

St. John's National School Enrolment

An Open Night will be held on Wednesday, 7th January 2026 in St. John's National School, Michael Street. If you are interested in a place for your child, please come along.

Pope's Prayer Intentions for December 2025

Pope Leo has called for prayers for Christians who are enduring the hardships of war and conflict, particularly in the Middle East. His intention emphasises the need for these individuals to embody peace and reconciliation in their communities.

"Emmanuel God with Us" -

Diocesan Carol Service

Join us for our City and Diocesan Carol Service in St Mary's Cathedral, this Sunday, 21st December at 7.30pm. An evening of prayer, reflection, music and song. All welcome.

Society of St Vincent De Paul Says 'Thank You'

The members say a sincere thank you for all your generous support at last weekend's collection and throughout the year. Your donation will help families in our parish with basics such as food and fuel. Please give what you can; you could save someone from impossible choices this winter. We can be contacted on 051 350 725 if anyone is in need.

Christmas Carol 1941

I see the North Star
and the North Star sees me,
But who sees the Star of Peace
In the East cloudy?

I see the donkey plod
Through the deep snow
But where can the Mother of God
In this storm go?

I see the Three Wise Kings,
They've lost their way,
Wandering around in rings
Day after day.

I see the Son of God
In the straw where he lies,
But I hear no angel sing
Peace in the skies.

I see countless stars
And the countless stars see me,
But no one sees the Star of Peace
In the East, cloudy.

(Patrick Kavanagh)

The Ossory Times

The Christmas 2025 edition of the Ossory Times - our diocesan magazine - is available in the church porches this weekend. Cost is only €2 for a information filled colourful magazine.

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: 051 350 725

Monsignor Dan Carroll: 087 907 7769. Fr Tom O'Toole: 087 224 0787.
Fr. Paul Kasu 087 390 5060. Monsignor Michael Ryan (Retired)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Mary Brennan; Jo Browne; Alan Burke; Fr Dan Carroll; Claire Coogan;
Fr. Paul Kasu; Luke Leydon; Paddy Manning; Iris O'Flynn; Fr Tom O'Toole; 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**

Fourth Sunday in Advent - 21st December 2025

Christmas Mass Times in St. John's Parish 2025

Wednesday, 23rd December St. John's: 8.00am and 10.30am

Christmas Eve, 24th December St. John's: 10.30am

St. John's: 6.00pm and 9.00pm

Dunmore: 7.00pm

Johnswell: 8.00pm

Christmas Day, 25th December St John's: 8.00am and 11.30am

Johnswell: 10.00am

Dunmore: 11.00am

Friday, 26th December St. John's: 10.30am

Saturday and Sunday, 27th and 28th December Masses at usual times.

Monday, 29th to Saturday, 3rd January 10.30am each day at St. John's Church.

Wednesday, 31st December: Dunmore: 11.00pm Say farewell to the old and welcome the New Year with an hour of prayer and reflection at Dunmore Church.

Please inform your relatives and friends of the above times and invite them to come along.

Annual Kilkenny Christmas Crib Walk

To mark the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Annual Kilkenny Church Christmas Crib Walk will take place on St. Stephen's Day. The walk begins at the Friary Church at 11.00am and everyone is welcome to take part. This cherished tradition is now in its twenty-second year, and it continues to bring families, friends, and parish groups together in a spirit of faith, reflection, and goodwill. Fr. Willie Purcell will lead the walk and will offer moments of prayer and reflection along the way. May this year's walk deepen our sense of community and strengthen our shared hope for peace during this blessed season.

St Carlo Acutis

The relic of St Carlo Acutis will be in Castlecomer Parish Church during the Christmas season. All welcome to visit and pray through his intercession for their needs.

Webcam - Back in Action

Our webcam was repaired last Wednesday and is working again. It was a huge loss for the last couple of weeks. We apologise for any inconvenience. We are amazed with the response to the time off air - people from many parts of the parish, city, around the country and wider afield contacted us to enquire about the problem. As Christmas approaches we greet all those who join in our services on webcam and are pleased to welcome you as part of our parish community and congregation.



Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: John “Jackie” Banim, Greenshill. Reposing in Johnston’s Funeral Home between 5.00 and 7.00pm on Sunday. Requiem Mass in St. John’s Church at 10.30 on Monday. Fr. Tom McGree, Cullahill. Requiem Mass in Cullahill Church at 12.00 noon on Tuesday. John Gorey, Riverview. Requiem Mass in St. Fiace’s Church at 10.30am on Tuesday. Bill Walsh, The Orchard Teresa Delaney, Troy’s Court Mary Lawlor, Waterford Road

Months Mind: Carl Widger (6.00pm).

Anniversaries: Declan Lanigan; Paddy, Michael & Catherine Keogh (6.00pm); Dylan Whearty (11.30am) Theresa Mahony (7.00pm); Maura Mealy; Eily & John P. Francis; Richard & Joan Dempsey; John & Mamie Brett; Terry & Seán Brett; Patricia Lewis; Lena Cassidy & Family; Nicholas Dunne; Peggy Blanchfield; Mary Loughman; Paddy & Greg Moynihan; George Byrne; Dick & Patrick Burke; Séamus & Milo Fry; Patrick & Rose Wixted; Mary Dowling Wixted; Dick & Ann Holohan; Anne Donovan; Billy Phelan; Mícheal Downey; Johanna & Michael Kelly; Margaret Coleman; Joseph Fogarty; Ted Carroll; Rose Phelan; Margaret Phelan; Jim Magner; Rose Magner.

Those we love don’t go away, they walk beside us every day.

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Mairin Bergin
8.00am Niamh Carroll
10.00am Betsy Rice
11.00am Martina Brennan & Tom Keating
11.30am Kathleen Ferguson & Susan Bofin
7.00pm Joan Galwey



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€2,050.00
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm St. John’s	163	326.00
8.00am St. John’s	75	228.00
10.00am Johnswell	48	73.00
11.00am Dunmore	85	178.00
11.30am St. John’s	202	455.00
7.00pm St. John’s	115	258.00
	688	€1,518.00

Thank You

Sincere thanks to the many wonderful people who help in our parish. We say thanks to those in our parish office, sacristies, presbytery and church grounds. We are grateful for those who distributed the envelopes in the lead up to Christmas and to those who put up the banners, erected the cribs and the Christmas trees. We all admire the beautiful decorations and flowers in our churches - thanks to those who provide the candles and flowers. Those who act as ushers and those who collect and count the money are also vital to the running of the parish. We are also appreciative of the work of the readers, Eucharistic Ministers, choir members and musicians. Many of you work quietly behind the scenes but please be assured that your important work helps to build up the parish and your efforts are much appreciated.

Prayer at the Crib

God our Father,
You sent your only Son, Jesus, as a little child
to love us and to be our Saviour.
Your Holy Spirit came down on Mary and gave wisdom to
Joseph so that they could prepare for his birth.
As we pray here around our Christmas Crib, open our hearts to his
love and to his gentle care.
Take away our fears and fill our hearts with joy.
Guide and care for our families and help us to care for one another,
so that we can live as the people of God.
May we know his presence within us and find deep peace in
our lives during these days of Christmas, and in the year ahead.



Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 22nd December 2025

Monday:	10.30am	Requiem Mass: John Banim
Tuesday:	10.30am	Maura Mealy
Saturday:	10.30am	Eiley & John P Francis and Richard & Joan Dempsey
	6.00pm	Tom, Margaret & Myra O’Leary
Sunday:	11.00am	Breda Carey & Bernie Maher
		Ned Brennan, Ann & Joe Shanley
		Margaret Jordan Pearson
	11.30am	James & Josephine Foley
	7.00pm	Margaret Comerford



The O Antiphons of Advent

The O Antiphons are the seven antiphons that are recited during the prayers in eight days before Christmas, 17th-23rd December. the final days of preparation for Christmas. The importance of O Antiphons is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel*. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

According to Professor Robert Greenberg of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one – Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia – the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, Tomorrow, I will come. Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us, Tomorrow, I will come.

South Kilkenny Historical Society - Lá an Dreoilín

Lá an Dreoilín (Wren Day) event Friday, 26th December (St. Stephen's Day).

Venue: Mullinavat Parish Hall and Church Car Park. Time: 11.00am.

Lá an Dreoilín, in Ireland, centers around the tradition of capturing a wren, which is said to bring luck. People march dressed in garbs made of straw, including headwear that is woven into a bell shape, playing drums and traditional music, and singing.

At 11.00am a new ‘King Wren Boy’ will be crowned who will, weather permitting, lead the parade from the Hall to Main Street and return to the Hall for some music. Local musicians will provide music and people of all ages are asked to participate in the event. Participants are not restricted to ‘boys’ - for this event the term ‘boys’ means any gender and any age! Participation is not restricted to those who have costumes and/or can sing or play a musical instrument - people are asked to participate in whatever way they can or are comfortable doing and everyone is welcome to join in on the fun.

Marble City Music Festival – 21st December & 31st December

Patrick Rafter & Guests - St Canice’s Church, Dean Street, Kilkenny

A Family Christmas

Sunday 21st December 3.30pm – A Magical Family Christmas alongside Patrick Rafter Violinist, Soprano Megan Walsh, The Rafter Family & Pianist Dida Condria. A magical family concert featuring all your Christmas favourites.

New Year’s Eve Gala

Wednesday 31st December 8.00pm – Join a star-studded concert to celebrate The New Year featuring Soprano Laura Ahearne, Harpist Claire O’Donnell, Patrick Rafter and a String Quartet of Ireland leading string players.

Tickets: Frank Wall’s Man Shop or online at www.marblecitymusicfestival.com, Tel: 089 237 3596.

Come and join with your neighbours and friends for our Christmas Religious Services