

## Pope tells Bishops:

### “You Are Goalkeepers, Ready to Take the Shots”

Pope Francis has told Irish bishops their role should be one of a “goalkeeper”, ready to take shots from any direction.

The pope made this observation during a two-hour audience with the bishops, who have been in Rome all week on an “Ad Limina” (to the threshold) visit to the Pope and the Holy See.

Speaking at a news conference after their audience, Archbishop Eamon Martin, and president of the Irish Bishops conference, said he and his fellow Bishops had been very encouraged by the “open attitude” and the “listening mode” of both the pontiff and the Holy See curia.

Also attending the news conference were the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, the Bishop of Kildare Denis Nulty and the Bishop of Limerick, Brendan Leahy.

Both Archbishops stressed the informal, relaxed nature of their audience. Rather than greet the bishops with a prepared text, the pope sat down beside them in a large group.

Archbishop Eamon Martin said the conversation, with the aid of an English-speaking interpreter, was about the Church in Ireland and about “the hopes, the fears and the struggles of our people”.

Archbishop Martin, one of the small number of Irish bishops present at the last Irish “Ad Limina” visit in 2006, called the meeting “quite extraordinary”.

“He didn’t present us with an agenda of the things he wanted to talk about. The dominant thing was he was asking us and challenging us about what it means to be a Bishop in Ireland or anywhere today1,” the Archbishop said.

Instead the pope’s questions were practical, not political. He asked how do we begin a dialogue with young people?

According to Archbishop Martin, the pope told the bishops not to be ideological. “We should meet with people the way they are.”

“He described the bishop as being like a goalkeeper: the shots keep coming from everywhere. You stand there and be ready there,” Archbishop Martin said.

*Newsletter & Christmas Candles in St John’s Church, kindly sponsored by*

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### **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017**

### **Our Annual Parish Social**

The Annual Parish Social takes place in *Langton House Hotel* next Sunday, **29<sup>th</sup> January**, commencing at 8.30 pm.

Admission: €10 each, which includes Dinner followed by Music and Dancing with Pat Treacy. Tickets can now be purchased from any member of the Pastoral Council, or at the Sacristy, or at the Parish office.

**We look forward to a large attendance and hope you can attend this most enjoyable Annual Parish Community event.**

### **Finance Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Finance Committee will take place next Thursday at 7.30pm in the Presbytery. All members are invited to attend.

### **Lourdes 2017**

The annual Ossory pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from Monday, 22 May to, 27 May inclusive. Bookings for all intending to travel may be made by contacting Eleanor (Monday-Friday) at Glenmore parish office Glenmore. Telephone 051 880414. Email [glenmore@ossory.ie](mailto:glenmore@ossory.ie). Price €775 pps.

## Deaths – Month’s Minds – Anniversaries

**Deaths:** Martin Kelly, Bishop Birch Place.  
Anne O’Brien, Hazel Grove.  
Kathleen Quigley, Dean Kavanagh Place.  
Michael Power, Troy’s Court.  
Jim Carrigan, Clara.  
Alice Leahy, Fr Murphy Square.

**Annivs:** Lil Redmond (6.30pm); Billy Malone (8.00am);  
Rita Collings (10.00am); William, Tess & Joan Murphy (10.30am);  
Jarlath Walsh (11.00am); Richard Grace (12.00 noon);  
Patrick Meany (7.30pm); Seamus Holohan; Maureen Fitzgerald;  
Tom & Bridie Casey; James McGrath; Bridget Brennan; Joe Brennan;  
Jimmy & Chrissie Bergin; Paddy Nolan; Ann Moynihan; Billy Burke;  
Michael Cody; Bridget McEvoy; Catherine Cassin; Fr Larry Foley;  
Mary Fanning; Michael McDonald; Ann Kavanagh; Shane Holland;  
Paddy & Tess Hogan.

## Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend – Panel 1

### Readers for Next Weekend – Page 130

8.00am	Martin Blake
10.30am	Paula Rogers & Louis Feeley
12.00noon	John Joyce & Seán Ware
7.30pm	Marie Fogarty
Johnswell 10.00am	Seán Colgan
Dunmore 11.00am	Christy Murray & Caitriona McDermott

### Weekly Envelope Collection

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

## New Look & Enlarged Newsletter on the way

Within the next couple of months, our Parish Newsletter will take on a whole new shape as it undergoes a major makeover.

A publishing company called ‘Liturgical Publications of Ireland’ which currently publish newsletters for many parishes in Ireland have chosen St John’s Parish as the parish in Kilkenny City they wish offer this service.

Based on the age-old American model, L.P.I. recruit and gather advertising from local companies and publish them on the back page of a folded A3 sheet.

That leaves three other pages (i.e. three A4 sized pages) for parish use.

It will be in full colour and will contain colour themes, church related graphics and photographs, as well the usual news, etc. that we usually publish.

The new format of the newsletter will cost the parish nothing - by way of paper supplies or printing.

The only little ‘catch’ if any, is that the deadline for all printed news items, anniversaries, etc., will be either Wednesday or Thursday at 1.00 p.m.

This is certainly not unusual with newsletters in many churches that need to be at the printers in time so as to be ready for delivery to parishes by the close of business on Friday evenings.

We will keep you informed as the time gets nearer.

## Johnswell Badminton Club

Johnswell Badminton Club will hold their Annual Table Quiz next Friday 27<sup>th</sup> at 8.30pm in the Community Hall. Tables of Four. Lots of Prizes for winners and runners up. Please support. All are very welcome.

## Fitness Classes Johnswell

Fitness Classes with a qualified instructor will take place in Johnswell Hall on Tuesday nights at 8.30pm. Fitness for all levels catered for.

## Saint Mary’s Cathedral Restoration Draw

The 11<sup>th</sup> of the Diocesan Monthly Draws in aid of St. Mary’s Cathedral Restoration Fund will take place on **Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January** in the Chapter Room. Tickets are available at the Parish Office and at the Sacristy.

## Family Carers Ireland

Family Carers Ireland are proving the QQI Level 5 Healthcare Support Award in your area based on demand in February 2017. One Day workshops on Mental Health, Nutrition, Dementia & Emergency First Aid also available. For more info contact 0579322920.