

Lourdes 2016

Bookings are now being taken for the Ossory Diocesan a Pilgrimage to Lourdes from May 22 to 27. For information please ring Eleanor at 051 880414 or glenmore@ossory.ie

Enable Ireland, O'Neill Centre

Church Gate Collection will take place next weekend 6th & 7th February.

Kilkenny Active Retirement Association

A.G.M. will be held in Club House Hotel on Monday 2.30pm.

Monthly Rosary

The Monthly Rosary in James Green takes place this Sunday 3.00pm.

Divine Mercy Apostolate

Service for Healing of the Generations takes place Wed. in St Brigid's Church, Coon. Adoration at 6.30pm. Mass at 7.30pm, concluding with Benediction.

Medjugorje Evening of Prayer

Rosary, Mass and Adoration, takes place in Mill Hill, Waterford Road on Monday 8th at 8pm. All are welcome.

Samaritans

Carlow Kilkenny Samaritans will hold an information evening in Butler House, Patrick Street, at 7.30pm next Tuesday 9th. If you have considered volunteering with us or just would like information, you will be most welcome.

Why, Why, Why?

Why do we press harder on the remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

Why do banks charge a fee due to insufficient funds; when they already know you're broke?

Why is it that when someone tells you that there are one billion stars in the universe you believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint you have to touch it to check?

Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose cruel idea was it to put an "s" in the word "lisp"?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

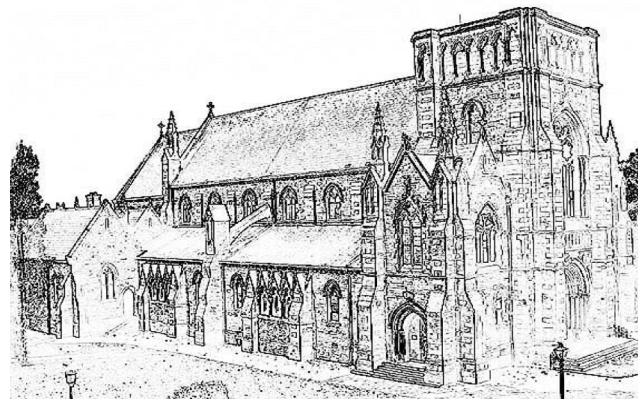
Why is it that, no matter what colour bubble bath you use, the bubbles are always white?

Why is it that no plastic bag will ever open from the first end you try?

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

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,
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SVP HELPLINE - 086 895 1239

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 7th February 2016

Ash Wednesday & Lent

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at **8.00am, 10.30am and 7.30pm** masses.

Fasting, and Abstinence from the eating meat, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism.

In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

2016 is the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. During this year we are invited as followers of Christ to become 'Missionaries of Mercy'.

According to Pope Francis, mercy is the foundation of the Church's life.

Pope Francis says that we do not just show mercy, we 'do' mercy and act for justice. In his Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* he urges all people to take action at local, national and international levels to end the destruction of the environment and, in particular, the devastation being caused by climate change.

Deaths – Month's Minds – Anniversaries

Deaths: Brian Moloney, London.
Jimmy Saunders, Walkin Street.
Marie Power, Nore Terrace.
Joan Farrell, Garringreen, *Prayers in Hehirs at 9.30am*
Monday. Removal to St John's Church for 10.30am Mass.

Months Mind: Edward Walsh.

Anniv: Ben Little (6.30pm); Sarah Prendergast (10.00am);
Catherine, James, Joe & Patrick Fogarty (10.30pm);
Edward McEvoy (11.00am); Teresa Hewitt (12.00 noon); Seán Moloney;
Pat Langton; Raymond Hanlon; Mary Phelan; Noelle Meaney;
Shane Holland; Geoffrey Leahy; Mark O'Grady; James Shortall;
Dr Richard & Lily Purcell; Robert Delaney; May & Jack Bourke;
Robert Brophy; Isabella Doyle;

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8.00am	Ann Marie Hogan
10.30am	Kathleen Ferguson & Saoirse Ryan
12.00noon	Bobbie Lahart
7.30pm	Eileen Kinane
Johnswell 10.00am	Seán Colgan
Dunmore 11.00am	Pierce Lennon & Liam Maddock

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 #11

Holiness is a gift of God. Open yourself to the gift. When God calls, be ready to respond: "Here I am, send me!" (Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8)

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

www.ossory/vocations

The Penitential Season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the penitential season of Lent. Its true name is actually not "Ash Wednesday" but "The Day of Ashes."

Whichever name is used, the reference to ashes comes from the ceremony of placing ashes on the forehead in the shape of the cross as a sign of penitence. This custom was introduced by Pope Gregory I, who was Bishop of Rome from 590 A.D. to 604 A.D.

It was enacted as a universal practice in all of Western Christendom by the Synod of Benevento in 1091 A.D.

Gala Concert

Gala Concert Thomastown Parish Church Celebrating the newly refurbished Organ takes place this evening at 7pm with St. Patrick's Brass & Reed Band, Sospiro Male Voice Choir, featuring Organ solos by Derek Verso and Dr. Frank Lawrence. Admission Free. Donations welcome.

Message from Trócaire

Lent is a blessed opportunity to review our life. We know in our heart that despite our best intentions there is always room for change and improvement.

Lent is a blessed opportunity also because we can share in this journey of discernment and decision. Together we can grow in awareness and insight which will enable us with God's grace 'to make all things new' again.

We have now a new consciousness of the world as a global village and like any village community we are dependent on one another.

No longer can we deny that the action and practices of the richer countries is having a huge negative impact on the poorer countries. That is why this lent, Trócaire are talking about climate justice.

While Lent invites us to personal spiritual renewal it also invites us also to be mindful of the poor, oppressed and persecuted sisters and brothers and to reach out to them in their hour of need.

In March 2013, Pope Francis wrote: *'The Church is likewise conscious of the responsibility which all of us have for our world, for the whole of creation, which we must love and protect. There is much that we can do to benefit the poor, the needy and those who suffer, and to favour justice, promote reconciliation and build peace'*.

Trócaire's work is being done on behalf of the Irish Catholic Church.

Trócaire's work makes a difference. So please join with us in continuing to make a difference. May this Lenten Season be for all of us a time of grace and renewal.

Kilkenny Flower Club

Demonstration by Maura Donnelly at Butler House on Thursday at 8pm.