

Knock Shrine to Host Special Online Faith Discussions During Lent

This year Knock Shrine will host a new series of online discussions to help engage Christians during Lent. We will discuss topics like What nurtures our faith and what challenges it today? Where do we find hope and joy in our lives? How can our faith build mental strength, wellbeing and resilience? How has the Covid pandemic impacted upon our faith?

The discussions will be streamed online offering people the opportunity to engage in relevant topics and to hear from a range of people such as Baroness Nuala O'Loan and Senator Ronan Mullen to groups of young teachers and members of the clergy.

Thursday, 4th March: *Living Christian Faith in the Classroom as Young Teachers*. The talks will be streamed at 8.30pm every Thursday during Lent. www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live

Your Support is Key - New Distributors Required

Will you help with the distribution of Offering envelopes to homes in our Parish?

We are looking for your help to distribute envelopes four times a year; Lent, October, November and December, in the following areas: Johnswell Upper, Ashfield East, Newpark Close, John's Street, Castlecomer Road, O'Loughlin Court, Weir View, Weir Crescent, Weir Hill, Ballyragget Road, Kirwin's Inch.

Our call for help is due to the retirement of several distributors who have served us faithfully for many years. We wish to thank them sincerely for their dedication and selfless service to our parish. We pray that they will be rewarded for their efforts and kindness.

Please call the parish office 056 772 1072 if you would like to volunteer.

Lenten Offering Envelopes are now available from the Presbytery for distribution.

The **"Lenten Offering Collection"** goes towards the salaries of the priests of the parish as well as our contribution towards the bishop's salary.

The **"Weekly/Yearly/Standing Order"** contributions go in their entirety to capital expenditure and maintenance of the three parish churches and buildings, as well as all the running costs of the parish.

We are very conscious of the sacrifices that you make as you support these collections, and once again we take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all who do so.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. **Email:** stjohns@ossory.ie

Website: stjohnskilkenny.com

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 Dan Carroll: 087 907 7769; Fr Brian Griffin: 087 064 4158; Fr Lorcan Moran: 086 855 0521

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Fergal Brennan; Mary Brennan; Alan Burke; Fr Dan Carroll; Margaret Cleere; Fr Brian Griffin; Fr Lorcan Moran; Iris O'Flynn; Karena Phelan.

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:

Mary Weadick; Máirín Bergin; Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

Roman Catholic Diocese and Parishes of Ossory - Registered Charity No. 20015831

PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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

MASS TIMES (During Covid-19 Restrictions)

St John's – Sundays & Holy Days: Vigil: 6.00pm; Sun: 8.00am, 11.30am & 7.00pm.

Polish Mass: 2nd Sun. Monthly, 1.00pm; **Weekdays:** 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only).

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

2nd Sunday of Lent - 28th February 2021

Stations of the Cross

During the Fridays of Lent, Stations of the Cross will be broadcast from our Church at 7pm.

Prayer for the Sick

On Tuesdays during Lent, a Prayer for the Sick will be said at 10.30am Mass. Please place your intentions for loved ones in the special box in front of the altar.

Women's World Day of Prayer 2021

Women's World Day of Prayer will not be celebrated locally this year. There will be a service on Sunday, 28th February on RTE 1 at 11.00am led by the Christian Women of Vanuatu.

Bereavement Support

Kilkenny Bereavement Support is a voluntary organisation that offers a free listening service to bereaved people of all ages. Because of Covid-19 we are not able to offer face to face meetings. At the moment, we support the bereaved by phone or by Zoom. For appointment: phone 056 775 6538 or email director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com.

St. Kieran - Our Diocesan Saint

The feast of St. Kieran - patron saint of the Diocese of Ossory - is celebrated on Friday, 5th March. His mother came from Cape Clear in Co. Cork, his father from Ossory. Kieran was one of the pre-Patrician saints of Ireland. Traditions say he went to Rome, was ordained by the Pope and was sent back to Ireland by Patrick. He is called 'the Elder' to distinguish him from St. Ciarán of Clonmacnoise. When the diocesan cathedral was built in 1843, although it was called St. Mary's, it also has Kieran as its secondary patron.

Scripture Reflection

On the second Sunday of Lent we see Jesus triumph over death and promising eternal life. In the readings today, we see two major events in the life of Jesus. God makes known to Abraham that his descendants will be blessed. Most Christians recognise Abraham as father. God was faithful to all he promised and he sent the chosen people into the land of Israel. We see another vision. The disciples needed hope from Jesus before his Passion and Death. He took Peter, James and John to Mount Tabor. He was transfigured before them in the presence of Moses and Elijah. After the Transfiguration the disciples realised that Jesus was not an ordinary person. Peter said "Lord it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tabernacles, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah. Suddenly they heard a voice "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, listen to him." (Matthew 17:1- 5). The disciples were afraid and Jesus spoke to them "Arise" he said "and do not be afraid" On looking up they saw nobody only Jesus. May our faith be a source of hope and peace in our lives.

Bereavements

Recently Deceased:

Patrick Ryan, England.
 Michael O'Hanrahan, Dukessmeadows.
 Gary Halpin, St. Thomas Square.
 PJ Garvan, Ballycallan.
 Remigijus Sinkevicius, Callan Road.

John Bergin, Newpark.
 Eleanor Brophy, Riverside Drive.
 Maeve Morrissey, The Sycamores.
 William Rehling, De La Salle Place.

Months Mind: Michael Kinchella

Anniversaries: Peg O'Rahilly, Neddie Phelan, Margaret, Betty & Jack Rowe, Joe & Ellen (Nell) Delaney, Catherine Neary, Martin Dermody, JJ & PJ McKenzie, Carol Shaw, Most Rev. Peter Birch. *May they rest in peace.*

**Those we love don't go away,
 they walk beside us every day.
 Unseen, unheard, but always near;
 still loved, still missed and very dear.**

Readers for Next Weekend – Page 154

6.00pm Máirín Bergin
 8.00am No Mass
 10.00am No Mass
 11.00am No Mass
 11.30am Tony Dalton
 7.00pm Joan Galwey

Weekly Envelope Collection

Last week's envelope collection: €1,005. Thanks to all who contribute weekly, monthly and annually, as well as those who pay by Standing Order. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Covid-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a Covid-19 national support line for older people. Call 0818 222 024.

Samaritans - We Are Here for You

Every hour, every day, a Samaritan is waiting to answer your call. Please don't suffer in silence. We are here today, and always, on freephone 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.ie.

Accord Relationship Counselling

Many individuals, couples and families experience ongoing levels of tension and stress. Call the couples and relationships support line on 01 531 3331, staffed by counsellors Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 8.00pm. Visit accord.ie to check for a face to face appointments.

Age Action

Age Action is offering five hours tutoring, by telephone, to anyone who needs support using their smart device or laptop. Covering topics like how to set up an email, how to download an app, how to use video to see your loved ones etc. For more information, please call 01 475 6989 or email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie.

Irish Bishops Support Vaccine

Last December the Irish Catholic Bishops in a statement said that "safe and effective vaccination is an essential aspect of the prevention of disease". They encouraged Catholics to support the programme of vaccination "not only for their own good, but for the protection of life and the health of those who are vulnerable and for the common good of humanity". The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith made a similar call to all Catholics in its Note on the morality of Covid-19 vaccines (21 December 2020).

The Council for Healthcare of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference wishes to reiterate that message and urges everyone to support the vaccination programmes currently in place in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday: Christine O'Connor & Dolores Dowling (6.00pm).
 Sunday: Joan Tallis (11.30am).
 Declan Delaney (7.00pm).
 Monday: Breda Byrne (10.30am).
 Tuesday: Jim Kealy (10.30am).
 Wednesday: Annie Dowling (10.30am).
 Thursday: Kitty Rice (10.30am).
 Friday: Months Mind - Michael Kinchella (10.30am).
 Saturday: Rita McKiernan (10.30am).
 Paddy O'Brien (6.00pm).
 Sunday: Margaret Dwyer (11.30am).
 Stephen Clowry (7.00pm).

May they rest in peace.

Daily Broadcast Mass

Please join us each Sunday and weekday on our Webcam Service, stjohnskilkenny.com, or our Parish Radio Service (106.8 FM).

Please note: At the moment the webcam only broadcasts during Mass and services.

**Weekdays: 10.30am.
 Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil;
 Sunday: ~~8.00am~~, 11.30am
 and 7.00pm.**

All are welcome!

Lenten Resources in the Diocese of Ossory

Lent Texts: Sign up for a free daily thought sent to you by text. A little prompt on your phone to pause each day during this Lenten journey. Text your number to 085 831 3100.

Lent Tweets: Follow @OssoryDiocese for a simple thought each day during this Lenten journey. Have your timeline prompt you to pause each day to be reminded of our Lenten journey.

Lectio Divina - Zoom: Each Monday evening of Lent why not join for a virtual gathering of Lectio Divina. This 30 - 40 minute gathering allows us to come together to reflect on the scriptures and what they are saying to us today. To sign up simply email afd@ossory.ie for the link.

Online Resources: Lots of online resources for Lent are available on the Ossory website. Download them for use in your home. Visit www.ossory.ie and church posters for details.

Dying with Dignity? A Reflection

Join us for a virtual gathering to explore the Dying with Dignity Bill with Moral Theologian Rev. Dr. Michael Shortall (Maynooth) who will lead us in a short reflection on this controversial bill facing the Irish people. To sign up simply email afd@ossory.ie for the link for this gathering on Monday, 1st March at 7.30pm.

Sustaining Faith in a time of Pandemic.

Join Pope Francis for his weekly Wednesday audience, Sunday Angelus and all Lenten Services, live from Rome, from the safety and comfort of your home. Watching is easy! See Daily Mass, Rosary from Lourdes and Catholic Devotions, Children and Educational programming.

Free to air on Sky TV Channel 588 - Virgin Media 815 – www.ewtn.ie or download the app to your phone. To receive a Free Catholic TV Guide, contact EWTN, PO Box, Limerick. Call 065 683 5891 or E-mail: mail@ewtn.ie.

Trócaire Lenten Campaign

The Family Fast Boxes are available in our churches. Please take a box and encourage your family to help this very worthy cause.

Trócaire is offering a series of online workshops throughout Lent 2021. Please visit our parish page on www.trocaire.org and sign up to indicate which workshops you are interested in attending. Each workshop will last for one hour and will explore an aspect of our overseas programmes in more detail, as well as Trócaire's work in campaigning and awareness raising in parishes and communities.