

Society of St Vincent De Paul Says 'Thank You'

A sincere thank you for all your generous support at last weekend's collection. Remember the local conference can be contacted in writing through the Parish Office or on 086 895 1239.

Taizé Youth Programme 2025

A youth trip to Taizé in France organised by Ossory Youth will take place from Sunday 29th June to Sunday 6th July 2025.

A week in the Taizé Community is an opportunity for reflection and contemplation and a little step back from daily life. But bringing people together is also the essence of Taizé and it is a week of meeting young people from different countries and cultures where new friendships are made. Tens of thousands of young people from around the world, including 25 from Kilkenny, will make the trip to Taizé next year.

The programme, which runs from November 2024 to July 2025 is open to Transition year, 5th year and Leaving Cert students. Closing date for applications is Friday 25th Oct.

For additional information, including cost and application forms, contact Patrick Bookle, Ossory Youth at (056) 7761200, (087) 2129006 or pbookle@ossoryyouth.com

Together we start a new season, new months

Loving God, together we start a new season, full of unwritten stories and new opportunities. Together we pray that we can embrace all that the next few months have to offer us.

We ask that you continue to be with us, and that your presence be felt in all things. We ask that you extend onto each of us the wisdom, the strength, and the courage to meet each new day and each new challenge head on and full of eagerness. Give us the courage to accept the clean slate you offer. Let these next months be filled with things that are truly good. Bless us with the warmth of strong relationships, the strength to help those in our community that need help, and the courage and humility to accept it ourselves, in the moments when we need it too.

As we consider those around us who begin these new months experiencing sickness, help us to meet them with hearts full of compassion. Let us find the way to reach out to them, so that in each of us they find a strength that eases their pain, and reminds them that there are people who care, and who accompany them.

Let all things be new in the months ahead. Remind us that you are a God of fresh starts. Help us to be the people who are willing to let our light shine....

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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 29th September 2024

Universal Synod of the Church

The Second Session of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod (2nd – 27th October 2024) begins this week. A Synod is a gathering of the faithful in order to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church and asking her to be and to do. This gathering can involve the faithful in different ways: pastors with lay people, bishops with the other ordained ministries, pope with bishops, etc. Pope Francis calls it “an exercise of mutual listening, conducted at all levels of the Church and involving the entire People of God”. It involves *encounter, listening and the discernment of spirits*.

Synods have taken many forms in church history and they are currently practised in the Church at all levels. The practice of gathering to listen to the Spirit is as old as the Church herself, as shown by the “Council” of Jerusalem described in Chapter 15 of the Acts of the Apostles. Synod-type mechanisms (listening, dialogue, discernment, deliberation) have always been used in monasteries and religious houses when making decisions. The conclaves, when cardinals meet to elect the new pope, is a synod event.

Pope Francis has sought from the beginning of his pontificate to invigorate and reconfigure the Synod of Bishops so that it might become more of an exercise of listening and discernment. Ever since his election in 2013, he has been teaching the Church about synodality and encouraging us to become a more synodal Church at every level. In an important speech in October 2015, he said that the path of synodality is what God expects of the Church in the third millennium.

The word synod comes from the Greek *synodos*, which has the general meaning of “walking together”. It offers an image of the Church as a pilgrim people, growing and developing on a journey of faith; a very different image from that of the Church as a static institution. A synodal Church expresses the Second Vatican Council vision of what the Church is called to be: the People of God in which all baptized share the same dignity, and the essential distinction between lay people, clergy, bishops etc. is a difference of vocation and role, not of superiority.

In the past, a Synod consisted of a meeting (called a “General Assembly”) of Bishops in Rome. This Synod consists of the entire synod process, beginning with the worldwide consultation of all faithful, including a General Assembly of Bishops in Rome, and ending with the reception by the People of God in the local churches of the fruits of the entire discernment process

You can get more information and follow the deliberations at the Synod at www.synod.va/en and www.synod.ie.



Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Seamus Dooley, Bagenalstown & Kilkenny
 Kathleen McGloin, Bundoran. Paula Kealy, Dean Cavanagh Place
 Michael Hanrahan, Ardnore. Kathleen Freaney, Grangemockler & Dunbell

Months Mind: Sean McGuinness (11.30am). Mary O'Brien (Tues. 1st Oct. 10.30am).
 Seán Maher

Anniversaries: Eamon Morrissey, Marie Holohan, Jean Murphy (6.00pm); Mary McGuinness ; Elizabeth Brett (11.30am); Alan Bergin; Statia, Stephen & Bosco Buckley (7.00pm); Philip Walsh; Margaret Dowling; Michael & Thomas O'Connor; Bridget O'Keeffe; Frank Coyne; Elizabeth & Seamus Connick; Fr Jim Forristal;

*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

6.00pm Ann Daly
 8.00am Pdraig O'Neill
 10.00am Fiona & Sarah Manning
 11.00am Christy Murray & Maise Powell
 11.30am Anne Maria Walsh & Kay Purcell
 7.00pm Marie Fogarty



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€665.00
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm St. John's	124	218.00
8.00am St. John's	81	188.00
10.00am Johnswell	36	72.00
11.00am Dunmore	77	113.00
11.30am St. John's	146	333.00
7.00pm St. John's	81	151.00
	545	€1,075.00

A message of gratitude!

My dear friends, before I rush back to Uganda, I cannot express enough gratitude to you all for the love and warm welcome I received at my 2nd home in Kilkenny. Thank you so much! I must confess that this year's journey was quite difficult, especially after the passing away of my Mum. It, however, granted me a chance to meet you and personally convey our heartfelt gratitude, as a family, for the love and support you accorded us during the difficult moments. It was also an opportunity for me to mourn my Mum and fight off a depression that has since distorted my personal life. I am so grateful for the support from Fr. Dan, his team, and you lovely Parishioners. Now that the weather is freezing cold, it seems that my "Ugandan ancestors" are finding it difficult to send the sun and warm-up things! Therefore, with a heavy heart, I bid you farewell. I promise to keep you in my prayers, likewise, please pray for us too. Please, God, we meet again! **Joseph Lubula**

First Friday of October

Next Friday is the First Friday of October. The sick and housebound will be visited at the usual times.

A Safe and Welcoming Church

This week Fr Dan and Fr Raymond attended a conference led by Ailish O'Higgins, Safeguarding Officer and Designated Liaison Person for the Diocese, at which she presented the Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2024. This document, available in the Parish Office and the Sacristy, is an update of the 2016 document and is also applicable to care and concerns of vulnerable adults. The document is also available on the diocesan website (www.ossory.ie).

Johnswell Afterschool

A new after school service based in Johnswell National School plans to open at the end of October. To register your interest in enrolling your child and to find out more please visit our website www.johnswellafterschool.com or email info@johnswellafterschool.com.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 30th September

Tuesday 10.30am **MM** Mary O'Brien
 Friday 10.30am Philip Walsh & Margaret Dowling
 Saturday: 6.00pm Joe Cleere
 John & Peter Mulhern
 Sunday: 11.30am Liam O'Gorman
 Tom & Carmel Ryan
 Seamus McGurran
 7.00pm Anthony Mahony

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,

First Saturday Conference

There will be a special First Saturdays Conference on Saturday, October 12th (10am to 4pm) in the Firgrove Hotel in Mitchelstown. Sr. Lucia of Fatima explained the importance of this devotion by saying that whether there is peace or war in the world depends on the practise of this devotion. We sure live in very turbulent and troubled times. There will be Mass and four speakers: Dr Katrina Layden, Fr Jaimie Twohig, Christine O'Hara and Fr Marius O'Reilly. We will also pray the Rosary, and do the 15 minute meditation together. Bring your own lunch or eat in the hotel carvery. For more details see firstsaturdays.ie

Pope Francis Appeals for Peace

During his General Audience at St. Peter's Square on last Wednesday Pope Francis made a passionate appeal against the escalation of violence in Lebanon. The Holy Father decried the volatile situation in the region. "I am saddened by the news coming from Lebanon, where in recent days, intense bombings have caused many victims and destruction" the Pope said. Pope Francis went on to say the escalation is "unacceptable" and urged the international community to make "every effort" to stop the decent into violence. In a special way, the Holy Father prayed for all suffering from war, and again turned to war-torn Ukraine. "Let us pray," he said, "for everyone, for all people who suffer due to war. Let us not forget martyred Ukraine, Myanmar, Palestine, Israel, Sudan, all martyred peoples. Let us pray for peace."

Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood

There is some good news for the Church in Ireland with reports this week that vocations to the priesthood may be increasing. Twenty-one new seminarians have begun their academic programme and priestly formation for Irish dioceses. This means there are now a total of 74 men preparing for Ireland's priesthood. One of these has begun the journey to become a priest in the Diocese of Ossory.

Fr. Willie Purcell, Parish Priest of Clara who is Ireland's National Diocesan Vocations Coordinator, says: "The twenty-one men who are beginning their vocational journey demonstrates to the world that God never ceases to call men to diocesan priesthood. While today's number is good news, I pray that vocations to the priesthood will continue in the coming years. The Church and the faithful need priests."

Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan of Waterford and Lismore, who chairs the Bishops' Council on Vocations remarks: "The example of good priests up and down the country who walk with and lead their people to worship God, and care for their neighbours in good times and in bad, continues to inspire... Let us pray that all those who have chosen the path of priesthood will find fulfilment and bring the truth and the healing of Christ to our broken world."