

Kilquan Players

Kilquan Players presents a Comedy in three acts 'Poor Jimmy' by P.G O'Dea in Coon Hall from Friday 1st February to Sunday 3rd at 8pm. Admission €10.

'The First of His Signs'

This is a familiar story, rich in symbolism. It is the first 'sign' recorded in John's Gospel. These 'signs' in John's Gospel are miracle stories but John prefers to use the term 'sign', as they point to something far more than just the miracle itself. John used these signs to encourage belief in his readers, but they are also an invitation for us to understand something more of how God operates in our lives.

Jesus transforms the water which would be used for the Jewish purification rite. He takes something used to give life to people, and transforms it into something which brings joy, celebration and new life to the party. There are many messages we can take from this account: the ability of God to transform our lives, to transform that which is dead and stale. The abundance of wine (approx. 700 Litres!) is a significant reminder of the abundance of God's love for us, beyond our comprehension.

We could also focus on the role of Mary in this Gospel – she is the one who notices, she is attentive to the needs of those around her and brings this concern to Jesus. We might pray today that we too may be able to notice, to see, to intervene when we are faced with situations that need attention.

This may be a situation of injustice or it may be a situation where something in our own lives or in our church has become dead and stale and is in desperate need of new wine.

Add: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. **Email:** stjohns@ossory.ie **Web:** stjohnskilkenny.com

Parish 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:** 086 895 1239

Fr Frank Purcell: 086 601 0001; Fr Brian Griffin: 087 064 4158; Fr Lorcan Moran: 086 855 0521

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mary Brennan; Alan Burke; Margaret Cleere; Paul Colgan; Fr Brian Griffin;
Siobhán McKiernan; Fr Lorcan Moran; Aidan Phelan; Fr Frank Purcell; Pat Ryan.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a safeguarding concern contact

The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Mr Cathal Cullen, 087 100 0232 - dlp@ossory.ie

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are:

Kathleen Ferguson; Phil Curran; Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

incorporating | St John's | Dunmore | Johnswell | church areas

MASS TIMES

St John's – Sundays & Holy Days: Vigil: 6.30 p.m.; Sun: 8.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 12 noon & 7.30 p.m.
Polish Mass: 2nd Sun. monthly, 2.00 p.m.; **Weekdays:** 8.00 a.m. & 10.30 a.m. (Sat. 10.30 a.m. only)
Johnswell – Sunday 10.00 a.m. **Dunmore – Sunday 11.00 a.m.**

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - 20th January 2019

Ordinary Time

It is somewhat ironic that we find ourselves now in **Ordinary Time** for there is nothing '**ordinary**' in what is being said to us in today's readings. On the one hand, the prophet is asking his people to recognise God's personal and passionate love for them while, on the other, Paul is celebrating the abundance of gifts which this loving God has bestowed on his people.

All of this is symbolised in the story of Cana where the wine of God's joy flows liberally among the guests. The readings all point to the extraordinary dignity which is given to each one of us as a child of God. If only we could truly believe it of ourselves then we might more readily respect it in others.

Mary's Meals - New Kilkenny Branch

Mary's Meals provides a daily meal to over 1.3 million of the world's poorest children in their schools.

There are still some 61 million children that are not going to school because of poverty so there is a huge amount of work still to do.

Our work is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty. Mary's Meals consists of, respects, and reaches out to people of all faiths and of none.

A new Branch of Mary's Meals is being established in Kilkenny. If you are interested, we are launching on Tuesday 22nd January at 8pm in Villa Maria, Freshford Road. For information see www.marysmeals.ie or contact Paul McKiernan 087 1216481.

BEREAVEMENTS

Recently Deceased:

'Lory' O'Brien, Templeorum, Piltown.

Betty Burke, 28 Assumption Place. *Requiem Mass in St John's tomorrow (Monday) morning at 10.30. Interment in St Kieran's Cemetery.*

Month's Mind:

Richie Purcell (6.30pm).

Kevin McDaid (11.00am).

Anniversaries:

Teresa Purcell (6.30pm); Billy Malone (8.00am); Rita Collings (10.00am); Josie Purcell (10.30am); Michael Dowling (12.00 noon); Patrick Meany (7.30pm); Bridget Doyle; Bridget Delaney; Lil Redmond; John Joe O'Shea & Family; Maureen Fitzgerald; Richard Grace; William McGrath; Ann Hawe; Patrick 'Chucky' O'Brien; Michael Cody; Mary & Kevin Fanning; Ann Kavanagh; Brigid McEvoy; Billy Burke;

Readers for Next Weekend – Page 129

6.30pm	Ann Daly
8.00am	Nora Webster
10.30am	Peggy Wall
12.00noon	Tony Dalton
7.30pm	Marie Fogarty
Johnswell 10.00am	Betsy Rice & Teresa Dowling
Dunmore 11.00am	Jim Kavanagh & Claire Harrick

Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend – Panel 1

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €4,784.

Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

St Joseph's Young Priests Society

A meeting of the St John's Branch of the St Joseph's Young Priests Society will take place on Monday 21st January at 11.00am in the Presbytery. All are welcome.

Saint Mary's Cathedral Draw

The 11th Monthly Draw for St. Mary's Cathedral Restoration takes place on Wednesday 30th January in the Chapter Room.

Mass Intentions for the coming Week

Monday: Lil Redmond (8.00am).
Special Intention (10.30am).

Tuesday: John Joe O'Shea & Family
(10.30am).

Wednesday: Maureen Fitzgerald (10.30am)

Thursday: Richard Grace (10.30am).

Friday: William McGrath (10.30am).

Saturday: Anne Hawe (10.30am).
Anne O'Connor (6.30pm).

Sunday: Frank Walsh (8.00am).
Nancy Comerford (10.00am).
Dick Brennan (10.30am).
Renee & Jarlath Walsh (11.00am).
Bridget Doyle (12.00 noon).
Patty Leahy (7.30pm).

Parish Pastoral Council

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council takes place next Thursday night at 7.30 p.m. in the Presbytery.

All members are requested to attend.

Finance Meeting

A meeting of the Parish Finance Committee meeting will take place next Wednesday 23rd January at 7.30pm in the Presbytery. All members are requested to attend.

St Vincent De Paul

Monthly collection for St Vincent de Paul Society will take place this week-end 19th & 20th January. Sincere thanks for all your generous support.

Make sure you invite Jesus and Mary!

Johnny Carson (who hosted the *Tonight Show* for 30 years), was interviewing an eight-year-old boy one night. The young man was asked to appear on the *Late Show* because he had rescued two friends from a coal mine outside his hometown in West Virginia.

As Johnny questioned him, it became apparent that the boy was a Christian. Johnny asked him if he attended Sunday School. When the boy said he did, Johnny inquired, "What are you learning in Sunday School?"

"Last week," the boy replied, "our lesson was about how Jesus went to a wedding and turned water into wine." The audience burst into laughter and applause. Keeping a straight face, Johnny asked, "And what did you learn from that story?" The boy squirmed in his chair. It was apparent he hadn't thought about this. But then he lifted up his face and said, "If you're going to have a wedding, make sure you invite Jesus and Mary!"

And that is precisely the message of today's Gospel: make sure you invite Jesus and Mary wherever you live and wherever you go – they are the only ones you'll ever need.

In other words, today's Gospel lesson is about the sufficiency of Christ in our lives and the power of his Mother's intercession.