

### Bishops Call for Peace in the Holy Land

The Bishops of Ireland have become signatories to an *Open Letter: Embracing our Faith: A Call to Speak out on the Holy Land*.

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and President of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, said, "My signing of the letter is an expression of solidarity with those who suffer. As we enter that time of year when the Prince of Peace comes amongst us, I encourage everyone to support peace in the Holy Land through prayer, by supporting the work of Trócaire, and by advocating for peace to bring an end to the profound misery in Gaza. Since 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 about 42,000 people have been killed. This war must end now."

Archbishop Martin concluded, "This appalling conflict has already had a devastating effect on human life, on the displacement of innocent people and it is a threat to global peace and stability."

The letter sets out the groundwork for meaningful advocacy, calling for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian access, the release of hostages and the protection of civilians, efforts to address the root causes of violence and measures to respect the status quo on Jerusalem's Holy Sites. The letter also calls for dialogue to bring about a lasting solution and respect for the human rights of all.



### Christmas Poem

If Christmas is hard,  
If you have lost someone dear.  
Just look in your heart,  
And you'll know they're still here.

The star in the sky,  
The light falling snow.  
The robin outside,  
It seems like they know.



If this is a time,  
When you're struggling through.  
Just do what you can,  
For what matters, is you.

There's no need to be merry,  
There's no need to be bright.  
Just do what you can,  
It will all be alright.

Author Unknown

### 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 resources are available to download now at [www.ossory.ie](http://www.ossory.ie)

### Making Christ Welcome

Send us images of the crib in your home, parish, school or club to [afd@ossory.ie](mailto:afd@ossory.ie) and it may be included on the Ossory website.

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

**Email:** [stjohns@ossory.ie](mailto:stjohns@ossory.ie) **Website:** [www.stjohnskilkenny.com](http://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](mailto:dlp@ossory.ie)

### OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

### Counselling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline

1800 313 316 - [www.towardshealing.ie](http://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**

## Third Sunday of Advent - 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word 'gaudete' is Latin for 'rejoice' which is the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of this Sunday's Mass: 'Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, Gaudete.' This means 'Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice.' This is why on this Sunday we focus and contemplate upon the aspect of 'Joy' in Advent, after that of 'Hope' and 'Peace' in the earlier two Sundays of Advent and 'Love' in the next and final Sunday of Advent. This Sunday, much like its Lenten counterpart, the Laetare Sunday, marks a short and temporary break from the penitential and more sombre nature of the rest of the Advent Season, as we prepare and anticipate the coming true Joy of Christmas.

### Advent Wreath

Today is Gaudete Sunday or Joyful Sunday; the third Sunday in Advent when the rose colour of joy replaces the purple colour of repentance in the Advent Wreath and in the priest's vestments. We are more than halfway through Advent and we are invited to look forward joyfully to Christmas. The pink candle is lighted on the Advent Wreath. The change of colour reminds us to have courage and to continue our spiritual preparation especially by prayer and fasting. Saint John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord. Let him be an inspiration for us. He reminds us today that a light has come into the world. Christ is that light!



### 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 this Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### An Invitation

On Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm, the Holy Year of Hope will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica Rome. To echo the theme of hope, Pope Francis is calling on all Catholics to be renewed in the hope of Christ, using St Paul the Apostle as a guide for this special year. In Ireland, and around the world, each diocesan bishop will celebrate Mass on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December, Feast of the Holy Family, to mark the solemn opening of the Holy Year. Bishop Niall Coll invites the priests of St. John's Parish and a representative number of parishioners to attend the 5.30pm Mass in St Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny, on that day (29<sup>th</sup> December) when the Diocese of Ossory, in communion with the whole Church, will solemnly begin our celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope. Please consider joining us and representing St John's Parish in St Mary's Cathedral on that evening.

**Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died**

**Recently Deceased:** Jim Lowry, Greenshills. Requiem Mass at St. Canice’s Church at 11.00am on Monday. Interment in Foulkstown Cemetery. Kay Bannon, Michael Street  
 Mary Kiely, Bishop Birch Place. Marie Delahunty, Castleinch  
 Brigid Hughes, Bennettsbridge Road Tommy Quinn, late of Larchfield  
 Sr. Mary Byrne, St. John of God Congregation

**Anniversaries:** Thomas, Seán & Toddie O’Connor (6.00pm); Finbar Kiely, Jerry O’Neill, Kevin McDaid (11.00am); Nan Brennan, Mary Malone, Dylan Whearty (11.30am); Edward Moran; Mary Burke; Tom, Peggy & Sheila Bourke; Frances Guidera; Richard O’Carroll; Ann Hurley; William, Ellen & Liam Bergin; John & Margaret Butler; Paddy & Nan Keyes; Nan Donovan; Chrissie Comerford; Billy Phelan; Owen Massey; Johanna & Michael Kelly.

*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 Bridget Ahearn  
 8.00am Billy Phelan  
 10.00am Betsy Rice  
 11.00am Stephanie Butler  
 11.30am Mary Hanafin & Mary Lynch  
 7.00pm Anne Marie Grace



**Attendance/Collections Last Weekend**

Envelope Collection:	€1,020.00		
	<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Baskets</u>
6.00pm St. John’s	144		274.00
8.00am St. John’s	87		230.00
10.00am Johnswell	71		152.00
11.00am Dunmore	72		117.00
11.30am St. John’s	174		252.00
7.00pm St. John’s	<u>126</u>		<u>468.00</u>
	674		€1,285.00

**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. Your donation will help families in our parish with basics such as food and fuel.

**Aid to the Church in Need**

A guest speaker from ACN will address the congregations at Masses in the parish on this 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.

**Advent Evening of Reflection**

The Dominican Community, Black Abbey invites you to the last Thursday evening of reflection which will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> December from 7.15pm – 8.30pm in the Black Abbey.

**SeniorLine**

“SeniorLine – Don’t be alone and lift the phone - Freephone 1800 80 45 91. Would you like someone to talk to over Christmas? SeniorLine is Ireland’s national telephone service for older people open every day of the year 10.00am-10.00pm, Freephone 1800 80 45 91.

**Prayers of the Faithful**

A small group of parishioners compose the Prayers of the Faithful which we use at Mass each weekend. In this way the intentions are truly the Prayers of the Faithful of our parish. Those involved write the prayers for two consecutive weeks about once every two months. Training and guidance is available. Please contact one of the priests or the Parish Office if you would like to become involved.

**Annual School Carol Service**

As Christmas gets very near, we remind you that St. John’s Senior School Carol Service takes place on this Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm in St John’s Parish Church. This is always a popular festival of carols and nativity drama. So, why not come along - all welcome!

**Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Saturday: 10.30am Tom, Peggy & Sheila Bourke  
 6.00pm Declan Lanigan  
 MM Damien & Lily Dowling  
 Sunday: 8.00am Catherine, Michael & Paddy Kehoe  
 10.00am Mary Theresa Butler  
 11.30am P.J. & Maura Mealy

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.

**Do This In Memory**

It’s a great pleasure to welcome to Mass this weekend the children who are preparing to celebrate the sacraments of Confession (Reconciliation) and Holy Communion for the first-time next year. We welcome also their parents and family members. Our focus this weekend will be on the third Sunday of Advent. The special Masses will be at St. John’s Church at 6.00pm on Saturday and at Johnswell Church at 10.00am on Sunday.

**Evening of Songs in Aid of UNICEF**

Cantabile LK presents an Evening of Songs for the Christmas Season in aid of UNICEF, featuring Cantabile LK Conductor Jacinta Cantwell, Accompanists Martin O’Reilly & Mary Butler. Loreto Secondary School 5<sup>th</sup> year Choir Conductor Lorraine Maher. Soloists Katie Chambers Cello, Roisin Collins & Laura Cahill Vocalists. Friary Church Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. No Admission Fee. Collection during the Concert.

**What is a Jubilee Year?**

Pope Francis has declared that the coming year will be a Year of Jubilee. “Jubilee” is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, the instrument in question is the *yobel*, the ram’s horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*). This (Jewish) holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year.

We can find an early indication of it in the Bible: a Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an “extra” year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). Even though it wasn’t easy to organise, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

**Christmas Mass Times in St. John’s Parish 2024**

The Masses over the Christmas will be as follows:

<b>Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	St John’s:	8.00am and 10.30am
<b>Tuesday Morning, 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	St John’s:	No Mass
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	St John’s:	6.00pm and 9.00pm
	Dunmore:	7.00pm
	Johnswell:	8.00pm
	<b>Christmas Day, 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	St John’s:
	Johnswell:	10.00am
	Dunmore:	11.00am
<b>Christmas Week (Thursday to Saturday)</b>	St. John’s:	10.30am each morning

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