration and Prayer for Healing will be held at St. Fiace's Church, Loughboy at 7.30pm on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> September. All are welcome.

### Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 8<sup>th</sup> September

|            |         |                                     |
|------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday:    | 8.00am  | Elizabeth and Stella O'Rourke       |
| Tuesday:   | 10.30am | Jimmy Dowd                          |
| Wednesday: | 10.30am | Remembrance Mass                    |
| Saturday:  | 10.30am | John Mulhern                        |
|            |         | John & Ann Breen                    |
|            | 6.00am  | Mary Marnell                        |
|            |         | Eoin Donovan                        |
|            |         | Aine & Tom Dooley                   |
|            |         | David Kelly MM                      |
| Sunday:    | 11.00am | Michael Roche                       |
|            |         | Dan & Mary O'Hanlon                 |
|            | 11.30am | Clare, Richard & Catherine Shortall |



### Why Sunday Matters

#### *An Invitation to Reflect on Sunday Mass*

Speaking on last Sunday in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow at the launch of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter "Why Sunday Matters" Bishop Denis Nulty said: -

"Today's Pastoral was born out of the experience of the Covid Pandemic. We never wish to return to those times, yet its experience was in a sense, a grace in itself. The Eucharist, the Sunday Mass was removed from its worst enemy, which as the Capuchin Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa described as "being turned into just a routine habit, into something we take for granted, or reduced to no more than a pious practice". The Eucharistic Congress in Dublin in 2012 had the theme 'Communion with Christ and Communion with One Another'. This is what we missed most during those pandemic days. Sunday worship was disrupted, the sacramental life of the parish was put on hold. Some have not returned to worship and some had never connected. Today across the island, in every diocese, in every parish, all are encouraged to return.

Sunday Mass is our way of affirming that life has meaning. Sunday Mass is where God's story and ours meet. In opening ourselves and listening to His story, our own in a very broken and wounded world makes sense. Mass is a reenactment of the death and resurrection of Jesus, first celebrated at the Last Supper, this we participate in on the Lord's Day, that's why we call it 'Keeping Holy the Lord's Day' or 'Keeping Holy the Sabbath'. Just ask yourself what has replaced your Sunday worship? What has allowed it to slip? How might it be re-prioritised?"

To show our commitment to the Season of Creation a limited number of hard copies are available, with the hope that people might read it online or download it from the Bishops' Website. It is hoped the Pastoral will manage to stimulate rich conversation at Sunday brunch or lunch tables, or at Parish Pastoral Council or Parish Team meetings. The questions that might spark such conversation come at the end of the Pastoral. Have a look for yourself.

### Traveller Suicide Prevention Campaign

"Remembrance" will be the theme of our 10.30am Mass at St. John's Church on Wednesday. To mark the National Traveller Suicide and Mental Health Awareness Campaign which runs from 10<sup>th</sup> September to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 St. John's Parish will host this Mass with some refreshments and a talk to follow in the Parish Hall. Members of the travelling community, supported by our Senior Choir, will take a leading role in the liturgy. Members of the congregation are invited to bring pictures or articles associated with deceased friends for blessing during the ceremony. This is a public parish event, and all are invited to come to remember our deceased relatives and friends while offering hope and support for Travellers impacted by suicide and highlighting the need to address Traveller mental health inequalities through policy and service provision.