

The Ossory Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The annual Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 25th to 30th May 2026. All bookings should be made through Joe Walsh Tours by telephone on 01 241 0800, or online at www.joewalshtrips.ie/pilgrimages/group-diocesan-pilgrimages/ or by post to JWT, 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02 WY88.

Special Assisted/Sick Section: Pilgrims who would like to travel with the Special Assisted Section should apply to Anna Colleton at a.colleton@cbskilkenney.ie. This special assisted/sick section is accommodated at the *Accueil*. Acceptance for travel with the special section for the sick is subject to the approval of the Pilgrimage Medical Board.

Kilquan Drama Group

Kilquan Drama Group presents at Coon Hall, 'Who's Been Sleeping in My Bed' by Jimmy Keary, directed by Benny Mills. A three-act comedy, 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th and 8th February. Admission €10. Doors open at 7.00pm. Coon Hall R93 EC89.

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 before 10th February. 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: 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, Mr Fintan Fanning, 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

Roman Catholic Diocese and Parishes of Ossory - Registered Charity No. 20015831

St. Brigid's Blessing



*A Naomh Brid, a Mhuire na nGael,
scar orainn do bhrat,
O Saint Brigid, O Lady of the Gaels,
spread your banner over us.*

*A Naomh Bríd, a chroí na féile,
stiúir sinn ar an mbóthar ceart,
O Saint Brigid, O heart of the festival,
lead us on the right path.*

*A Naomh Bríd gheanúil ghrástúil,
ar ár namhaid cosain sinn,
O kind and gracious Saint Brigid,
protect us from our enemies.*

*A Naomh Bríd, a bhean rialta álainn,
ar uair ár mbáis glaoigh orainn
O Saint Brigid, O beautiful nun,
at the hour of our death call us.*

5 Day Silent Ignatian Retreat for Men

Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius led by Benedictine monks from St. Joseph Abbey, in France. Starts Thursday, 30th April (3.00pm). Benburb Priory, Co. Tyrone (1.5 hours from Dublin). €450 (all meals and single room included). Daily Mass - Ordinary Form (Latin & *ad orientem*).

Discover the strength that only comes when you stop running and let God speak.

Book at: <https://soutenir.clairval.com/retreat-benburb-priory>

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

Feast of St. Brigid - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 1st February 2026

First Holy Communion

Next Saturday evening, as part of our *Do This in Memory* Programme, it's a great pleasure to welcome the children who are preparing for First Holy Communion and their families to our 6.00pm Mass. We would ask you to keep the children and their families in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Candlemas Day

Monday, 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It is also known as Candlemas Day. This Feast Day commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. Parishioners are invited to bring wax candles to the 10.30am Mass in St. John's Church on Monday morning to have them blessed. Please bring your candles to the sanctuary before the beginning of Mass.

This is a solemn time of worship, a time to try to be a 'light in the world'.



Our Lady of Lourdes, Feast Day Wednesday 11th February

On this day in 1858 Our Lady first appeared to the fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes in France. Later Bernadette was to learn that the mysterious Lady was the Blessed Virgin and to hear from her lips: 'I am the Immaculate Conception'.

World Day of the Sick

Wednesday 11th February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is World Day of the Sick. On 13th May 1992, a number of years following an assassination attempt on his life that led to a time of suffering and the experiences of being seriously ill in hospital, Saint Pope John Paul II launched a World Day of Prayer for the Sick which coincides each year with the Feast Day of our Lady of Lourdes. Pope Benedict and Pope Francis have continued this special world day. It is a time to reflect on the needs of all who suffer, to pause and be prayerful in solidarity with those who experience illness and with all who care for those who are facing sickness. We will include special Prayers for the Sick during our 10.30am Mass on the 11th February. The sick who are able to get to the church are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Sick during this Mass. Frs. Dan, Tom and Paul are happy to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick with parishioners in their own homes at any other time.

Legion of Mary

Legion of Mary start up meeting on Wednesday, 4th February in the Chapter House at St. Maray's Cathedral. All welcome.

No 8.00am Mass on this Bank Holiday Monday

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Ned Holohan, Assumption Place. Funeral Prayers at 6.00pm on Tuesday in Johnston's Funeral Home. Requiem Mass on Wednesday at 10.30am in St. John's Church. Interment in St. Kieran's Cemetery.

Peter Dwyer, O'Loughlin Road. Funeral Prayers at 6.00pm on Sunday 1st February in Johnstons Funeral Home. Requiem Mass on Monday at 12 noon in St. John's Church. Interment in St. Kieran's Cemetery.

Paul Daly, Castlecomer Road. Requiem Mass on Monday at 10.30am in St John's Church followed by private cremation.

John Shasby, St. Joseph's Road

Esther Corcoran, Loughboy

Noreen Cody, Callan Road

Elizabeth Hogan, Shellumsrath

Pauline Butler, Troyswood

Leo McAdams, College Road

Mary Hughes, Gorey

Anniversaries: Bernadette Egan (6.00pm); Nancy Comerford (10.00am); Sheila Hamilton; Julia & Seamus Bergin; Stephen Sheehan; Ben Little; Mary & Joe Daly; Annie Moynihan; Maura Gaffney; Arthur Connick; Margaret Carroll; Margaret Carroll; Ann & Nancy Culleton, Edward Walsh; John Delaney; Marie & Claire Beale; Noreen Holland; Peter & Kathleen McCarthy.

*Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near.*

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm	Claire Coogan
8.00am	Mary Elliott
10.00am	Elaine Bennett
11.00am	Martina Brennan & Tom Keating
11.30am	Rosemary McPhillips
7.00pm	Linda O'Leary



First Friday of February

Next Friday is the First Friday of February. The sick and housebound will be visited at the usual times. Please inform the Parish Office or one of the priests if you have a relative or neighbour who would like this service.



Parish Confirmation

Our parish celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place in St. John's Church at 11.00am on Friday, 27th February 2026. Bishop Ger Nash, our new Diocesan Administrator, is in the process of delegating the priests of the parish to celebrate the Sacrament. We look forward to a great day of celebration with our 53 candidates and their families.

Thanks to the candidates and their families who participated in the Ceremony of Light last Tuesday evening.

Feast of St. Blaise

Tuesday, 3rd February is the Feast of St. Blaise. He was bishop of Sebaste and was martyred probably early in the 4th Century. Devotion to him spread throughout the Church during the Middle Ages. A physician before he became a bishop, he is venerated as patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. Using the following prayer the priests will bless throats after 8.00am and 10.30am Masses in St. John's Church on Tuesday.

*Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, Bishop, and Martyr,
may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other illness.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 2nd February 2026

Monday:	10.30am	Requiem Mass Paul Daly
	12.00 noon	Requiem Mass Peter Dwyer
Tuesday:	10.30am	Stephen Sheehan
Wednesday:	10.30am	Requiem Mass: Ned Holohan
Thursday:	10.30am	Peter & Kathleen McCarthy
Saturday:	10.30am	Ben Little
	6.00pm	MM Nuala Walsh
		Rose Phelan
		Anne Croke
		Philomena Drohan
Sunday:	10.00am	Sarah Prendergast
	11.00am	Edward McEvoy
	11.30am	Esther Ryan
		Ann O'Keeffe

**May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
rest in peace. Amen.**

Thought for the Day - St. Brigid, Abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland

Once Brendan the Navigator stood on a cliff top watching two whales engaging in fierce combat. Suddenly, the smaller whale, in a human voice, cried out for help not to Brendan but to Brigid, who was not even present. Immediately, the combat ceased. Brendan was puzzled as to why he had been ignored. 'Do you always think about God?' asked Brigid, when the two met. 'Yes,' replied Brendan, except at times when my boat is caught in a storm at sea and I have to concentrate on keeping it afloat.' 'That's the explanation,' Brigid answered. 'From the moment I first knew God, I have never let him out of my mind, and I never shall.' (Catholicireland.net)

Annual St. Brigid's Day Service

The Annual St. Brigid's Day Service will take place in St. Canice's Catholic Church, Dean Street on this Sunday, 1st February at 7.30pm. Blessed red flannel, prayer cards, and water from St. Brigid's Well in Kildare will be available on the night. St. Brigid's Crosses will also be on sale. A collection will be taken in support of the Kilkenny Gospel Choir Outreach Programme. All are welcome.

Recovery Support Group

St. Patrick's Parish Centre every Tuesday at 7.00pm. For people tired of mental health symptoms. Learn coping skills for anxiety, depression, panic, OCD etc. Free of charge. For further information – email ckbse@yahoo.ie or www.recoveryireland.ie

Considering a Postgraduate - Programme in 2026?

Studying at St. Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth, you will be encouraged to engage critically, so that you can form your own ideas and conclusions and become more skilled at expressing yourself and gain the confidence to communicate powerfully and eloquently.

Explore our wide range of full-time, part-time and blended learning programmes from diploma, higher diploma and masters to doctorate level in: theology; philosophy; healthcare chaplaincy; liturgical music. Visit_sppu.ie/courses for more information.

Contact Rachel McHugh, Admissions Officer, St. Patrick's Pontifical University with any queries: rachel.mchugh@spcm.ie / 087 297 6514.

The Way

"Our vision is that theWay.ie will be a national online network, helping people to discover, live and pass on the Catholic faith." (Archbishop Eamonn Martin, Primate of All Ireland). Please visit www.theway.ie for interviews, podcasts, field reports and faith resources. Follow us on facebook.com/theway.ie, instagram.com/theway_ie and on youtube.com@theway_ie.

