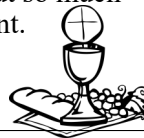


Our Parish's First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the pupils from St. John's National School who received their First Holy Communion in St. John's Church this weekend. They were blessed with a great day and a wonderful celebration.

We look forward to, and encourage, their return visits to our church for Sunday Masses.

We thank their parents, families, teachers and volunteers who put so much dedicated work into getting them ready for the Sacrament.



Our First Holy Communicants 2026

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Donnacha Barry | Robyn Josie Donovan | Ben Rogers |
| Brody Byrne | Thomas Joyce | Lorcan Sacharczuk |
| Zoey Cahill Delaney | Anne Lanigan | Noah Shiel-Quigley |
| Michael Cawley | Ema Lavreckaite | Jack Smith Ralph |
| Saoirse Clooney | Hannah Leahy | Kayla Smith Gibson |
| Lia Dedov | Lukas Lesys | Bogi Solymos |
| Nate Dennehy | Tommy Lyng | Kayden Stronge |
| Paige Dunne | Olivia McEvoy | Filip Tomokovic |
| Weronika Dyniakowska | Molly McGuire | Edward Vlad |
| Aubree-Leigh Fox | Tommy O'Mahoney | Renesmee Walsh |
| Lily Franczkowska | Daniel O'Neill | Vaida Williams |
| Luke Hennessy | Lilly O'Shea | Diana Wrobel |
| Rachel Hogan | Tom O'Shea | Noah Young |
| Kaiden Jenkins | Casey Owens | Serhii Yulinetskyi |
| Callie Johnson | Evie Parker Phelan | Salvador Marques |

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**

Feast of the Ascension - 17th May 2026

The Ascension: A Glorious Transition and Mission

The Ascension, celebrated forty days after Easter, invites us to reflect on Christ's return to the Father and what it means for our faith. Far from an ending, it marks a new beginning for the Church. Jesus' ascent into heaven ends His physical presence on earth but prepares the way for the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It also assures us of our own destiny with God, fulfilling His promise: "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).

The Ascension is also a commissioning. Before rising to heaven, Jesus entrusted His disciples with the Great Commission: "Go... and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Though He is no longer physically among us, we continue His mission, strengthened by the Spirit.

This feast challenges us to lift our hearts beyond earthly concerns and to live with purpose. We are called to share the Gospel, serve others, and witness Christ's love in daily life.

As we celebrate the Ascension this weekend, may we renew our commitment to Christ's mission. May the hope of eternal life and the gift of the Holy Spirit embolden us to live our faith boldly and invite others into the joy of the Gospel.

Place Your Trust in Jesus

Speaking during his visit to Pompeii last week, Pope Leo offered words of encouragement to children, adolescents, and young people. "Have confidence in those who lovingly care for your growth," but throughout your lives, he appealed, "place your trust in Jesus, the Son of God, crucified and risen, who saves and sets us free."

"Jesus," he told them, "is the Friend who never abandons or rejects us, the Brother who understands us and always walks beside us."

"Let us cling to Him as we entrust all humanity, through the hands of Mary, to His care," the Pope said, "certain that, with the help of His grace, nothing will be able to stop us from doing good, and that the hope for a future of peace—here and everywhere—will find its fulfilment."

Johnswell National School First Holy Communion Day – Next Weekend

Next Saturday, 23rd May the pupils from Johnswell National School will receive their First Holy Communion at 11.00am in the Church of St John the Baptist, Johnswell.

These young people have been preparing over the past number of months, and we thank their families, the teachers and volunteers who put so much dedicated work into preparing them for the Sacrament. Please keep all the boys and girls, their families, and teachers in your prayers.

The Rosary

We encourage all to pray the Rosary during May, the Month of Our Lady.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: John Kelly, Newpark Upper. Funeral Prayers on Saturday at 6.30pm in Johnston's Funeral Home. Requiem Mass on Sunday at 11.30am.

James Falsey, Lord Edward Street. Requiem Mass in St. Canice's Church at 10.30am on Monday.

Brian Daly, Archers Avenue.

Anne (Nancy) Delahunty, Castleinch

Barbara Schofield, Freshford Road

Noreen Brennan, Ballykeeffe

Lucy Lennon, Dean Cavanagh Place

Months Mind: Michael Palmer.

Anniversaries: Kathleen Price (6.00pm); Paddy Brennan (8.00am); Bridget & Carmel McEvoy; Tom & Bridget Comerford (11.00am); Michael Malone; William Brophy; Maureen & Sheila Brennan; Maureen Phelan; Mary, John Joe and Jimmy Gilmartin; Peggy & Eamon Holohan; Sally Goulding; James Quirke; Patricia & Declan Casey; Paddy Howard; Paddy Sharkey; Mary Murphy.

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 | Claire Coogan |
| 8.00am | Mary Elliott |
| 10.00am | Betsy Rice |
| 11.00am | Bernard O'Gorman & John McGourty |
| 11.30am | Mary Hanafin & Mary Lynch |
| 7.00pm | Linda O'Leary |



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

| Envelope Collection: | | €805.00 |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| Mass | Attendance | Baskets |
| 6.00pm St. John's | 99 | 172.00 |
| 8.00am St. John's | 92 | 268.00 |
| 10.00am Johnswell | 58 | 125.00 |
| 11.00am Dunmore | 68 | 105.00 |
| 11.30am St. John's | 163 | 292.00 |
| 7.00pm St. John's | 118 | 215.00 |
| | 598 | €1,177.00 |

Eucharistic Ministers for St John's Church - Next Weekend

| | |
|---------|--|
| 6.00pm | Ger Daly & Billy Carr / Martin O'Neill |
| 8.00am | Jacinta O'Connell & Rosario Frances |
| 11.30am | Camilla Loader & Emily Bradley |
| 7.00pm | Luke Leydon & Clodagh Butler |



Filipino Community Mass

The monthly Mass with the Filipino Community will be celebrated this Sunday at 3.00pm in St John's Church. All are welcome to worship with lively music and song.

Society of St Vincent De Paul Collection

The Monthly Collection for the local conference of the Society will take place next weekend, 23rd and 24th May. Thank you for your donations. Contact on 051 350 725 if anyone is in need.

Rosary at the Grotto

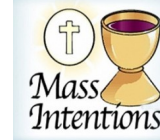
The Rosary will be recited each Sunday during May at the Grotto on the Callan Road at 3.00pm. All are welcome. The grotto is in the grounds of Seville Lodge and easily accessible from the Callan Road. Come and join us in prayer during the Month of Our Lady.

Kilkenny Archaeological Society

A Lecture on Cardinal Saint John Henry Newman (1801-1890) 'Friend of Ireland' by Rev. Dr. Tom Norris, a priest of the Diocese of Ossory, will take place on Wednesday, 20th May at 7.30pm in Rothe House, Parliament Street. All are welcome

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 18th May 2026

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Thursday: | 10.30am | Maureen & Sheila Brennan |
| Saturday: | 11.00am | First Holy Communions - Johnswell NS |
| | 6.00pm | Carrie Doheny |
| Sunday: | 11.30am | Thomas, Bridget & Michael Long |
| | | Damien Mahon |



All Ireland Rosary Rally | Saturday, 6th June | Knock Shrine | Bus

Join 10,000+ pilgrims from around Ireland and beyond to pray for a renewal of faith in Ireland, and for peace in the world. A bus from Kilkenny will be departing from the Butts Green at 7.00am on Saturday, 6th June. For further details please call 086 846 9011.

Celebrating Pentecost Sunday

Join us on this day of prayer, praise, music, Scripture and healing ministry to prepare us for an increased openness to the Holy Spirit in our lives and to equip us spiritually for the times ahead. Come Holy Spirit! We Need You! All are welcome to come and join us on Sunday, May 24th. Time: 2.00pm - 6.00pm. Venue: Marina Hotel, Waterford.

Freshford Bridge Club

Summer Bridge commences in Threecastles Hall, Tulla, R95 WK45 on Monday, 8th June at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Our Lady's Meadow Primary School - Durrow Dash

5K Run or Walk in Dunmore Woods, Durrow, Co. Laois will take place on Saturday, 20th June starting at 10.00am. Registration via link below or on the day from 9.00am at Dunmore Woods. [Www.idonate.ie/event/durrowdash](http://www.idonate.ie/event/durrowdash). Chipped race, dog friendly, refreshments and prizes to be won. All proceeds go towards Our Lady's Meadow Primary School Durrow for a new ASD Build.

Ignite Ireland Conference

An Ignite Ireland day conference, with special guest speaker Scott Hahn, will take place in Dublin on Saturday, 23rd May. Scott Hahn is a well-known writer and broadcaster and is a much sought after speaker. It is an event not to be missed. For information and to book your ticket, go to: www.dominicans.ie

The Christian Pilgrimage of Human Life

The next day-event at Integritas is on Saturday, 27th June commencing at 10.00am. It is given by Patrick Treacy and entitled 'Missionary Discipleship: The Christian Pilgrimage of Human Life'. This course explores how each of us can live in a way which is aligned with one's deepest nature, calling and mission so as to lead a Christian life. As Pope Francis said in Evangelii Gaudium "My mission ... is something I cannot uproot from my being without destroying my very self. I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world." (# 273).

The two morning sessions will concentrate upon the question of does God communicate to each of us and, if so, how?

The first session will examine what is meant by 'listening' to God, or "bending the ear of the heart" which is a term originating from the Rule of St. Benedict. It will explore how God speaks to each one of us, uniquely and personally, through silent stillness, ordered desire and interior movement.

The second session will reflect upon how God speaks to each of us through the two central institutions of Christian life - the family home and the universal Church.

The second session will end at 1.30pm and lunch will be provided afterwards. If you wish to attend this event, we would be grateful if you could let us know beforehand. Contact: Integritas, A Domestic Centre of Christian Faith, Ennisnag, Stoneyford, Co. Kilkenny, R95 CR7W. E-mail: enquiries@integritas.ie Website: www.integritas.ie