

Kilkenny Bereavement Support

Kilkenny Bereavement support invites you to a talk "Suicide Bereavement, From Heartbreak to Hope" on Thursday 30th April, 7.00pm in Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny. Admission free, booking on www.eventbrite.ie recommended. Speakers Christy Kenneally is a novelist, poet and broadcaster and Dr. Linda Finnegan a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist will address how a death by suicide can devastate the lives of those left behind. From 'Heartbreak to Hope' will address the shock, pain, anger and sadness that are part of the bereaved person's new reality. From 'Heartbreak to Hope' is also for any person who wants to help someone bereaved by suicide but who doesn't know what to say or not to say, what to do or how to be.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues in St. John's Church between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesdays. Please come and join parishioners who give time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

The Most Holy Rosary

A number of parishioners gather each morning at St. John's Church to recite the Rosary before Mass at 10.10am. Others gather at 3.00pm each afternoon for the same purpose. All are welcome to come along and join in prayer.

St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund

The next St Mary's Cathedral Restoration draw will take place on Wednesday, 29th April. One of our parishioners won €500 last month! Tickets are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests for €10 per month. We encourage your support for our Diocesan Cathedral.

National Epilepsy Week

National Epilepsy Week 2026 takes place on 18th May - 25th May. For further information, please visit www.epilepsy.ie/content/national-epilepsy-week-2026-epilepsyweek.

Low Gluten Hosts

At Holy Communion time low gluten hosts are available from the priest or the Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. Ask the priests/minister when you approach the altar. The breads are low gluten and deemed suitable for most gluten intolerant patients.

St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth

St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth, provides postgraduate theology and philosophy and ministries programmes suitable for those in parish roles. Applications for some programmes close from 30th April. See sppu.ie for more details.

Contact Rachel, Admissions Officer at SPPU, with any queries: rachel.mchugh@spcm.ie or call 087 297 6514.

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:

Phil Curran; Marian Eardly; Brenda Whitley.

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 of Easter - 26th April 2026

Pope Leo Remembers Pope Francis

This week was the first anniversary of the death of Pope Francis.

Pope Leo recalled Francis' closeness to the poor and discarded people of this world, as well as his emphasis on God's mercy and on human fraternity. Pope Francis "has given so much to the Church, with his life, his witness, his words and his gestures, [and] many times, in what he did, truly living close to the poor, to the little ones, to the sick, to children and to the elderly," Pope Leo said.

"We can remember," he said, "his message of mercy [at] that first Angelus, and also in the Holy Mass that he celebrated even before the inauguration of his pontificate on March 17, 2013, when he preached on the woman caught in adultery and how he preached from the heart of the mercy of God." He said Francis "wanted to share this spirit [of mercy] with the entire church," and he also gave us "that most beautiful celebration of an extraordinary jubilee of mercy," referring to the jubilee of 2016.

Pope Leo concluded, "We pray that he is already enjoying the mercy of the Lord, and we thank the Lord for the great gift of the life of Francis to the whole church and to the world." To those gathered in St Mary Major's Basilica in Rome on the anniversary Pope Leo wrote:

"Death is not a wall, but a door that swings wide open onto the mercy that Pope Francis tirelessly proclaimed."

Prayer for Vocations

Lord Jesus, we believe that you continue to scatter the seeds of vocation in the hearts of young people today. Help us to nourish those seeds with encouragement and support so that they will take root, grow, and bear fruit.

Give to all who are called the courage they need to take a first step on a journey of discovery which will lead them to that place where they will encounter you Lord and discern the road you invite them to follow.

Lord fill young hearts with a spirit of loving service, care and respect for themselves and others.

Provide your Church in Ossory with humble shepherds who will work with their sisters and brothers in a spirit of co-responsibility for your Church.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary the Mother of Jesus, St Kieran and all the Saints of Ossory. Amen

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Joan Walsh, Kilderry, Johnswell. Funeral arrangements later. John Fleming, Castle Road and late of Paulstown. Requiem Mass at St. Patrick's Church at 12.00 noon on Monday followed by a private cremation. Denis Hamilton, Maudlin Street Eddie Teehan, Ballyfoyle Eileen Murphy, Stephen Street Fr Anthony Gesuola, Uganda Columba Hetherington, Castlecomer

Months Mind: Dick Barcoe (6.00pm).

Anniversaries: Christina Barcoe; Liam Maher (6.00pm); Margaret (Mags) Smyth; Eamon Walsh (11.00am); Brenda McGuinness (11.30am); Deceased Members of the Mongale & McDermott Families; Catherine Carroll; Breda Butler; Elizabeth Geoghegan; Elizabeth Hanlon; Brigid O'Carroll; Pauline & Josie Delaney; Josie, Phil & Mary Doran; Jack Mulcahy; Mollie Hennessy.

*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
11.00am Christy Murray & Maise Powell
11.30am Rosemary McPhilips
7.00pm Anne Marie Grace



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

| Envelope Collection: | | €765.00 | |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|--|
| Mass | Attendance | Baskets | |
| 6.00pm St. John's | 121 | 224.00 | |
| 8.00am St. John's | 92 | 380.00 | |
| 10.00am Johnswell | 70 | 161.00 | |
| 11.00am Dunmore | 88 | 130.00 | |
| 11.30am St. John's | 186 | 302.00 | |
| 7.00pm St. John's | 90 | 241.00 | |
| | 647 | €1,438.00 | |

Scripture Group

At his weekly audience of 4th February, Pope Leo XIV said the following: "While Scripture is a text rooted in historical truth, it also contains a limitless spiritual depth that speaks to people of all times and places, communicating above all God's love and his desire to save us."

Our St. John's Parish Scripture Group meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in the Presbytery to read and reflect on the readings for the following Sunday. It is very informal, and relaxed in its discussions, with no commitment required - people attend when it suits and we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us each week. All are most welcome to come along.

Diocesan Nurse

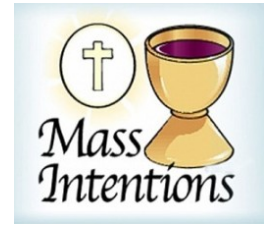
The Diocese of Ossory requires a nurse to provide an advocacy and support service to priests in the Diocese of Ossory. The Diocese comprises of 42 parishes in Counties, Kilkenny, Laois and Offaly. The post will be part-time, flexible and initially for a three-year period. The ideal candidate must be:

- A registered general nurse (ideally with community experience)
- Self-motivated and have the ability to co-ordinate care planning in a community-based environment
- Possess excellent communication skills
- Competency in time management
- Full clean driving licence and own transport are essential

Please email your application to admin@ossory.ie or by post to The Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Office, James's St, Kilkenny, R95 NH60. Closing date is Friday, 29th May 2026.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 27th April 2026

Wednesday: 8.00am Catherine Carroll
10.30am Breda Butler
Thursday: 10.30am Deceased Members of the Monagle & McDermott Families
Saturday: 6.00pm Carmel & Bill Larkin
Mary Lawless
Sunday: 10.00am MM Josephine Butler
11.30am Johnny & May Butler
MM Paddy Fry



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

Bishop's Tree

The tradition of "The Bishop's Tree" - the most prominent local story centres on a site known as Bishopswood located on the Cork Road in Durrow. According to local tradition: a bishop was celebrating Mass in a "Mass Pit" (a hidden location used during the Penal Laws to avoid detection) in the townland of Dereen. He was discovered by persecutors (often identified as priest-hunters or local forces enforcing the Penal Laws). Tradition holds that he was seized, dragged into the nearby woods, and tied to a tree where he was left to die. The event remains a significant part of Durrow's local heritage. Every year a commemorative Mass is celebrated at the "Bishop's Tree" in Bishopswood to honour the memory of the unnamed prelate and the local people who practiced their faith in secret during that era. The commemorative Mass will take place on this Sunday 26th April, at 3.00pm Mass in Bishopswood, Cork Road, Durrow.

O'Loughlin Gaels – Pedal to the Sea

In Association with The Dillon Quirke Foundation

Members of O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club are back on their bikes to Pedal to the Sea. This is a two-day cycle starting on Saturday, 1st May at 10.00am from St John's Park, that will bring participants to Dungarvan via the Waterford Greenway and back again. This fundraiser helps the continuous development of the club and for their chosen charity this year which is The Dillon Quirke Foundation. To donate scan the QR Code. Each donation enters you into a spot-prize draw – prizes galore!! Please support your local club.



St. John's National School Fundraiser

Fancy spending a weekend with Natasha Bedingfield, The Saw Doctors, Mundy or Dustin the Turkey. The Parents Association of St. John's National School are hosting a fundraising raffle with the chance to win a Family Pass (2 adults + 2 children) to Kaleidoscope. This is a great opportunity to support the school while being in with a chance to win a prize valued at almost €500. Kaleidoscope takes place from 3rd – 5th July 2026 in Russborough House, Co. Wicklow — Ireland's favourite family festival with music, shows and activities for all ages. Entry: €5 per ticket, Open to everyone, Scan the QR Code to enter. Closing date is 31st May and the winner will be contacted via email from the school.



St Patrick's Missionary Society

St Patrick's Missionary Society, better known as the Kiltegan Fathers, was founded on St Patrick's Day 1932 by Fr Patrick Joseph Whitney, a priest of the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise. Since then, Kiltegan Fathers, together with Volunteer Priests and Lay People from different Irish Dioceses, including Ossory, have worked firstly in Nigeria, and later in Kenya, Brazil, Grenada, Malawi, Zambia, South Sudan, Cameroon, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Their mission Appeal, which will be led by Fr Jibrin, will visit St John's Parish on 9th and 10th May.