

### Croagh Patrick – Ireland's Holy Mountain

The 2026 Reek Sunday falls on 26<sup>th</sup> July, and thousands of pilgrims of all ages – from across the island and from abroad – are expected to scale Croagh Patrick Ireland's Holy Mountain, to pray and participate on the summit in the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession), and of the Eucharist. Croagh Patrick, (c.2,510ft/765m) Ireland's holy mountain, dominates the landscape of southwest Mayo both spiritually and physically. The Croagh Patrick pilgrimage is associated with St Patrick who, in 441, spent 40 days and nights fasting on the summit, following the example of Christ and Moses. The name 'Reek Sunday' comes from Patrick's ability to Christianise many pagan customs including the festival of Lughnasa, which previously had heralded the start of the harvest festival honouring the ancient pagan god Lugh, whose name is encompassed in the Irish word for August: Lughnasa. This festival's tradition became absorbed into the new Christian beliefs and locally become known as Domhnach na Cruaiche (Reek Sunday).

Father John Kenny, the Administrator of Westport Parish, which includes Croagh Patrick, encouraged in a special way pilgrims travelling by road to participate in the climb, to do so safely. Father Kenny has dedicated road safety as the theme for this year's pilgrimage,

Fr John has asked all road users on the island of Ireland to pray:

*Arise with me in the morning,  
travel with me through the day.*

*Welcome me on my arrival.*

*God be with me all the way. Amen.*

### Pope Leo's Monthly Prayer for July

Pope Leo's monthly prayer intention for July 2026 is a global call to transform our prayers into "concrete actions," serving as a compass for a mission of compassion for the world. In this way, he proposes a path to mobilize us each month, through prayer and action, for a more humane, fraternal, and solidary world.

### The Annual National Grandparents' Pilgrimage

The Annual National Grandparents' Pilgrimage, celebrating the 6<sup>th</sup> World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will take place on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> July at Our Lady's Shrine, Knock Co. Mayo. Chief Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin commencing at 2.30pm with the Anointing of the Sick. A day of grace and blessing for the whole family as we honour grandparents and the elderly.

### St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund

The next St Mary's Cathedral Restoration draw will take place on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July. Tickets are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests for €10 per month.

**Address:** St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. R95 ND2W

**Email:** stjohns@ossory.ie **Website:** www.stjohnskillkenny.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; Karen 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 Whitely.

### 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**

### Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026

### Here Comes the Sun

There's something almost biblical about this kind of heat. It slows everything down. Conversations happen more easily, ice cream vans appear, and even the grass seems to hold its breath. For a country more used to grey skies and rain, a real stretch of sun feels like a small gift we didn't quite expect — and maybe don't fully trust yet.

And it is a gift! The same sun that ripens the barley and dries the hay, that draws children out to play until it's nearly bedtime, that lifts moods after a long, damp winter — that sun is God's provision, not an accident. "As long as earth lasts, sowing and reaping, cold and heat shall cease no more" (Genesis 8:22). We can thank God honestly for the brilliant sunshine. But we know this heat brings problems too — for the elderly alone in a stuffy house, for the sick, for farmers watching land dry out, for anyone whose body simply can't cope with it. So, alongside our thanks, a prayer:

*Lord, protect the vulnerable from this heat's worst effects,  
give wisdom to those caring for others,  
and keep us grateful rather than complaining,  
whatever the next few weeks bring.*

### A Lunch That Speaks of God's Closeness

On Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, Pope Leo sat down to lunch with some 200 of Rome's poor at the Pontifical Gardens at Castel Gandolfo. The day opened with Mass, followed by a warm welcome, a tour of the gardens, and then the meal itself, shared simply and directly with the Holy Father. This isn't a one-off gesture. It grew out of a lunch Pope Leo shared with the poor of Albano back in August 2025, and it has now become a yearly tradition, with a different diocese invited each time to bring forward those on the edges - the poor, refugees, migrants, and others carrying heavy burdens - for a day of beauty and welcome. This year it's Rome's turn, organised together by the *Laudato si'* Centre, the Vatican's charity office, and the Diocese of Rome itself.

Those behind the initiative describe it simply: caring for creation and caring for people are really the one mission. The Pope's gesture, they say, is a reminder that real charity isn't abstract - it's closeness, it's sitting at table together, it's making sure no one feels forgotten by God or by the Church. Those invited are people already known and accompanied by local parishes and Caritas workers throughout the year; this lunch simply puts them, for one afternoon, at the very centre. It's a lovely image to carry with us this week - the Holy Father, quite literally, breaking bread with the poor.

### Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

**Recently Deceased:** Damian Wröbel, Kennyswell Road. Requiem Mass at St. John's Church in the presence of his ashes on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July at 5.00pm in St John's Church.  
 Andy MacEneaney, Auburn Drive Martin (Murt) Murphy, Tullabrin, Johnswell  
 Patrick Walsh, Old Callan Road Quirico Perez  
 Lily Wall, Drakelands Ann Dunne

**Months Mind:** Ann Walsh (11.30am).

**Anniversaries:** Clinton Morris; Larry Nolan; Peggy Lanigan & Michael Tosh O'Connor (6.00pm); Paddy Bergin; Mary Nolan & Stephen Kelly (11.30am); Michael Mikey Comerford (7.00pm); Dom, Tony & Ger Malone; Richard & Stephen Cassin; Patrick Foley; Deceased members of the McDermott, Jones & Cleary Families; P.J. Mealy; Brenda Flynn; Peter Daly; David Gaffney; Christy & Bridget Murray; Nick, Bridget & Jimmy Kavanagh; Mary Delaney; Paddy Walsh; Mary Walsh Snr.; Dermot Delaney; Jim Foley; Mary Cuddihy; Kate & Christy Burke; Mary Fry.

*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.*

### Ministries for Weekend, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July

| Mass    | Readers                         | Ministers of the Eucharist          |
|---------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6.00pm  | Mairin Bergin                   | Ger Daly & Martin O'Neill           |
| 8.00am  | Niamh Carroll                   | Jacinta O'Connell & Rosario Frances |
| 10.00am | Seán Colgan & Stephen Pyke      | Eleanor Malone                      |
| 11.00am | Stephanie Butler & Roger Curran | Chloe Phelan                        |
| 11.30am | Kathleen Ferguson               | Mary Deegan & Ava Maher             |
| 7.00pm  | Joan Galwey                     | To be arranged                      |



### Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

| Envelope Collection: | Mass | Attendance | Baskets |
|----------------------|------|------------|---------|
| 6.00pm St. John's    | 138  | 289.00     |         |
| 8.00am St. John's    | 102  | 279.00     |         |
| 10.00am Johnswell    | 91   | 256.00     |         |
| 11.00am Dunmore      | 62   | 152.00     |         |
| 11.30am St. John's   | 169  | 295.00     |         |
| 7.00pm St. John's    | 158  | 336.00     |         |
|                      | 720  | €1,607.00  |         |

### Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

Our annual St. John's Parish pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine at Knock, Co. Mayo will take place on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> August (the anniversary of the apparitions).  
 Coach will leave and return to St. John's Church on the day. First coach is almost full.  
 Book early to enable us to hire a suitable coach.  
 Fare: €25.00.

### Man and Woman, He Created Them

The Priory Institute one-week on-line Summer School is reflective, informative and interactive and will run from 10<sup>th</sup> August. The course includes four recorded presentations and one online zoom discussion and is very flexible as it is delivered entirely online. Find out more please visit [prioryinstitute.com](http://prioryinstitute.com).

### Inner Healing Retreat

An Inner Healing Retreat will take place in the Church of the Assumption – Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> July from 5.00pm to 9.00pm. Faith formation based on the teaching of the Catholic Church and inner healing adoration, led by Fr. Prince Clarence SJ. For further information please contact Eugene 086 381 8030 / Margaret 087 231 2066. Email [ruachministry5@gmail.com](mailto:ruachministry5@gmail.com), Website [www.ruachcatholicministry.org](http://www.ruachcatholicministry.org).

### Foulkstown Cemetery Mass

Foulkstown Cemetery Mass will take place on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm

### Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026

|            |         |                                          |
|------------|---------|------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday:   | 8.00am  | Ann Dunne, Recently Deceased             |
|            | 10.30am | Richard & Stephen Cassin, Patrick Foley. |
|            | 5.00pm  | Requiem Mass Damian Wröbel (In Polish)   |
| Wednesday: | 10.30am | McDermott, Jones & Cleary Families       |
| Thursday:  | 10.30am | P.J. Mealy                               |
| Friday:    | 8.00am  | Brenda Flynn                             |
| Saturday:  | 6.00pm  | Maurice McCreery                         |
| Sunday:    | 11.00am | Richard (Dick) Hennessy                  |
|            |         | Angela, Tony & Eileen McEvoy             |
|            | 11.30am | MM Paddy Phelan                          |
|            |         | Joan Laherty                             |
|            | 7.00pm  | Peter O'Connor Phelan                    |



**May they rest in peace**

### The Sisters of Mary Morning Star

We welcome The Sisters of Mary Morning Star, based in Waterford City, who will visit our parish this weekend, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July. They are contemplative sisters and their mission is to pray for the world and for each of our intentions. After each Mass, they will offer for sale their beautiful handmade artisan products. All proceeds will go toward supporting their daily needs. Please be generous in your support of the Sisters.

### Knock Marks Basilica's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee

Knock Shrine, Ireland's International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine, will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Basilica of Our Lady, Queen of Ireland with a special Jubilee celebration on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> July, bringing together pilgrims, visitors and the local community for a day of prayer, reflection, storytelling and thanksgiving.

The anniversary commemorates fifty years since the Basilica was opened to accommodate the growing numbers of pilgrims visiting Ireland's International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine. Since its dedication, the Basilica has welcomed millions of visitors from Ireland and around the world, becoming a place of prayer, healing and spiritual renewal.

Father Richard Gibbons, PP and Rector of Knock Shrine, said the milestone is an opportunity to celebrate the vision and generosity that made the Basilica possible saying, "The 50th anniversary of Knock Basilica is an opportunity to celebrate the faith, vision and generosity that made this magnificent place possible. For five decades it has stood as a beacon of hope for pilgrims from every corner of Ireland and far beyond. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Knock as we give thanks for its remarkable legacy and pray for future generations who will continue to find comfort and inspiration here."

The day's programme begins with exclusive guided tours of the Basilica at 10.00am, 10.30am and 1.00pm, offering visitors an insight into its history, architecture and significance. A commemorative gathering in Saint John's Centre will feature a screening of An Acre of Shelter, followed by Faith and Foundations, a conversation between Father Richard Gibbons and broadcaster Tommy Marren. An open forum and Q&A will invite participants to share memories and reflect on the Basilica's place in the life of Knock and the Church in Ireland.

The celebration continues with the Anointing of the Sick at 2.30pm, followed by a Mass of Thanksgiving at 3.00pm in the Basilica.

All are welcome to attend this special Jubilee celebration. Further information is available at [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie).

### Rosary at the Green

Rosary will be recited at James Green on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm. This event is in honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel whose feast is celebrated on that day. All are welcome to come along and join in prayer.