

Ruach Ministry Portlaoise
3-Day Residential Retreats 2024

Faith Formation based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and Inner Healing Adoration

Led by: Fr. Prince Clarence S.J.

Dates: 23rd July,
30th July – 1st August
6th – 8th August

Venue: De La Salle Retreat Centre,
Castletown, Co. Laois. R32 N6D8

Cost: €195 per person, per retreat

Contact: Margaret: 087 231 2066
Oonagh: 086 173 6181

Email: ruachministry5@gmail.com
These retreats are strictly residential: Arrive on Tuesday, 9.00am. Leave on Thursday, 5.00pm.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues in St. John's Church between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesdays.

Dates for Your Diary

St. Kieran's Cemetery Mass

This coming Friday, 28th June @ 7.30pm

Dunmore and Johnswell Cemetery Masses

Friday, 5th July @ 7.30pm

Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

Wednesday, 21st August. Fare: €20.

Coach beginning to fill up.

Booking at the Parish Office.

Peter's Pence Collection

The annual Peter's Pence Collection for the Pope's charities will replace the second collection on next weekend. Please support the Church's work among the poor of the world.

Rosary at The Green

Rosary will be recited at St. James' Green on Thursday, 27th June at 6.30pm. It is for the Pro-Life intention.

The Priory Institute Online Summer School
Seeking, Serving and Sharing Christ in a
Synodal Church

The Priory Institute two-week on-line Summer School is reflective, informative and interactive and will run from 19th August. The course includes eight recorded presentations and three on-line zoom discussions and is very flexible as it is delivered entirely online. Info: www.prioryinstitute.com.

National Day of Intercession for Priests

National Day of Intercession for Priests with Sr. Briege McKenna takes place on 5th August at Knock Shrine, Co. Mayo.

(Open to all)

11.30am – Holy Rosary & Eucharistic Holy Hour of Prayer

and Praise - Parish Church.

3.00pm Holy Mass with Eucharistic Healing Service Basilica.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. R95 ND2W

Email: stjohns@ossory.ie **Website:** www.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 Raymond Dempsey: 089 497 1924.

Monsignor Michael Ryan (Retired)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Fergal Brennan; Mary Brennan; Jo Browne; Alan Burke; Fr Dan Carroll;
Claire Coogan; Fr Raymond Dempsey; Luke Leydon; Iris O'Flynn; Karena Phelan.

IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN CONTACT

The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Ms. Ailish Higgins, 085 802 1633 - dlp@ossory.ie

OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

Counselling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline
1800 313 316 - www.towardshealing.ie

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

St John's – Saturday: 6.00pm (Vigil); **Sunday:** 8.00am, 11.30am & 7.00pm.

Holy Days: 6.00pm (Vigil); 8.00am, 10.30am & 7.00pm.

Adoration: Wednesdays at 11.00am. **Weekdays:** 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only).

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 23rd June 2024

The Pope and the Comedians

On Friday, 14th June Pope Francis hosted 107 comedians at the Vatican, including Ardal O'Hanlon, Patrick Kielty and Tommy Tiernan, in an experience most described as delightful if also a bit "bizarre". Actress and comedian Julia Louis-Dreyfus, famous for her roles on *Seinfeld*, *Veep*, and *Saturday Night Live*, told reporters, "I don't know, I found the whole thing so bizarre." However, she went on to describe the meeting as "a wonderful experience," calling the Pope "a lovely" man who is "obviously doing the best he can, and I appreciate that."

Pope Francis in his prepared remarks noted that his audience consisted of "the most loved, sought after, and popular" television and comedic personalities from around the world, saying this is not only because they are good at what they do, but also "you have and cultivate the gift of making people laugh". "In the midst of so much gloomy news, immersed as we are in many social and even personal emergencies, you have the power to spread peace and smiles. You are among the few who have the ability to speak to all types of people, from different generations and cultural backgrounds," he said. He went on to say comedians have the ability to unite people, "because laughter is contagious," and that "It is easier to laugh together than alone." "Joy opens us to sharing and is the best antidote to selfishness and individualism. Laughter also helps to break down social barriers, create connections among people, and allows us to express emotions and thoughts, contributing to building a shared culture and creating spaces of freedom," he said.

Calling their talent a gift, Pope Francis said the humour they provide helps to spread peace and overcome difficulties and daily stress, while helping people endure problems both big and small with a smile. "You denounce abuses of power; you give voice to forgotten situations; you highlight abuses; you point out inappropriate behaviour," he said, lauding their ability to do this "without spreading alarm or terror, anxiety or fear, as other types of communication tend to do." Pope Francis also pointed to the fine line between poking fun and being offensive, saying true humour "does not offend, humiliate, or put people down according to their flaws." "How much we need to learn from you!" he said, saying, "The laughter of humour is never 'against' anyone, but is always inclusive, purposeful, eliciting openness, sympathy, empathy." The Pope said it is also possible to "laugh at God," saying, "this is not blasphemy" but involves teasing God "just as we play and joke with the people we love." The Pope urged comedians to "continue to cheer people up, especially those who have the hardest time looking at life with hope."

Dunmore Cemetery Cleanup

The Dunmore Cemetery Committee invites you to attend for a planned cleanup at Dunmore Cemetery on Tuesday, 2nd July at 7.00pm. Ní neart go cur le Chéile.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Siobhan Hennessy, Ballycallan (formerly Castlecomer Road). Reposing at “St. John’s”, Castlecomer Road (R95 WR84) on Sunday between 3.00pm and 7.00pm with Vigil Prayers at 6.00pm. Requiem Mass at St. John’s Church at 10.30am on Monday followed by burial in St. Kieran’s Cemetery.

Mary Halley, Muckalee. Funeral arrangements to be announced later.
 Billy Hogan, Melbourne and late Stephen Street. Funeral in Australia.
 Liam Walsh, England & late of Maudlin Street Aileen Moran, Michael Street
 Margaret Wall, St. Joseph’s Road

Months Mind: James Gilmartin (11.30am)

Anniversaries: Mary & Paddy Walsh; Mary Walsh Snr.; Michael & Ann Smith (6.00pm); Joe Neary; Geraldine Heffernan; Paddy & Bridie McKillen; Philip Lenehan; Charlie & Katie Gorman; Kate Newman; Paddy Foley.

Those we love don’t go away, they walk beside us every day.

Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Bridget Ahearn
 8.00am Jo Browne
 10.00am Elaine Bennett
 11.00am Martina Brennan & Tom Keating
 11.30am Paula Rogers & James Connolly
 7.00pm Joan Scott



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€1,180.00
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm St. John’s	158	353.00
8.00am St. John’s	93	394.00
10.00am Johnswell	60	270.00
11.00am Dunmore	143	414.00
11.30am St. John’s	144	492.00
7.00pm St. John’s	85	300.00
	683	€2,223.00

Birthday of St John the Baptist 24th June

Only three birthdays are celebrated in the Church’s liturgical calendar, the Nativity of Our Lord (25th December), the Nativity of His Mother (8th September), and the Nativity of His forerunner, John the Baptist, on 24th June. Saint John the Baptist was set apart from the womb to prepare the way of the Lord and was a significant figure connected to the Incarnation and the Redemption. The Church honors him because of his role in preparing the way for Christ. John the Baptist was born to Saint Elizabeth, who was a kinswoman of the Blessed Virgin Mary meaning Jesus and Saint John the Baptist were related. The most common term of relation suggested for the two is “cousin,” though the exact degree is unknown.

The idea of ritual washing was part of Jewish practice. For those who were not Jewish by birth, it was part of their conversion. However, it was not a proper sacrament as it did not confer grace, as do the Christian sacraments.

The baptism of John, on the other hand, was a step toward the Sacraments of the Church, in that it pointed not back to the Law of Moses, but forward to the Law of Christ, “unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

It could be called a sacramental, sacrament-like. The true Sacrament of Baptism, however, would await Christ’s institution, and through it sin would be forgiven and the Holy Spirit conferred. Our church in Johnswell is dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

Ballyfoyle Agricultural Show

In aid of Carlow/Kilkenny Homecare and local charities. Baking, Arts and Crafts, Lego Competitions, Food and Craft Fair and much more... Horticultural section.

St Mary’s Cathedral Restoration Fund

This month’s draw will take place on Wednesday, 26th June. Tickets are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests. We encourage your generous support for St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 24th June

Thursday: 10.30am Paddy & Bridie McKillen
 Friday: 7.30pm St Kieran’s Cemetery Mass
 Saturday: 6.00pm Patrick & Margaret Shortt
 Breda Fogarty
 Sunday: 11.30am Mary Connick
 Kitty & Michael McCarthy
 Patrick Comerford

Please note we may transfer an anniversary Mass on the occasion of a funeral.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Parish Webcam

Masses and Services in St. John’s Church are broadcast on stjohnskilkenny.com and on 106.8FM. Inform those who are unable to attend.

Weekdays
 8.00am and 10.30am.
Saturdays
 10.30am and 6.00pm.
Sundays
 8.00am, 11.30am 7.00pm.
Holy Days
 6.00pm (Eve) 8.00am,

Saint Kieran’s Cemetery Mass – Next Friday 28th June

The Annual Cemetery Mass in St. Kieran’s Cemetery will be celebrated next Friday, 28th June at 7.30pm. In the final few days there is more to be done to finish our preparations for this huge annual occasion as we honour our dead. Please inform family and friends that may want to attend and also please continue to pray for fine and suitable weather.

All Eucharistic Ministers assisting on the evening will be looking for a person to hold an umbrella (provided) – not for the rain, but to indicate the distribution points for Holy Communion. Should you be available to help please let Jane know.

The annual Mass in **Dunmore and Johnswell** Cemeteries will be celebrated on the following Friday, 6th July at 7.30pm.

Irish Bishops’ Statement on Gaza

The Irish bishops on Thursday called for an end to the hostility in Gaza in a war that has resulted in nearly 40,000 people dead since the beginning of this present conflict in October 2023. They asked: “Who is prepared to put the plight of people and the dignity of every human person as the overriding priority in bringing this outrage to an end?”

They said the Israel-Hamas war “is an attack on all of humanity... When people are deprived of basic human dignity and of necessary humanitarian aid, we are all made poorer.” “We renew our call for an immediate cessation to the Israel/Hamas war in Gaza,” the Irish bishops said in a statement released on 20th June.

Ageing Well in the Community

The HSE Carlow Kilkenny Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) team will be hosting an information session on “Ageing Well in the Community” in O’Loughlin Gaels GAA Club on Tuesday, 25th June at 8.00pm. This team works with people over sixty-five years of age in Carlow and Kilkenny who may have memory or cognition issues, people who fall and those who may experience other frailty issues. The ICPOP service is temporarily based in the Newpark Primary Care Centre every Monday, and they are shortly moving to a more permanent base in Loughboy in September. The session in O’Loughlin Gaels is geared for all club members and St John’s Parish residents because many people are caring for or living with people who are experiencing frailty. The information session will focus on positive ageing and how to prevent frailty in older adults. On the night, members of the team will demonstrate exercises that an older person can do at home. There will be a section on the importance of making a will, enduring power of attorney, advanced healthcare directives and will also focus on other services in the community for older adults and how to access them. The session will take approximately one hour.