

Shrines of France & Incl. Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Visiting Shrines of France from 7th – 14th October. There are a few seats still available. The cost is €799 including insurance. Contact Fr. Larry O’Keeffe, Clara 056 7726560.

Certificate in Theological Studies

Bishop Freeman has recently launched and encourages members of our parishes to work towards a **Certificate in Theological Studies**. The programme will be one year in duration and will be accredited by St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, as a Level 7 Certificate in Theological Studies. It will commence in the St Kieran’s College Campus in Sept.

The course will be of interest to those who are involved in parish life or who are involved with the Diocesan Pastoral Councils. It also may be of interest to those who wish to deepen and enrich their own understanding of their faith and who are prepared to become involved in parish life.

Members of our parish are encouraged to apply for the programme. Where parishioners are successful in securing a place on the course we hope to grant them some aid with their fee. Applications forms are available from our parish office and can be downloaded from both the Ossory and St. Kieran’s College Websites.

Wings to fly

‘If you take a bird’s wings away, you might seem to be taking weight off it, but the more weight you take off, the more you tie it down to the earth. There it is on the ground, and you wanted to relieve it of a weight; give it back the weight of its wings and you will see how it flies’ (St Augustine).

Who doesn’t feel overburdened from time to time? The words of Jesus in today’s Gospel have a broad appeal – ‘Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest...Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.’ But why does he use the image of a yoke, which calls to mind the weight hauled by oxen or ‘beast of burden’?

St Augustine offers us some insight here. The ‘burden’ to which Jesus refers is not a heavy weight imposed on us. Indeed in Jewish tradition ‘yoke’ was sometimes used as a metaphor for the challenging but joyous task of obedience to the law. ‘Any other burden oppresses and crushes you, but Christ’s actually takes weight off you. Any other burden weighs down, but Christ’s give you wings,’ offers Augustine.

Jesus does not want to place the burdens of self-righteousness, guilt or obedience on people’s backs. That was what the Pharisees did. When we come to Jesus we find rest, freedom, and a new strength to face what challenges come our way.

ST JOHN’S PARISH – KILKENNY



Parish Pastoral Council

Claire Bowden, Mary Brennan,
Seamus Brennan, Seán Colgan,
Penny Kavanagh, Jimmy Kelly,
Úna Lennon, Michael Mullins,
Fr Seán O’Connor, Mary O’Hanlon,
Fr Frank Purcell

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SVP HELPLINE - 086 895 1239

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

24th July 2011

Please Help – East Africa Appeal – This w/e

East Africa’s drought has led to millions of people across Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia being dependent on food aid, with up to half the population of certain affected areas suffering from serious malnutrition. The failure of adequate rainfall to have hit the region for full year has plunged east Africa into humanitarian crisis.

- Over 1,000 Somalis are arriving into Ethiopia and Kenya every day;
- Malnutrition rates among Somali children are as high as 47%;
- Communities in Ethiopia have reported that 80% of animals have died;
- Half of the 13 million affected people are children.

East Africa is Trócaire’s main area of work. With a presence in the region dating back almost 40 years, Trócaire is well placed to respond to the current crisis. Trócaire is funding drought response projects in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. We are also purchasing malnourished animals before they die and redistributing them to areas that still have sufficient grazing. When the next rains arrive in the autumn, we will help those families buy back the animals and re-establish their herds. Our ongoing programmes have prevented the people there from falling into crisis over recent decades. Such is the severity of the current drought, however, that Trócaire has launched an emergency appeal for the people of east Africa.

Deaths - Month's Minds - Anniversaries

Deaths: Josephine Kelly, Archers Court.
Tom Brennan, England, formerly Dunmore.
Philomena Mulhern, Ardara, Co. Donegal.
Joseph Doyle, Dominic Street.
Anne Skelley, Banim Terrace.
Sr Carmel Rita Maguire, St Patrick's Convent, Kells Rd,
(funeral mass Sun 2.30 p.m. in Foulkstown)
Seán Kelly, Sion Hermitage, Sion Road,
(funeral arrangements later)

Anniversaries: John Dowling (Sat 6:30 p.m.); Claire Drennan (Sun 10:30 a.m.); Liam and Patsy Davitt (Sun 12 noon); Paddy and Maureen Grace (Sun 7:30 p.m.); Catherine Moriarty (Thurs 10:30 a.m.); Jimmy Carrol; Milo Butler; Molly Purcell; Patrick Phelan; Elizabeth Brennan; Paddy Kirwan; Kate and Christy Burke;

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8.00a.m.	Seán O'Grady
10.30 a.m.	Bernie Dermody & Jimmy Connolly
12.00 noon	Peter Dwyer
7.30 p.m.	Marie Fogarty
Johnswell	Yvonne Hoban
Dunmore 11.00 a.m.	Phil Comerford & Esther Comerford

O'Loughlin Gaels Lotto

Numbers: 10, 12, 18, 23. Bonus No. 13. No Jackpot or Bonus winner.
Next week's prize fund €14,800.

St John's Prayer Group

St John's Prayer Group Mass will be held in the Day Centre at 8:15p.m. on Wednesday 27th of July. All are welcome.

Committee for the Elderly

A meeting of the Committee for the Elderly will take place on Monday evening in the Presbytery at 7.00 p.m. All members are invited to attend.

Ossory Vocations Promotion #36

*"Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find.
Knock and it will be opened to you."*

Ask in prayer to know your vocation! Seek and find ways to serve! Knock on the doors of those who can help guide you! If you think God may be offering you the grace of a vocation to the priesthood, Call: Fr. Willie Purcell, Vocations Director @ the Vocations Office 056 – 7770261 or ossoryvocdir@gmail.com

The New Roman Missal – Part 8

(all of this series is on the parish website)

What difference can we expect in November 2011?

From 27 November, the first Sunday of Advent, congregations and priest will use the texts of the new edition of the Roman Missal for the celebration of Mass. While the structure, actions and pattern of the Mass will remain the same and the readings will be unchanged, the texts of recited prayers will sound different to our ears.

Over time, as the new style of language becomes familiar to us, it is very much hoped that we will come to appreciate both the richness and depth of our prayer at Mass.

Foulkstown Cemetery Mass

Foulkstown Cemetery Mass will take place on Thursday 28th July at 7.30pm.

Tradfest at Larkins of Cainsbridge

Next Sunday, July 31st, there will be a "Tradfest" in aid of *Kilkenny Alzheimers Society* in Larkins of Cainsbridge. This festival will include Trad Bands; a BBQ; kids entertainment; a raffle and a DJ to finish. Tickets at the door: €15 for adults; €25 for family; teenagers/students €5, and kids are free.

Summer festival in Clonmacnois

Youth 2000 invites you to their Summer festival in Clonmacnois, Co Offaly from 4th – 7th August. This is a lively 4-day Catholic festival for 16-35 year-olds with great music, workshops, prayer, concert, inspiring talks, games, and plenty of time for relaxing and meeting new people.

The festival is donation-only with free buses from around the country, just bring a sleeping bag. To book online and for information on free buses please visit www.youth2000.ie, tel 01 6753690 or 085 8289231