

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 Crib (www.ossory.ie) this Christmas - send us images of the crib in your home, parish, school or club to afd@ossory.ie

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. All welcome.

St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund

The next St Mary's Cathedral Restoration draw will take place on Wednesday, 18th December. Tickets are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests.

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

Advent Evenings of Reflection

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

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

Second Sunday of Advent - 8th December 2024

Feast of The Immaculate Conception

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is the 8th December. When the feast day falls on a Sunday in Advent it is transferred to Monday. It will be a feast day with the rank of a Solemnity. While it is on the Irish Liturgical Calendar as a Holy Day of Obligation the obligation is not applied when the feast day is transferred. Consequently, this year, the Feast Day will be celebrated at Mass on Monday, but it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation.

Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception

The doctrine was officially defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854. While this is the date in which the doctrine was defined officially by the Church there are centuries of tradition and faith that proclaimed the doctrine. The 8th December was assigned a holy day of obligation by Pope Clement XI in 1708 and Mary Immaculate was confirmed Patroness of the United States in 1847 by Pope Pius IX. In 1854 Pope Pius IX defined the doctrine.

On 25th March 1858 when Bernadette of Lourdes asked the Lady who she was the Lady replied: "I am the Immaculate Conception". It has always been a question of how a young uneducated girl in rural southern France would have known of this title of Our Lady.

An Advent Wreath Prayer

Some families like to have an Advent Wreath in their homes. It helps remind family members and visitors that the celebration of Christ's birth is approaching. A prayer for this week. Today we continue our reflection on ways that we can prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Is Christmas just about getting presents? Is it just about decorating our homes and Christmas trees and having relatives around to visit? What exactly are we celebrating?

We do all these special activities because of the coming of Jesus. Jesus is the greatest gift God could ever have given us. So our presents this year, our decorations, our parties and gatherings, should all remind us that Jesus is among us. Jesus is always with us!

(Light the Second Purple Candle on the Advent Wreath)

Lord, may the light of this wreath be a sign of hope to us all as we prepare for your coming. Help us to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas, May we always be aware of your presence in our lives - the presence of your spirit within us, prompting us, sustaining us, working through us, waiting for us. Amen.

Bambinelli Sunday

We invite you to bring the figure of Baby Jesus from your Crib to 11.30am Mass on next Sunday for a blessing of the Infant Jesus figure. This tradition known as Bambinelli Sunday is celebrated on the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday.



Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased:

Tom Sloyan, Richview Paddy Delaney, London and late of Kilkenny
Anna Cormack O'Dwyer, Ballintaggart

Anniversaries: Ann & Francie Murphy, Aaron Molloy (6.00pm); Bridget Comerford (8.00am); Jim Foley (10.00am); John & Mary Butler; Catherine & Matt Walsh (11.00am); Alice & Joseph Bambrick; Dan Kennedy (11.30am); Marie & Seamus Parsons (7.00pm); Deceased members of Monagle, McCarthy & Cleary Families; Jack Byrne; Harriet Dullard; Patrick & Rose Wixted; Mary Dowling; Adrian Freezey; Seán Barry; Mary Saunders; Michael Reynolds; Margaret Thorton; Mary Maher; Mary & Joe Glennon; Deceased members of Molloy & Dooley Families;

*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:		€1,200.00	
Mass	Attendance	Baskets	
6.00pm St. John's	97	377.00	
8.00am St. John's	71	332.00	
10.00am Johnswell	37	139.00	
11.00am Dunmore	71	91.00	
11.30am St. John's	192	581.00	
7.00pm St. John's	<u>192</u>	<u>468.00</u>	
	660	€2,102.00	

St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Collection

The Society of St Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection will take place this 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.

Medjugorje - Evening of Prayer

Rosary, Mass, Adoration, Prayer for Healing will take place in St Fiacre's Church, Loughboy on Monday the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 9th December at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

A Story of Hope - Diocesan Carol Service

Join us for our City and Diocesan Carol Service in St Mary's Cathedral, Sunday, 22nd December at 7.30pm. All welcome to come and get into the real spirit of Christmas.

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 Taize Prayer with the teenagers of our Diocese at St Mary's Cathedral, Friday, 13th December at 7.00pm. This has been popular in the past and all are welcome to come along.

Aid to the Church in Need - Change of Plan

Due to unforeseen circumstances guest speakers from CAN, who were to speak this weekend, will now address the congregations at all Masses in the parish on next weekend.

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. 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.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 9th December

Thursday: 10.30am Deceased Members Monagle, McCartney & Cleary Families
Saturday: 6.00pm Thomas, Seánie & Toddie O'Connor
Sunday: 11.00am Jerry O'Neill
11.30am Finbar Kiely
Nan Brennan
Mary Malone
Dylan Whearty

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, 10.30am 7.00pm

Evening Retreat - Forgiveness our Hope

Fr. Raymond Dempsey and the City Priests will lead a short evening Retreat and an opportunity for reconciliation at St Patrick's Parish Church on Wednesday, 18th December at 7.00pm. While Christmas Confessions will be available in our parish at other times this will be the only Penitential Service in the City this year.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

Let us pray that this upcoming Jubilee may strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Digital Advent Calendar Launch

Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe, the delegate of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference for the Universal Church's Jubilee Year 2025, launched the annual digital Advent calendar on the theme of 'Hope'. For each day of Advent all are invited to open the calendar's doors on the homepage of www.catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar/

Christmas Mass Times in St. John's Parish 2024

The Masses over the Christmas will be as follows:

Monday, 23rd December St John's: 8.00am and 10.30am
Tuesday Morning, 24th December St John's: No Mass
Christmas Eve St John's: 6.00pm and 9.00pm
Dunmore: 7.00pm
Johnswell: 8.00pm

Christmas Day, 25th December St John's: 8.00am and 11.30am
Johnswell: 10.00am
Dunmore: 11.00am

Christmas Week (Thursday to Saturday) St. John's: 10.30am each morning

Please inform your relatives and friends of the above times and invite them to come along.

Christmas Concert

Come join us on this Sunday afternoon and take some time out to enjoy a variety of local Artists perform in a wonderful Christmas Concert in St John's Church 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 prizes on offer in the raffle. All proceeds to Kilkenny Helping the Homeless and Group 174 of Carlow/Kilkenny Irish Pilgrimage Trust.

