

New Year's Eve Celebration

What will you do to mark the end of the old year and celebrate the beginning of 2025? We invite all to gather at Dunmore Church for an hour of prayer and reflection as we give thanks for the year gone by and ask God's blessing on the year ahead. Join with us at Dunmore Church from 11.00pm on New Year's Eve until just after midnight on New Year's Day. We will spend the time with scripture readings, prayer, silent reflection and song as we praise God for his blessings. All are most welcome.

Thank You

Thanks to all who attended our celebrations over the Christmas Season. It was wonderful to welcome so many locals and visitors alike to our liturgies. Thanks also to all who participated and helped prepare for and conduct our liturgies. There are many of you in all our churches and we appreciate your work - without your participation very little would happen.

SeniorLine

SeniorLine – Don't be alone and lift the phone - Freephone 1800 80 45 91. Would you like someone to talk to over the holiday period? SeniorLine is Ireland's national telephone service for older people open everyday from 10.00am -10.00pm, Freephone 1800 80 45 91.

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

Jubilee Prayer 2025

As the year fast draws to a close and as we once again stand on the threshold of a Jubilee Year, we look back with gratitude and look forward with Hope.

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your Son, Jesus Christ,
our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the
Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

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

Feast of the Holy Family

29th December 2024

Jubilee of Hope 2025

In conjunction with the Jubilee Year 2025, themed Pilgrims of Hope, which officially opened on Christmas Eve with the opening of the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, the Catholic Bishops of Ireland have launched an official Jubilee page on catholicbishops.ie. This dedicated page will serve as a central hub for all Jubilee-related updates, ensuring we remain informed about events and activities taking place both in Ireland and around the world. The site offers a comprehensive hub for all things Jubilee - providing downloadable resources, an event calendar for the year to promote and feature activities across Ireland and Rome, as well as hosting inspiring videos highlighting people and events from across the island. Please check the website and visit it often to be updated about the Jubilee Year.

Invitation from Bishop Niall

In Ireland, and around the world, each diocesan bishop will celebrate Mass on Sunday, 29th December, to mark the solemn opening of the Holy Year. The first event to mark the Jubilee Year in Ossory will be concelebrated Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral at 5.30pm on this Sunday. Bishop Niall has invited all priests, religious and people to attend this special celebration.

What is a Jubilee Year?

The Jubilee has its origins in an ancient biblical tradition (Leviticus). Every 50th year was celebrated as a time for setting slaves free, for forgiving debts, and for allowing the land to rest. In our Christian tradition the Jubilee has a strong focus on reconciliation and renewal, including reaching out to people on the margins. It is normally celebrated every 25 years, so that more people can celebrate it at least once in a lifetime. Already in Ireland, many different groups: clergy, religious various ministries and lay apostolates, are preparing to celebrate specific jubilee occasions locally and in Rome over the year ahead.

At the same time, during Jubilee 2025, the Irish Synodal Pathway will also journey with the theme of 'Hope' at its many meetings and prayerful discernment gatherings which will lead to a national assembly in Ireland in 2025.

For the latest updates and newly added resources, visit www.catholicbishops.ie regularly.

Parish Calendars

This year we have teamed up with the three other city parishes in our City Pastoral Area to collaborate in producing a City Parish Calendar. Calendars contain lots of information about Mass times and contact details for the churches in our City Pastoral Area and are available (free) after all Masses this weekend. Please take some and share with neighbours and friends.

Ossory Times

Copies of *Ossory Times*, our quarterly diocesan magazine, are available in the church porches at a cost of €2. Excellent value for a colourful and interesting magazine.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Martin Cody, Callan Road. Requiem Mass on Sunday at 12 noon in St. Patrick's Church. Funeral afterwards to Foulkstown Cemetery.

Seán Hanrahan, Castlewarren. Requiem Mass on Monday morning at 11am in St. Scuthin's Church, Castlewarren.

Mae Grogan, Troyswood
Noel Clarke, Ferbane, Co. Offaly

Mary Victoria Carthy, Wetlands
Billy Murphy, Tullogher

Anniversaries: Helen & Ned O'Neill (6.00pm); John McKiernan (10.00am); Ned Brennan, Anne & Joe Shanley, Margaret Pearson (11.00am); James & Josephine Foley; John and Patricia Dinneen; (11.30am); Margaret Comerford (7.00pm); John Joyce; Eily & John P. Francis; Joan & Richard Dempsey; John Hanaphy; Peter Browne; Danny Leahy; Sarah Long; Fr. Martin Cleere; Fr. James Brennan.

*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 Mary Lynch
8.00am Pdraig O'Neill
10.00am Elaine Bennett
11.00am Nora Guilfoyle & Fiona McGeary
11.30am Frank & Emily Bradley
7.00pm Eileen Kinane



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:	€3,330.00		
	<u>Mass</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Baskets</u>
6.00pm St. John's	130		428.00
8.00am St. John's	81		400.00
10.00am Johnswell	56		213.00
11.00am Dunmore	113		251.00
11.30am St. John's	203		555.00
7.00pm St. John's	78		327.00
	661		€2,174.00

St. John's Parish Holiday Arrangements

The Parish Office will remain closed this week. Messages may be left on the answering machine and in case of emergency the priests may be contacted by selecting "Priest on Duty" line or using the mobile numbers listed on the back page of this newsletter.

There will be no 8.00am Mass this week. Mass each day at 10.30am.

Mayfair Library

New year, new beginnings, learn something new! Universal Class Online Learning. As a library member, you can access over 500 free online e-learning courses. The courses are facilitated by online tutors. Courses cover a diverse range of interests and topics, such as creative writing, keyboard skills, crafts, animal care, personal development. To get you started, staff at Mayfair Library are hosting Universal Class Tutorials from 11.30am to 12.30pm on Fridays for the month of January. There is no need to book. For information: Tel 056 779 4174.

Prayer at the Crib

We invite all to visit our parish churches during the next while and reflect at the crib. Let us remember that Jesus came down from heaven to save us. The following prayer may be used.

God our Father,

You sent your only Son, Jesus, as a little child to love us and to be our Saviour.

Your Holy Spirit came down on Mary and gave wisdom to Joseph so that they could prepare for his birth.

As we pray here around our Christmas Crib, open our hearts to his love and to his gentle care.

Take away our fears and fill our hearts with joy.

Guide and care for our families and help us to care for one another, so that we can live as the people of God. May we know his presence within us and find deep peace in our lives during these days of Christmas, and in the year ahead.

Amen.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning 30th December

Monday:	10.30am	John Joyce
Tuesday:	10.30am	Eily & John P Francis Joan & Richard Dempsey John Hanaphy
Thursday:	10.30am	Peter Browne
Friday:	10.30am	John & Patricia Dineen
Saturday:	6.00pm	Eileen Owens Liam & Mary Kelly Noel O'Brien
Sunday:	10.00am	Jimmy Butler
	11.00am	MM Tom Sloyan
	11.30am	Ann Larkin John O'Gorman

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.



The Jubilee 2025 Logo

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples.

The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need.

There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and

turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms.

It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope.

At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Pilgrims in Hope*.

Ossory Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025

The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025 will take place from Monday, 19th until Saturday, 24th May. 5 nights from €949 per person. For further information and bookings, please contact: Joe Walsh Tours 01-2410800 or email info@joewalstours.ie. This is an annual diocesan event and we encourage parishioners to consider travelling to Lourdes with the group in May.

Happy New Year

Frs. Dan, Raymond and Michael join with the Parish Pastoral Council in wishing all a very happy new year. We pray it will be for you a time of peace, joy and contentment. As we begin our Jubilee Year of Hope we ask God to give us all the gift of hope, lifting us from our dark moments and bringing us the peace and joy only Jesus can offer. Come and join us for a special Mass for Peace and Hope at St. John's Church at 10.30am on New Years Day.