

St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund

The next St Mary's Cathedral Restoration draw will take place on Wednesday, 28th January. Tickets are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests for €10 per month. We encourage your support for St. Mary's, our Diocesan Cathedral.

Anam Cara

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on Wednesday, 21st January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Horse and Jockey Hotel, Thurles.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Beginning on this week the public Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament returns to St. John's Church between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesdays. We invite you to join us and spend some time in prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

St John's Parish Scripture Group.

This friendly and informal group meets in the Presbytery at 7.30pm each Thursday. All are most welcome to come along. We read the Scripture texts for the following Sunday's Mass, and then we have a relaxed chat about the meaning, message and relevance of each. It is an enjoyable way to spend an evening and helps us to better appreciate the Mass.

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 Whately; Marian Eardly.

Counselling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline

1800 313 316 - www.towardshealing.ie

New Year's Prayer

Dear Lord,

As we begin this new year, we thank you for the gift of life, for the lessons of the past, and for the hope that lies ahead.

We place 2026 into Your loving hands.

Guide our steps, strengthen our faith and grant us wisdom in every decision we make.

Bless our families with good health, peace, and protection

Fill our hearts with gratitude, patience, and love, and help us to trust Your plans even when the path is unclear.

May this year draw us closer to You and may all that we do bring glory to Your name.

We entrust this new beginning to You, Lord. Amen.

The Most Holy Rosary

A number of parishioners gather each morning at St. John's Church to recite the Rosary at 10.10am. Some others assemble to pray the Rosary at 3.00pm each day. All are welcome to come and join in this beautiful Marian prayer.

Kilkenny MABS

Kilkenny MABS Money Advice & Budgeting Service offers Free, Independent and Confidential Money Management and Advice Service assists people dealing with their existing debts, mortgage arrears and helping them manage their own resources. Tel: 0818 072610.

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

The Baptism of the Lord - 11th January 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

Baptism is the foundation of Christian life. This is because it introduces everyone to the greatest gift, which has to be children of God, that is, to share in Jesus' relationship with the Father in the Spirit. There is nothing higher than this baptismal dignity equally bestowed upon each person, through which we are invited to clothe ourselves with Christ and be grafted onto him like branches of the one vine.



During 2025 a total of 89 children were baptised in our parish. On this, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we pray God's continued care and blessing for them, their parents, and families. "By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn into everlasting life. In his goodness, may God continue to pour out his blessings on these daughters and sons of his. May he make them, wherever they may be, faithful members of his holy people".

Baptisms in our parish take place on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 4.30pm and the 4th Sunday at 12.30pm. Bookings can be made at the Parish Office.

Closing of the Holy Year of Hope

On the Feast of the Epiphany Pope Leo XIV closed the Holy Door at St Peter's thus ending the Jubilee Year of Hope. Only once before, in 1700, has a Holy Year been opened by one Pope and closed by another. Pope Innocent XII formally opened the jubilee for that year; he died in September 1700 and his successor, Pope Clement XI, closed the jubilee in his place.

In his homily Pope Leo XIV asked "After this year, will we be better able to recognize a pilgrim in the visitor, a seeker in the stranger, a neighbour in the foreigner, and fellow travellers in those who are different?" He hoped that the Jubilee of Hope ought to serve as a turning point for believers and marks the beginning of a new chapter in both living hope and bringing it to the world. "In the place of inequality, may there be fairness, and may the industry of war be replaced by the craft of peace," he said.

Pope Boniface VIII inaugurated the first Holy Year in 1300 which was celebrated every 100 years. Later following biblical tradition, it was observed every 50 years. It was decided by Pope Paul II in 1490 to observe the jubilee year every 25 years, so that each person could experience one in their lifetime. It is expected that an extraordinary jubilee will be declared for 2033, the year commemorating the 2000th anniversary of Jesus's death and resurrection.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Nora Holohan, Tullow Road, Carlow. Funeral arrangements later.
 Michael Dooley Jnr, Old Callan Road. Requiem Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral at 12 noon on Sunday
 Mary Bergin, Marble Crest. Requiem Mass in St. Fiacre's Church at 10.30am on Sunday.
 Sheila Kennedy, Ashwood Nuala Earle, Old Callan Road.

Anniversaries: Liam & Mary Kelly; Michael Kinchella (6.00pm); Ann & John Barry; Michael Mahony (11.00am); Ann Gibbons (11.30am); Bernard O'Gorman; Ann Kavanagh; James Cleary; Michael Mockey Delaney; Jimmy & Chrissie Bergin; Paddy Bergin; Paddy Nolan; Maurice O'Sullivan; Ann Moynihan; Helen Ryan; Johnny Brennan; Denis Guilfoyle; John Lanigan; Michael O'Connor; Paddy Morris; Margaret & Patrick Doran; Catherine & Michael Delaney; Alice Buckley; Mary Darcy; John Joe Bergin; Michael O'Grady; Joe Slattery; Liam Kelly;

*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 Bridget Ahearn
 8.00am Billy Phelan
 10.00am Eve Brennan & Anna Ryan
 11.00am Jim Kavanagh & Claire Hanrick
 11.30am Anne Maria Walsh & Kay Purcell
 7.00pm Anne Marie Grace



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:	€3,765.00
Mass	Attendance
6.00pm St. John's	92
8.00am St. John's	74
10.00am Johnswell	52
11.00am Dunmore	90
11.30am St. John's	180
7.00pm St. John's	96
	584
	€1,093.00

Medjugorje Evening of Prayer

The monthly Medjugorje Mass, with Rosary, Adoration and Prayer for Healing, will take place next Monday, 12th January at 7.30pm in the Oratory of St. Patrick's Parish Centre. All are welcome to come along to this time of prayer.

Kilkenny Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage

Kilkenny Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage takes place from the 23rd to the 30th September. Price €895 + Insurance. There is a €50 discount for those who pay the deposit of €200 before the 31st January. For further information or to make a reservation please contact Ann on (086) 199 1620.

St Ita – Feast Day 15th January

Saint Ita, "the Foster Mother of the Irish Saints," was born in the fifth century. She, like many of the Irish saints, was born in Co. Waterford of noble and Christian parents. Early on she set her mind on serving Christ in religious life. She founded a monastery, school, and convent at Killeedy which still bears her name near Newcastle West in County Limerick. A holy well still marks the site of her church.

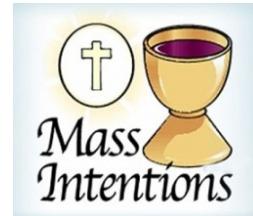
St. Ita once told St. Brendan that the three things most displeasing to God were a face that hates mankind, a will that clings to the love of evil, and placing one's entire trust in riches. The three things most pleasing to God were the firm belief of a pure heart in God, the simple religious life, and liberality with charity. St. Ita fell asleep in the Lord in 570AD.

St Ita, pray for us that we will live our faith through our daily words and actions.



Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 12th January 2026

Wednesday:	10.30am	James Cleary
Friday:	10.30am	Michael Mockey Delaney
Saturday:	10.30am	Jimmy & Chrissie Bergin
	6.00pm	Betty Burke
Sunday:	8.00am	Michael Dowling
	11.00am	Gemma Clancy
	11.30am	MM Johnny Lawlor
		Teresa Barcoe & Liam Kelly
		Mary & Jack Lahert



Pope's January Prayer Intention

With the new year, Pope Leo XIV has thrown his support behind a renewed initiative known as "Pray with the Pope," which brings his monthly prayer intentions to the Church throughout the world. The new initiative continues Pope Francis' desire to share papal prayer intentions by video and audio. This new initiative aims to increase the visibility of the Pope's prayer intentions, using a language suitable for prayer, in new formats, so as to better reach the faithful throughout the world, especially in today's world of digital communication.

In his first video under the new format, Pope Leo XIV invites the faithful to pray frequently with the Word of God. Only the Gospel, he said, can give peace and fullness to the human heart, which he noted is restless and hungers for meaning. "Teach us to listen to you each day in the Scriptures," he said, "to let ourselves be challenged by your voice, and to discern our decisions from the closeness to your Heart." God's Word in Sacred Scripture, continued the Pope, provides "nourishment in weariness, hope in darkness, and strength in our communities."

Formerly known as The Pope Video, the new "Pray with the Pope" initiative seeks to unite the Church behind the Holy Father's daily prayer. "Pray with the Pope" is available on <https://youtu.be/s1C8CcEIkME> and on our parish website and Facebook page.

Kilkenny Active Retirement

Kilkenny Active Retirement wish to announce that our meeting on Monday the 12th January in the Club House is **Cancelled**, but will resume on Monday the 9th February at 2.30pm.

Side by Side Club

The Side by Side Club has resumed after the Christmas break. The Club meets every Thursday from 2.00pm to 5.00pm in the St. John's Parish Centre. Should you require any further information please contact Helen on 083 406 8148.

Kilkenny Sub Aqua Club

Kilkenny Sub Aqua Club search and recovery unit will hold their Annual Church gate collection on weekending the 24th & 25th January 2026.

St John's Parish Statistics

Year	Baptisms	Communions	Confirmations	Marriages	Funerals
2021	123	56	60	26	79
2022	115	61	54	31	68
2023	123	53	71	41	73
2024	98	46	47	26	83
2025	89	55	48	24	74