

Side by Side Club - 50 Years!

The Side by Side Club is celebrating 50 years of the Club this year. To mark this special occasion the Club would like to invite current and previous members and their families to join them for Mass and refreshments in the St. John's Parish Day Centre on Thursday, 20th February at 2.00pm. All are very welcome.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Public Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues at St. John's Church between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesdays. We invite you to join us and spend some time in prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Kilquan Drama Group

Kilquan Drama Group presents "Stop it Nurse" by Sam Cree - Directed by Benny Mills, a comedy in Three Acts in Coon Hall (Eircode R93 EC89). Play will be performed on 7th, 8th & 9th February at 8.00pm. Doors open at 7.00pm. Admission €10

Masters Degree in Theology

What's next for you? Discover what a Master's in theology can do for you. Our programmes equip the learner with the skills to make a real difference and to leave the world a better place. Engage in critical thinking on big issues. Be challenged. Visit sppu.ie/postgraduate for more information and to apply.

St. Brigid's Blessing

*May Brigid bless the house wherein we dwell,
Bless every fireside, every wall and door.
Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof.
Bless every hand that toils to bring its joy.
Bless every foot that walks portals through.
May Brigid bless the house that shelters us.*

Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025

19th May – 24th May 2025 | 5 nights direct from Cork, Airport. Booking; www.joewalshstours.ie - info@joewalshstours.ie. Telephone: 01 241 0800 (ask for Martin Culleton). Prices per person sharing: Hotel Agena €949, Hotel La Solitude or Hotel Padoue €995. Cost to include: - Bus from Castlecomer or Loughboy Shopping Centre, Kilkenny to and from the airport • direct return flight from Cork to Lourdes • airport taxes. Transfers between Lourdes airport and your hotel • 5 nights accommodation • full board: breakfast, lunch and dinner each day • 20kg check-in luggage + 1 very small cabin bag • full services of Joe Walsh tour assistants • full religious programme optional (not included) • single room supplement: €39 per night in Agena, €42 per night in Padoue and Solitude • pilgrimage travel insurance: €45 per person up to 79 years; €65 per person 80-94 years. Booking procedure for special assisted/sick section: contact Fr. Anthony O'Connor 087 251 7766.

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

Monsignor 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.

Weekdays: 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only). **Adoration:** Wednesdays at 11.00am.

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

**St. John's Parish, St. Mary's Parish, St. Patrick's Parish, St. Canice's Parish
together form the Kilkenny City Pastoral Area**

The Presentation of the Lord - 2nd February 2025

The Presentation of the Lord

It was the ancient Jewish practice to recognise the first-born by an offering to God. For example, in the case of farmers, the first cutting of the harvest was offered to God — the first fruits — as a sign that the whole harvest came from God. Likewise, the first spring lamb was offered to God by shepherds. When it came to human babies, naturally they did not offer the baby but a substitute gift, as in today's Gospel. It was a way of saying that all life is from God and it was a measure of their sense of wonder at the very gift of life itself.

So, who is this child? It helps to notice the things that are said about the baby Jesus: he is the Christ (the Messiah) of the Lord; a light to the nations; the glory of Israel; a sign of restoration and redemption. St. Luke portrays all these hopes while Jesus was still a baby, in anticipation of what he would become. In the light of the resurrection, we know just how deeply these hopes were fulfilled in Jesus' ministry and teaching, in his death and resurrection and in the gift of the Spirit. We too can catch the thrilling expectation and joy of Simeon and Anna.

Candlemas Day

Sunday, 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It is also known as Candlemas Day. This Feast Day commemorates the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. Candles for use in the church and our homes are blessed to day. This is a solemn time of worship, a time to try to be a 'light in the world'.



Feast of St. Blaise

Monday, 3rd February is the Feast of St. Blaise. He was bishop of Sebaste and was martyred probably early in the 4th century. Devotion to him spread throughout the Church during the Middle Ages. A physician before he became a bishop, he is venerated as patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. The priests will bless throats after the 10.30am Mass in St John's Church on Monday.

Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, Bishop, and Martyr, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

First Friday of February

Next Friday is the First Friday of February. The sick and housebound will be visited at the usual times. Please inform the Parish Office or one of the priests if you have a relative or neighbour who would like this service.

Please Note: There will be no 8.00am Mass on this Bank Holiday Monday

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Patrick (Reg) Martin, Kilmainham, Dublin. Requiem Mass at 10.30am on Saturday.
 Seanie Browne, Larchfield, Requiem Mass at St. Joseph’s Church, Foulkstown at 12.00 noon on Monday.
 Breda Kelly, Larchfield

Michael Garrehy, Birmingham and Kilkenny

Months Mind: Theresa Mahony (7.00pm);

Anniversaries: Rose Phelan; William & Tess Murphy & Murphy Family; Eileen, Bob, Denny, Jimmy & Mary Dowd (6.00pm); Catherine & Louis Brennan (10.00am); Philip, Mary, Dan & Bridget Cahill (11.30am); Claire Beale; Kitty McCarthy (7.00pm); Bridie Kinsella; Nelly Clarke; Thomas & Bridie Casey; Ben Little; Stephen Sheehan; William Burke; Nelly Grace; Margaret Carroll; Maura Gaffney; Annie Ruth; Annie Moynihan; Sarah (Ciss) & Edward Walsh; Michael Delaney; Ann & Nancy Culleton; Adrian Freezy; Tomás Hackett; Thomas Duggan; Patrick Fitzgerald; Sarah Ryan; John Joe Bergin.

*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 Stephanie Butler & Roger Curran
 11.30am Anne Maria Walsh & Kay Purcell
 7.00pm Eileen Kinane



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€1,660.00
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm St. John’s	213	466.00
8.00am St. John’s	88	334.00
10.00am Johnswell	45	144.00
11.00am Dunmore	54	166.00
11.30am St. John’s	156	517.00
7.00pm St. John’s	110	394.00
	666	€2,021.00

Parish Confirmations

With less than two weeks to go to our Parish Confirmations which takes place on Thursday, 13th February at 11.00am, we would ask you to keep this year’s candidates and their families in your prayers as they make their final preparations for their special day. Please note that there will be no 10.30am Mass on that morning.

The Most Holy Rosary

A number of parishioners gather each morning at St. John’s Church to recite the rosary at 10.10am. All are welcome to come and join in this beautiful Marian prayer.

Scripture Study Group

This parish group continues in the Presbytery at 7.30pm on Thursday evenings. All are welcomed to come and reflect on the Mass readings for the following Sunday.

Taizé Vigil for Peace

This vigil will be led by the Island of Ireland Peace Choir on Friday, 7th February at Edmund Rice Chapel, Barrack Street, Waterford from 8.00pm to 9.00pm. All are very welcome. Come along and pray for peace.

“Listening to the Voices of Women in the Bible”

This Conference will be on 15th February in The Pembroke Hotel, Patrick Street, Kilkenny from 10.00am to 4.30pm. The speaker is Dr. Gráinne Doherty and the cost is €20 (includes tea/coffee) pay on the door. Booking essential: Contact Sara or Catherina @ 056 772 2870 from 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday or e-mail regionaloffice@ssjg.ie before 11th February 2025.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning - 3rd February

Thursday	10.30am	Bridie Kinsella & Nelly Clarke
Friday:	10.30am	Thomas & Bridie Casey
	12.00noon	Clara Parish Confirmation
Saturday:	10.30am	Ben Little
		Stephen Sheehan
		Patrick (Reg) Martin
Sunday:	6.00pm	Paddy Fogarty
	10.00am	Sarah Prendergast
		Mary Butler
	11.00am	Edward & Beezzie McEvoy
	11.30am	Esther Ryan
		Geoff Doyle
		Ann O’Keeffe

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

Safeguarding Sunday

Safeguarding Sunday, which takes place next weekend, is a time for the Diocese of Ossory to remind our parish communities and wider society that protecting children and vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message. It is opportunity for all parishes to pray as one and to acknowledge the dedication of Church personnel and volunteers who serve in the ministry of Safeguarding across the 42 parishes in our diocese. More resources to follow next week.

Clothes Collection

A Clothes Collection in aid of the Annual Conahy Parish Community Christmas Party. Clothes can be dropped into the open dressing room in the Conahy Shamrocks GAA Grounds from Sunday 16th to Thursday evening 20th of February . You can donate unwanted clothes, belts, shoes, linen, and cuddly toys with no hard plastic. No duvets or pillows.

Points to Ponder

‘You are never too old.’ I remember this phrase from a good friend (who also was my mother) when I contemplated returning to college at the age of 42 to earn an associate degree in physical therapy. Could I learn again and read a textbook? Could I understand Physics 101? Are you kidding? After all, cookbooks and light novels were the extent of my reading! I graduated with honours, passed the state exam and began a second career at 45! Like I said, ‘You are never too old. No excuses!’.

Anna lived her long life serving God. She allowed the Lord to work in her, and this brought her to the recognition of this infant being brought to the Temple for his Presentation to the Lord. It had not been an easy life for her, being a widow all those years. Widows in those days did not have the same stature as those with husbands and families. But she lived every day in communion with the Lord, and it allowed her to recognise the infant, Jesus.

Simeon and Anna were persistent in prayer. They showed up faithfully each day. We can learn from them that God is always at work in a quiet way in our lives, even when things seem impossible. So don’t give up and never think you are too old. God will show you things in your life if you stay close to Him with prayer, and you will recognise Him, just as Simeon and Anna recognised the infant, Jesus.