

Safeguarding Sunday – 6th December, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, On Sunday, 6th December 2015, we celebrate our annual Safeguarding Sunday in our diocese.

The purpose of our Safeguarding Sunday is to create a greater awareness of safeguarding in our parishes and also to recognise the significant contribution of the faithful in ensuring that our Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and Procedures are being adhered to. However, we must never become complacent, because we have our policies in place does not mean our work is complete. In fact, it is only beginning and will continue. We must be vigilant at all times ensuring the safety of children who participate in our Church.

The Diocese of Ossory values and encourages the participation of children in our Church. Each and every one of us has a duty of care and a responsibility to do all we can to ensure that innocent children are protected and safe. By implementing and monitoring our Safeguarding Policies and Procedures the diocese is doing its very best to ensure the safety of children. Each child should be cherished and affirmed as a gift from God.

I thank all of you, priests, religious and the lay faithful, for your dedicated service to this very important ministry. Your support is essential in order to ensure the implementation and monitoring of Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. By doing so we, together, are doing all we can to ensure that children who participate in our Church do so in a safe environment.

In particular, I thank Sr. Ena Kennedy, Diocesan Director of Safeguarding, who is doing tremendous work in assisting parishes with the implementation and monitoring of Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.

If you have any queries or suggestions, please contact Sr. Ena. Further information, leaflets for Parents and Children, Posters, Notices, Contacts for reporting a safeguarding matter, are available at the back of the Church and on www.ossory.ie.

With every blessing of the Lord.

Bishop Séamus Freeman, SAC

A Children's Medieval Christmas in Rothe House

Friday 11th December at 6pm & 7.30pm. Stories, fun and entertainment provided by Heritage Tales with guest appearance by Santa Claus! Tickets cost €12.50 per child and €9.50 for adults. Pre-booking is essential.

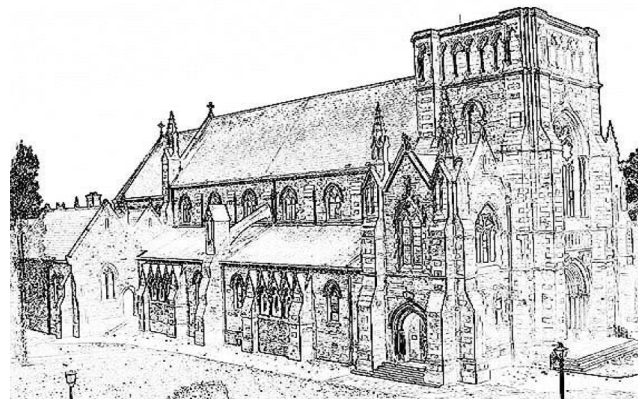
St John's Parish Local History Calendar

A new St John's Local History Calendar for 2016 is now available. Contact Frank Cody, Newpark Close FRC at 056-7723309. Cost: €5.00.

Candlelight Rosary Procession

Annual Candlelight Rosary Procession leaves The Parade on Tues 8th at 8.00 p.m. for the Black Abbey for Benediction.

ST JOHN'S PARISH ↔ KILKENNY



Pastoral Council

Mary Brennan,
Alan Burke,
Margaret Cleere,
Fr Brian Griffin,
Jimmy Kelly,
Sheila O'Callaghan,
Fr Seán O'Connor,
Aidan Phelan,
Fr Frank Purcell,
Pat Ryan.

Fr Frank Purcell (086) 601 0001

Fr Seán O'Connor (086) 389 5911

Fr Brian Griffin (087) 064 4158

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SVP HELPLINE - 086 895 1239

Second Sunday of Advent 6th December 2015

Diocesan Celebration to Inaugurate The Great Jubilee Year of Mercy

'Be merciful like the Father'

The Jubilee Year of Mercy will be inaugurated on 8 Dec 2015 and will run until 20 Nov 2016 – the solemnity of Christ the King. Bishop Freeman will inaugurate the Great Jubilee Year of Mercy in our diocese with the celebration of the Eucharist with priests, religious and the lay faithful, next Sunday, 13th, in St. Mary's Cathedral at 5.30 p.m. The beginning of the Jubilee Year is always solemnly marked by the opening of a Holy Door by the Pope in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. **Bishop Seamus, along with bishops throughout the world on that day in their dioceses, will officially open the Holy Door of Mercy, which is currently being prepared in St. Mary's Cathedral, the Mother Church of our diocese. All are invited and are most welcome.**

'Year of Mercy' Christmas Cards

The 'Year of Mercy' (8th Dec 2015 – Nov 20 2016) edition of our Parish Christmas Card, including Pope Francis' Jubilee Prayer, are now available for purchase at the back of the church, in the sacristy or at the presbytery. Pack of six for €5.

Deaths – Month's Minds – Anniversaries

Deaths: Brede Dunne, Nore Terrace. *Prayers in Johnstons at 9.45am Monday. Removal to St John's Church for 10.30am Mass. Interment in St Kieran's cemetery.*
Johanna Hayes, Newpark Lower.
Anne Madden, Larchfield.
Lorcan Bergin, Rioch Street.

Anniv: Helen Purcell (6.30pm); Mary Shelly (10.30am);
Jim Rice (11.00am); Etta Shine (12.00 noon);
Paddy & Patricia O'Hara (7.30pm); John Marnell; Brigid Comerford;
Mary Coyne; Tom, Peggy & Sheila Burke; Patrick & Rose Wixted;
Mary Dowling; Billy Loughman; Michael Andrews; Christy Galvin;
Eileen Brophy; Joseph Emery; Martin Phelan;

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8.00am	Seán O'Grady
10.30am	Jimmy Connolly
12.00noon	Peter Dwyer
7.30pm	Ann Fitzpatrick
Johnswell 10.00am	Fiona Whitely
Dunmore 11.00am	Philip Comerford & Esther Comerford

Weekly Envelope Collection

Thanks to all who contribute and those who pay by Standing Order. S.O. forms available in Parish Office.

Ossory Vocations Promotion #02

John the Baptist cried out and made ready for the Lord. Who will promote the gospel in our community? (Luke 3: 1-6)

If you think God is calling you to priesthood, call Fr. Willie Purcell Ossory Vocations Director. 056 7770261 or email ossoryvocdir@gmail.com.

Advent Reflections

For Sundays of Advent, a leaflet is available which contains a line of scripture from each of the daily readings. We invite you to take a copy as you maybe get an opportunity to take a moment each day during Advent to reflect.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – Thursday, 7.30 p.m.

Kilkenny Choir & Kilkenny Youth Orchestra

The Kilkenny Choir together with Kilkenny Youth Orchestra will present a concert on Sunday 13th December, 2015 at 4.30pm in St. John's Church, Kilkenny entitled *Sacred Music from Paris* with compositions by *Liszt, Gounod and Saint-Saens, conducted by Philip Edmondson.*
Tickets at the door before the concert. €8/€5.

Johnswell School Craft Sale and Coffee Morning

A coffee morning and Christmas craft sale will be held in Johnswell Primary School after 10am Mass on Sunday 13th December. The crafts will be made by the pupils and parents of the school. Please support.

St Vincent De Paul Society

The Parish Conference of the St Vincent De Paul Society will hold its Annual Christmas Collection next weekend. Thank you for your generous support and we wish you a happy Christmas.

St John's Eucharistic Adoration

New 'adorers' are required for this ministry. If you wish to become an adorer i.e. commit to a regular hour Tuesday to Friday for 8am – 7pm please put your name and number in book outside adoration Chapel Door.

Book Signing at St Mary's Cathedral Bookshop

Fr Jim O'Connell, MHM, will be in the Cathedral Bookshop to sign copies of his book 'A Life to Live – Awakening to God's Abiding Presence' next Saturday (12th) from 11.00 to 3.00. Foreword by Fr Liam. Highly acclaimed by Sr Stanislaus, Fr Dan O'Leary and The Furrow magazine.

General Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

The Winter 2015 General Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference concluded this evening in Columba Centre, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth. The following issues were discussed by the bishops during their meeting:

- Bishops to open "Holy Doors" in dioceses for the Jubilee Year of Mercy
- Equal protection for the right to life of mothers and unborn children
- 2015 Synod on the Family and the 2018 World Meeting of Families in Dublin
- *Laudato Si* and the UN Climate Change Conference COP21
- Conference celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas

Full Statement may be seen on the parish website: stjohnskilkenny.com

Monthly Rosary

Monthly Rosary at Statue of Our Lady James' Green this Sunday at 3.00 p.m.