

Pope Leo Reflects on his Trip to France

Speaking to journalists on the plane following his pilgrimage to France, Pope Leo remarked: "The four days were literally filled with many blessings. Almost miracles, I would say, especially the time at Lourdes, walking with, accompanying so many people who are sick and suffering and seeing how the grace of God's presence manifested in many different ways, touches people's hearts, transforms their lives, and, to use an expression that I mentioned there, restores dignity to the sick, the elderly, those who in some parts of society are discarded."

"So, there were many signs, many expressions, many symbols throughout the four days. And personally, I felt very blessed myself to have the privilege to visit France to encourage especially young people who are obviously searching for something. It was so apparent at the stadium, the evening with 80,000 young people gathered together from around France and their enthusiasm and their joy and the sense of hope that they offered, but especially I think that they received and will be able to share with others."

He then went on to speak about the defence of human life. "The defence of life is something that as you all know the Church teaches, believes very deeply. And so, on the one hand obviously knowing that in France the law was recently approved, in other countries in Europe as well, as other parts of the world there is a lot of debating going on about the questions of end-of-life issues. But being in a place especially like Lourdes where people are searching for something much deeper and understanding that their lives, even in the midst of sickness or disability or pain of different kinds, that their life has meaning.

The Church, because of Jesus Himself, wants to be close to those people and to affirm the values that life itself I think holds for all of us."

Lourdes – 2027

The dates for the annual Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2027 are Friday, 14th May to Wednesday, 19th May inclusive. Details regarding costs will follow shortly. All bookings, apart from those travelling as assisted pilgrims, are to be made directly with JWT. Tel. 01 241 0800. We encourage parishioners to consider travelling on this pilgrimage.

"The Hired Man"

Opening on 6th October at The Watergate Kilkenney, this year's production by Kilkenney Musical Society promises to be an emotional nostalgic journey. 'The Hired Man' is a captivating musical drama written by Melvyn Bragg and based on the true story of John Tallentire and his wife Emily. www.watergatetheatre.com or 056 776 1674.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenney. 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 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**

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - 4th October 2026

Pray the Rosary in October for Peace

Speaking in Lourdes on last Sunday Pope Leo made the following plea.

"I would like to make an appeal that is particularly close to my heart, here in this place. It was here that the Immaculate Virgin appeared to Saint Bernadette with the rosary and, as it were, guided her in prayer. For this reason, today I invite all the faithful and all Christian communities to pray the holy rosary throughout the coming month of October, with the particular intention that wars may cease and that peace may be established among peoples in conflict. Let us accompany this prayer with concrete acts of penance and mercy, committing ourselves always to fostering dialogue and reconciliation."

Parishioners gather in St. John's Church at 10.10am every morning and at 3.00pm every afternoon to pray the rosary in public. Please feel free to come along and join in this wonderful Marian prayer.

May our most holy Mother intercede for us!

30th Anniversary Mass – Beatification of Blessed Edmund Rice

On Monday, 5th October at 7.00pm, a special Mass will be celebrated in the Blessed Edmund Rice Chapel, Westcourt, Callan, to mark the 30th anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Edmund Rice. On 6th October 1996, Edmund Rice was beatified in Rome by St. Pope John Paul II. As we give thanks for the many blessings and graces received through his intercession, Fr. Willie Dalton, PP Callan, will lead this commemorative Mass.

The Christian Brothers Community warmly invites all parishioners of the Diocese of Ossory and friends to join us for this celebration. After Mass, you are welcome to gather in the Blessed Edmund Rice Centre for refreshments.

The Pope's Monthly Intention

For mental health ministry – Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illness. See "Notices" section of our parish website (www.stjohnskilkenny.com) for a video of the Pope praying for this intention.

St. Mary's Cathedral Draw

Thank you to everyone who has supported the St. Mary's Cathedral draw this month. We are delighted to announce that we had a top prize winner. Congratulations to our parishioner who won €2,000. Well done! Tickets cost €10 per draw and are available from the Parish Office or from Jane in the sacristy. The next draw is on Wednesday, 28th October.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Gerry Ferris, Castlecomer. Requiem Mass at 12.00 noon on Monday in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Castlecomer.
Tom Knox, St. Francis Terrace and late of Clara. Requiem Mass at 11.00am Sunday in St Mary's Cathedral.

Murty Brennan, Higginstown
Mary Traynor, College Road

Tony Devlin, Cedarwood Drive

Months Mind: Bill Hennessy (11.00am);

Anniversaries: John Kelly; Philip Walsh & Margaret Dowling; Joe Cleere; Eamon Morrissey (6.00pm); Liam O'Gorman (11.30am); Anthony Mahony (7.00pm); Tom Deevy; Dan Butler; Sr. Gregory Ryan; Seánie O'Brien; Margaret McGuinness.

*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, 10th & 11th October

Mass	Readers	Ministers of the Eucharist
6.00pm	Claire Coogan	Ger Daly & Martin O'Neill
8.00am	Mary Elliott	Jacinta O'Connell & Rosario Frances
10.00am	Betsy Rice	Monica Colgan
11.00am	Esther Comerford & Tom Comerford	Mary Brennan
11.30am	Kathleen Ferguson & Susan Bofin	Mary Deegan & Ava Maher
7.00pm	Linda O'Leary	Luke Leydon & Clodagh Butler

We say a sincere thanks to all our Readers and Eucharistic Ministers.

Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:	€875.00
<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
6.00pm St. John's	146
8.00am St. John's	86
10.00am Johnswell	37
11.00am Dunmore	80
11.30am St. John's	142
7.00pm St. John's	97
	588
	€1,424.00

Dates for Your Diary

First Holy Communion
Johnswell – Sunday, 16th May 2027 at 10.00am
St John's – Saturday, 22nd May 2027 at 11.00am

Parish Confirmations
Friday, 28th May 2027 at 11.00am

Please pray for the families involved.

National Synodal Assembly

With less than three weeks to go before the National Synodal Assembly takes place in Gormanston, Co Meath, the Church in Ireland is being asked to pray for those preparing for the gathering and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Assembly will take place on Saturday, 17th October 2026, bringing together nominated delegates from across the country (including Ossory) to consider the fruits of five years of prayer, listening and discernment along the Irish Synodal Pathway.

The Working Document for the Assembly has now been published and is available at this link: [Is not this what God asks of you?](#). It brings together the proposals developed through the seven national Working Groups and will provide the basis for prayer, conversation, discernment and deliberation when delegates gather in October.

But the invitation in the weeks ahead is not simply to read the document. Parishes, communities and individuals are being encouraged to pray with it and reflect on the question which has accompanied the Synodal Pathway since it began in 2021: *"What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time?"*

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 5th October 2026

Tuesday:	10.30am:	Requiem Helen Byrne
Thursday:	10.30am:	Seánie O'Brien
Saturday:	10.30am:	Tom Deevy
	6.00pm:	Margaret McGuinness
		Seamus McGurran
		John Butler
		Annette Cummins
Sunday:	11.00am:	Joe Bergin
		Frank & Colette Dalton
	11.30am:	Bridget Breda Byrne
	7.00pm:	Anthony Mahony



Please note we may transfer an anniversary Mass on the occasion of a funeral.

**May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

Pilgrimage to Lourdes for People with Additional Needs

Fr. Dan is National Chaplain of the Rise & Shine Trust which brings children and young people with additional needs on a week-long pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes each Easter. About 400 young people between 13 and 21 with additional needs are invited as guests. There is also a smaller section for people over 21 years. This trip is free for our guests as our volunteers fund-raise for it. Volunteers pay for their own trip.

Each of our groups comprise of around 15 volunteer carers and 10 guests. Every single group includes a group leader, a nurse, and carers. We are accompanied by a team of volunteer doctors who provide additional medical support. The groups share a wonderful fun filled week together that includes playing games in the park, day trips to the mountains, the beach, the zoo, or bowling, fancy-dress parties, Masses full of music and colour, the candlelight procession and visits to the Grotto.

Application forms are available from www.riseandshine.ie/easter-pilgrimage or from Fr. Dan who is more than willing to give more information and help with the application process. The closing date for next Easter's pilgrimage is 15th October 2026, so it is important to act immediately.

Watch our videos at www.riseandshine.ie/easter-pilgrimage or by scanning the QR code to get a flavour of this unique and life enhancing experience for those involved.



Mother of Fair Love School 1966 - 2026

60th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving in Mother of Fair Love School, James's Street, Kilkenny - 9th October 2026 at 12.00 noon. You are invited to join our celebration of 60 years of education for children and young adults with special needs. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Ger Nash, Bishop of Ossory and Ferns and Father Dermot Ryan, Chairperson of the Board of Management. Past staff, students and members of the community are welcome to join us in celebrating the past and looking with hope to the future. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

October Offering Envelopes

We offer a gentle reminder that the envelopes (green in colour) for the October Stations are included in your contribution packs. We appreciate your continued support.

St. Francis of Assisi

This weekend marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis, inspiring a yearlong series of celebrations across the world. The commemorations aim to renew Franciscan values in a world facing conflict and environmental challenges, inviting all to embrace compassion, simplicity, and unity in the spirit of the beloved saint. Mass will be celebrated in Kilkenny Capuchin Friary at 12.00 noon on this Sunday. Bishop Ger Nash will be celebrant. All are welcome.