

Love Revealed - Familial Love & Friendship Course Day at Integritas

On Saturday, the 7th of December, from 10.00am, we are beginning a new course here entitled 'Love Revealed - Familial Love and Friendship'. The purpose of this course is to explore how God speaks to each of us through our close human relationships (i.e., what we receive), and how these relationships, in turn, challenge us to mirror God's own nature as self-surrendering love (i.e., what we are called to give). The first of two sessions will concentrate on how central human relationships are in revealing God's love to us, together with how the deepest nature of divine love (which we are called to reflect into the world) is self-surrendering. The second session will focus on how God's love is mirrored in parental love for a child and, in particular, how the 'letting-be' of the child is so central to reflecting God's generous love for us. This morning will conclude by sharing a method of prayer by which we can glimpse divine love from the everyday encounters we have with family and friends. The day will conclude with lunch at 1.30pm.

If you would like to attend this day, please let us know. Linda Rainsberry (Tel: 087 293 6951), Patrick Treacy (Tel: 087 227 0969).
E-mail: enquiries@integritas.ie
Website: www.integritas.ie

Sundays of Advent Booklets

A guide book for each of the Sundays of Advent to guide you through a Lectio Divina approach to reflecting upon and praying with the Gospels of our Advent Sundays. Available to download now at www.ossory.ie.

Tweet for Each Day

Thoughts, reflections, prayer and ideas - why not take a few moments each day during Advent to pause in prayer. Follow us on Twitter @ossorydiocese. Simple booklet available to download now at www.ossory.ie

Online Parish Resources

Simple resources to download for use in parishes. These items are intended as resources for parishes/schools and parish groups and can be used in a variety of ways. At www.ossory.ie.

Making Christ Welcome Why not take part in our virtual Display of Cribs (www.ossory.ie) this Christmas - send us images of the crib in your home, parish, school or club to afd@ossory.ie

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

This workshop will take place in Johnswell Hall on Thursday, 5th December at 7.00pm. Price: €40 (€20 Deposit confirms booking). Numbers are limited. All supplies are provided (please bring your own secateurs). For further information please contact Mary on 087 996 4119.

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 - dip@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

First Sunday of Advent - 1st December 2024

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is one of the most symbolic traditions for the Season of Advent. With its colourful candles lit on each of the four weeks of Advent, the wreath is a reminder of the hope and joy.

The word *Advent* is derived from the Latin word "adventus," the word advent means "arrival" or "coming." Advent is a season of expectation, celebration, and hope connected to the birth of Christ.

In 1851, the first mention of an Advent calendar was seen in Elise Averdieck's picture book, and in 1839, the Advent wreath first appeared. The wreath is circular in shape which represents the eternal nature of God - His never-ending love, mercy, and faithfulness. It also symbolizes the unending cycle of seasons and the continuous nature of time.

Made from green branches, which do not lose their leaves in winter, we are reminded of the everlasting life found in Christ. They are a symbol of hope and renewal, pointing to the promise of eternal life through Jesus.

The lighting of the candles is an important tradition during Advent. Each week, an additional candle is lit to symbolize the increasing anticipation and preparation for the arrival of Jesus. The light from the candles represents the light of Christ coming into the world.



Aid to the Church in Need

Fr. Dan has invited a speaker from ACN to address the congregations at 600pm, 8.00am, 10.00am, 11.30am and 7.00pm Masses next weekend (Sorry Dunmore!).

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Ireland is a Pontifical Catholic Foundation, aimed at increasing solidarity in Irish parishes with Catholics throughout the world – particularly those who are suffering or are in any kind of need. Today, ACN supports almost 6,000 projects around the world focusing on humanitarian assistance, pastoral care, evangelisation and support for persecuted Christians. As an example, one in every ten student priests in the world are now supported by the generous benefactors of ACN.

Please welcome our speaker and consider what you can do to help.

Christmas Concert

Come join us for a wonderful Christmas Concert that will be held in St John's Church on next Sunday 8th December from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. Artists include Mount Juliet Chamber Choir, Presentation Senior Choir, Cois Nore Choir, Martina Burke, Sospiro Male Choir, Trish Carroll and James Rice and Waterford High Hopes Choir. €10 entrance fee payable at the door. Amazing raffle on the day.

*All proceeds to Kilkenny Helping the Homeless and
Carlow/Kilkenny Irish Pilgrimage Trust.*



Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Lily Dowling, Newpark Close. Requiem Mass on Monday at 10.30am in St. John's Church. Interment afterwards in St. Kieran's Cemetery.
 Paddy Delaney, Landon and late of Kilkenny. Funeral at St John's Church to be arranged.
 Helen Bulter, Shandon Park Mary Burke, Knock, Co Mayo
 Pauline Barron, London Bernie McCormack, Loughboy
 Mary Dwyer, St Joseph's Road Patrick (Gay) Brannigan, Waterford & late Vicar Street

Anniversaries: John Holmes, Larry O'Shea, Helen Purcell (6.00pm); John Joe & Kitty Bennett; Fr Bill Bennett (10.00am); Eileen Tynan (nee Roche), Mary Shelly, Ollie Bergin (11.30am); Kathleen & Michael Slattery, Liam Leydon (7.00pm).; Jerry & June Tobin; May Cleary; Patricia Oregan; Thomas Dowling; Joseph Roche; Bridie Sloyan.

*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 Claire Coogan
 8.00am Mary Elliot
 10.00am Seán Colgan
 11.00am Christy Murray & Maise Powell
 11.30am Bobbie Lahart & Rosemary McPhilips
 7.00pm Linda O'Leary



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:	€1,235.00		
	Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm St. John's	214		320.00
8.00am St. John's	89		209.00
10.00am Johnswell	55		139.00
11.00am Dunmore	67		91.00
11.30am St. John's	167		249.00
7.00pm St. John's	134		295.00
	832		€1,303.00

St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Collection

The Society of St Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection will take place next weekend, 7th and 8th December. Your donation will help families in our parish with basics such as food and fuel. Please give what you can; you could save someone from impossible choices this winter.

Parish Contribution Envelopes

Distributors please note that the Yearly Boxes of Contribution Envelopes for 2025 are now ready for collection at the Parish Office. We depend on our distributors and those who contribute to help raise essential income for the parish and the priests. If you are not registered with the Parish and wish to do so or if you would like to change your contribution to Standing Order please contact the Parish Office. Thanks!

Confirmation Candidates

The Ceremony of Light for the Confirmation candidates will take place on next Tuesday, 3rd December in St. John's Church at 7.30pm. Boys and girls are encouraged to bring their Baptismal Candles with them. Please keep the young adults and their families in your prayers as they prepare to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit next February.

Dunmore Cake Sale

Join us for our Annual Christmas Bake Sale next Sunday, 8th December after the 11.00am Mass. Please drop baked goods and raffle prizes into the Community Hall before Mass. Everyone is very welcome to come along for a cuppa and refreshments.

Advent Evenings of Reflection

The Dominican Community, Black Abbey invites you to Thursday evening reflections on the Gospels for the Sundays of Advent, which will take place on 5th, 12th and 19th December 2024, from 7.15pm – 8.30pm in the Black Abbey, Kilkenny, facilitated by Fr. Stephen Cummins, O.P. Further information please telephone 056 772 1279 or email blackabbey@dominicans.ie

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 3rd December

Monday	8.00am	Special Intention
Monday	10.30pm	Requiem Mass for Lily Dowling
Tuesday:	10.30am	May Cleary and Patricia Oregan
Saturday:	10.30am	Thomas Dowling
	6.00pm	Ann & Francie Murphy
		Aaron Molloy
Sunday:	8.00am	Bridget Comerford
	10.00am	Jim Foley
	11.00am	John & Mary Butler;
		Catherine & Matt Walsh
	11.30am	Alice & Joseph Bambrick
		Dan Kennedy
	7.00pm	Marie & Seamus Parson
		Please note we may transfer an anniversary Mass on the occasion of a funeral.

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, 10.30am 7.00pm

Towards a Theology of Hope

Most Reverend Niall Coll, Bishop of Ossory - an evening exploring the hope our faith brings; Wednesday, 11th December, St Kieran's College, 7.00pm

Taizé Prayer - a time of Hope

An evening of Taizé Prayer with the teenagers of our Diocese at St Mary's Cathedral, Friday, 13th December at 7.00pm

Advent Godly Play - a journey of Hope

Ms Gemma Mulligan and Ms Marie Tallent - A morning for young people, those attending our primary schools to reflect through Godly Play, the hope-filled message of Advent and Christmas. St Mary's Cathedral Chapter House, Saturday, 14th December, 10.30am.

The Bible - a Message of Hope

Rev. Dr Sean Maher, a priest of the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin presents an evening exploring the hope filled message of the Scriptures at St Kieran's College, Tuesday, 17th December; 7.00pm

Evening Retreat - Forgiveness our Hope

Very Rev. Ray Dempsey and the City Priests lead a short evening Retreat and an opportunity for reconciliation at St Patrick's Parish Church, Wednesday, 18th December at 7.00pm

A Story of Hope - Diocesan Carol Service

Join us for our Carol Service in St Mary's Cathedral, Sunday, 22nd December at 7.30pm.

Foundations in Youth Ministry

Foundations in Youth Ministry Available from ASPAL.IE - The most powerful ministry to young people is from young people themselves. This free on-line digital course provides a chance for those who are in youth ministry in our parishes to deepen their calling and to reflect on key principles that will help guide your important work. Register online at ASPAL.IE

Never Lose Hope

In response to Olivia, a grandmother who is upset because her granddaughter has not baptised, Pope Francis points out that one should "never lose hope" when a loved one loses their faith, recalling the example of St. Monica, who prayed for decades for the conversion of her son St. Augustine. The Pope also stresses that "baptism cannot be imposed on parents who do not want it for their children." He therefore urges Olivia to "accompany your children, speak with them, but not insist on baptism". "Gratuitous love is more persuasive than many words," the Pope writes. "Love for God plants seeds of the future, of friendship, of the search for Him."

