

Never Doubt God's Forgiveness

The limitless love of God is the reason why we should never, never doubt God's forgiveness. One of the devil's oldest tricks is to convince us that we are too far gone to be forgiven, that our sins are too heinous to be wiped away. There is no such thing. God's goodness and mercy are like a huge furnace of love, and even our biggest sins are just like drops of water. When we cast them into the furnace they vanish.

As the psalmist put it in today's Psalm: "The Lord is compassion and love. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his children, the Lord has pity on those who fear him." We should never doubt God's love and forgiveness. When Jesus was hanging on the cross, looking down at the very men who had unjustly condemned him and crucified him, what did he say? Father, forgive them...

If there is something you have buried in your heart, something you have hidden from God because you think he won't be able to forgive you for it, now is the time to dig it up and lay it at God's feet. He already knows what it is, and he has been longing for you to turn it over to him, so he could free you from it. Do so now, in this Mass, and then make a definitive break with it by coming to confession as soon as possible. If there is someone in your life whom

you haven't forgiven, then decide now to forgive that person.

We are God's children; we have his grace flowing through our hearts. We have access to the strength to forgive, to start over. Ask the Lord during this Mass to give you that grace, that strength. When Jesus comes into our hearts again in Holy Communion, let's all thank him for his limitless love, and let's promise that we will do our best to imitate it this week so that we as Christians will be faithful reproductions of this beautiful portrait of Christ.

Stepping out of The Tomb

Stepping out of The Tomb – a healing retreat will take place next Saturday 1st March from 10am to 4pm in the Church of the Assumption, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny. The guest speaker is Rev. Fr Oisín Martin, Grey Friars of the renewal. He will also be joined by home for the harvest youth ministry team.

To reserve a place please contact Aisling on **083 376760**. Lunch provided €10. Donations welcome.

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.

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**

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - 23rd February 2025

Pope Francis

In a statement issued on Saturday morning the Holy See Press Office says Pope Francis had "a restful night". This follows a press conference at Rome's Gemelli Hospital late on Friday afternoon during which his doctors noted "he is responding to therapy" but "not out of danger." The head of the medical team taking care of the Pope said that he believed the Pope would be hospitalised for "at least" the entirety of the next week, and that Pope Francis is not "in danger of death," but he is also not fully "out of danger." Dr. Alfieri said the Pope is not attached to a ventilator, although he is still struggling with his breathing.

On Wednesday afternoon, 19th February, Pope Francis received a visit from Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. "I am very pleased to have found him alert and responsive," Meloni said. "We joked as always. He has not lost his well-known sense of humour."

Pope Francis says he is thankful for our prayers and asks that we continue to pray for him.

Preparing for Lent

On Wednesday week, 5th March, we will begin the season of Lent and our forty-day preparation for the celebration of Easter. We might prepare by asking what habits of sin do I need to break this Lenten season?

Fasting: What good things do I need to abstain from to strengthen my will?

Prayer: How is God asking me this upcoming Lent to become more prayerful?

Almsgiving: How can I alleviate some of the material sufferings of those in my community this upcoming Lent?

Pilgrimage to Knock

The Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration National Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Sunday, 6th April 2025. Bus will leave from Woodies Car Park in Kilkenny at 7.30am with collections in Ballyragget, Durrow and Abbeyleix. Please contact 086 166 6547 to book.

Pray for Your Enemies

- A serious obstacle to holiness is making enmity with someone a two-way street.
- Make a list in prayer this week of people who have wronged you or don't seem to like you.
- Transformation in Christ comes through effort and grace, so pray for each person on the list this week and make a conscious resolution to harbour no ill will toward them.

St Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund

The next St Mary's Cathedral Restoration draw will take place next Wednesday, 26th February. Tickets at €10 are available from the Parish Office, or any of the priests.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Recently Deceased:

Paddy Moore, Waterford Road. Reposing in Johnston’s Funeral Home on Monday with prayers at 6.15pm. Requiem Mass in St. Fiacre’s Church at 12.00 noon on Tuesday.
 Cyril Jacob, Sion Road Michael O’Dwyer, College Gardens
 Betty Morrissey, Kells Road Fr. Tom O’Shea, Ballylinan
 Rosaleen Ehinger (nee Crotty), Granges Road

Anniversaries: Michael Brennan; John Bergin; Billy Walsh (6.00pm); Paddy Brennan; Josephine Burke (11.00am); Philomena Drohan; Mary Hackett; Martin Coogan (11.30am); Molly Cunningham; John Dinneen; Martin Dermody; Maura Delaney; Pat Grogan; Andy O’Driscoll; Paddy Barry; Catherine Ryan; Tony Comerford; Jimmy Gahan; Mary Healy; Annie Dowling.

*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	Teresa Dowling
11.00am	Esther Comerford & Tom Comerford
11.30am	Bobbie Lahart & Rosemary McPhillips
7.00pm	Anne Marie Grace



Attendance/Collections Last Weekend			
Envelope Collection: €1,140.00			
Mass	Attendance	Baskets	
6.00pm St. John’s	195		307.00
8.00am St. John’s	74		199.00
10.00am Johnswell	41		76.00
11.00am Dunmore	70		90.00
11.30am St. John’s	192		397.00
7.00pm St. John’s	111		210.00
	683		€1,279.00

Prayer for Spring

O Lord our God,
 let the shelter of your wings give us hope.
 Protect us. Carry us.
 You will carry us from when we are little
 until our hairs grow grey.

When our strength is from you, we are strong.
 When our strength is our own, we are weak.
 Life with you is the good life indeed.
 When we live apart from you, our life is a twisted life.

Let us come home to you, Lord,
 lest we be lost.
 Life with you is a life in which nothing is lacking,
 because you are life.
 We do not fear that there is no home to turn to.
 We may have turned away from it. But it remains.
 It did not fall because we fell away.
 Our home is your eternal life.

(St Augustine)



Palestinian Food and Music

You are invited to an evening of Palestinian Food and Music in St. Canice’s Hall, Butts Green, Kilkenny on next Friday, 28th February. Doors open at 7.00pm. Donations welcome to support humanitarian projects in Gaza.

Mayfair Library

Seachtain na Gaeilge: Conversation Café on Tuesday, 11th March from 6.00pm. All are welcome to join the resident Irish Group for some music, conversation and craic. Booking is essential. Telephone: 056 779 4174.

Cystic Fibrosis Ireland

Cystic Fibrosis Ireland are looking for volunteers to help them with their collections in McCarthy’s SuperValu Kilkenny, Newpark Shopping Centre on Friday, 11th April. If you are available from 10.00am to 2.00pm or 2.00pm to 7.00pm on this date and would like to help with our collections by sitting at a table with another volunteer, please email 65roses@cfireland.ie or call 01 496 2433 as we would love to hear from you.

Mass Intentions for Week Beginning - 24 th February		
Tuesday:	10.30am	Molly Cunningham
Wednesday:	8.00am	John Dinneen
Saturday:	6.00pm	Paddy O’Brien Dolores Dowling Christina O’Connor
Sunday:	11.00am	Neddy Phelan
	11.30am	Seán Connick Dick & Pat Marnell
	7.00pm	Ken Lynam Jim Kealy

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

Kilkenny Bereavement Support

The Kilkenny Bereavement Service provides free one to one listening support to people who are bereaved and can be contacted on 086 067 0566. www.kilkennybereavementsupport.com.

The Poor Clare Sisters

Did it ever cross your mind that God might be calling you to the Poor Clare way of life. If so, you are welcome to our Monastic Experience on 1st March from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. If interested, contact us before the day. poorclaresvoc@gmail.com - Poor Clare Monastery, Carlow.

South Kilkenny Historical Society lecture

John McShain: The Man Who Built Washington, from a South Kilkenny Viewpoint.
 Speaker: Alice O’Neill McLoughlin. Date: Friday, 28th February. Time: 8.00pm.
 Venue: Mullinavat Parish Hall (opposite St. Beacon’s Church).

Five Minutes to Live

On Friday 28th February at 7.30p in St. John’s Church, parishioner Sean Colgan will speak of his near-death experience, of how prayer and the power of almighty God played a major role in his survival and how he was given a second chance in life; the power and importance of prayer in all our lives; The marathon and trials of life; vocations, the Ten Commandments, the preparation for Lent and Holy Week. The Cois Nore Choir will join with the congregation in singing well known hymns. All are welcome.

Pope’s Monthly Intentions - February 2025

“Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ’s mission in the priesthood and religious life.”

Women’s World Day of Prayer

Woman’s World Day of Prayer Service will be celebrated at St. Canice’s Church on Friday, 7th March 2025 at 7.30pm. Men and women are welcome. Theme “I made you wonderful.” The service is prepared by the WDP Group on Cook Islands. Please come and join us.

Reflections for Lent

“The Seven Last Words of Christ.” Starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing on every Wednesday of Lent, 11.00am - 11.45am in the Black Abbey. Led by Fr. Joe Kavanagh OP.

Concert

There will be a Concert in St. Mary’s Cathedral on Wednesday, 26th February at 7.30pm featuring The Jamtones: Lamoille Union High School’s A Cappella Choir, Vermont USA. Performances by Megan and Patrick Dermody – Violin/ Guitar and Sospiro Male Voice Choir. Admission: €10 to support the ongoing renovations of the Cathedral. Children free.