

### First Confessions

The boys and girls from Johnswell National School (on Monday) and the boys and girls from St. John's Junior School (on Tuesday) will celebrate their First Confession this week. This is an important milestone on their faith journey, and they have been preparing very well for this Sacrament. We keep them in our prayers as they celebrate God's forgiveness in their lives and as they continue the journey of preparation for their First Holy Communion in May.

### Parish Envelopes

Envelopes are available from the Parish Office. These envelopes are a source of income for the parish. If you currently do not use an envelope or are new to the Parish and would like to have a box of envelopes, please contact the Parish Office and we'll organise that for you. Your contribution to the Parish is greatly appreciated.

### St Thomas Aquinas - 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Join us for a talk on the life, writings, influence and legacy of St Thomas Aquinas. The Black Abbey Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm. Talk by Fr Conor McDonough OP.

### 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.

### Women's World Day of Prayer

Woman's World Day of Prayer Service will be celebrated at St. Canice's Church on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Please come and join us.

### Pilgrimage to Knock

The Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration National Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April. Bus from Woodies' Car Park in Kilkenny at 7.30am with stops in Ballyragget, Durrow and Abbeyleix. 086 166 6547.

### Kilkenny Medjugorje Pilgrimage

Direct flight to Mostar. Medjugorje 4<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Hotel near the church. Cost €875. Accompanied by Spiritual Director For bookings: Ann 086 199 1620 or 086 882 5622.

### Survive & Thrive

The Marie Keating Foundation's Survive & Thrive Programmes help people who have completed cancer treatment to adapt to their 'new normal'. This is a 6-week programme, we would love to help you to transform yourself and meet people who have gone through a similar experience. This March we are working with Cois Nore Cancer Support, Kilkenny. Venue - Kilkenny Education Centre, Callan Road, R95 RH97. 10.00am to 1.00pm every Wednesday from 5<sup>th</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> April. For further information contact Fiona on 087 965 7144, 01 628 3726 or fsullivan@mariekeating.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

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**

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025**

### The Season of Lent 2025

Pope Francis, in his Lenten message, invites us to enter into Lent:

"This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to journey together in hope, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community.

First of all, to journey... all of us are pilgrims in this life.

Second, to journey together. The Church is called to walk together, to be synod, Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels... to walk towards God and our brothers and sisters... It means walking side-by-side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded. Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards the same goal, attentive to one another in love and patience.

Third, let us journey together in hope, for we have been given a promise. May the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rom5:5), the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter. May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope, intercede for us and accompany us on our Lenten journey."

*Given at Rome, Saint John Lateran, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025.*

### Ash Wednesday

Mass will be celebrated on Ash Wednesday at **8am, 10.30am and 7.00pm**. Blessed Ashes will be distributed at each Mass and will be available in our churches throughout the day.

Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. On the day in the readings there is an awareness of our sinfulness, as we pray 'Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned'. There is also a sense that the time to repent and turn back to the Lord is now.

The gospel puts before us three ways to renew our lives: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. These three strands of Lenten observances are as ancient as Christianity itself. "Fasting is the soul of prayer; mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. If we have not all three together, we have nothing" St Peter Chrysologus.

### Stations of the Cross

We invite you to join with us at St. John's Church at 7.30pm on the Fridays of Lent to contemplate the Stations of the Cross. This forty minute devotion commemorates Christ's last day on earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of his last day, beginning with his condemnation. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day.

### Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

**Recently Deceased:** Maura Lanigan, Rosemount, Newpark Drive. Reposing in Johnston's Funeral Home on Monday with Funeral Prayers at 6.15pm followed by removal to St. John's Church. Requiem Mass at 10.30am on Tuesday followed by burial at St. Kieran's Cemetery.

Esther Maher, Assumption Place  
 Pauline Phelan, Connolly Street  
 Tom McGrath, College Road  
 Maura Armstrong, Drumbane, Co. Tipperary  
 Kathleen Kavanagh, Ardnore  
 Andrea Leonard, Dublin  
 Kathleen Heffernan, Dunohill, Co. Tipperary

**Anniversaries:** Dolores Dowling & Christina O'Connor (6.00pm); Neddy Phelan (11.00am); Seán Connick; Dick & Pat Marnell; Ken Lynam (11.30am); Jim Kealy (7.00pm); Bridie Shaughnessy; Mags Dineen; Bishop Peter Birch; Seamus Campion; Sadie and Therese McGrath; Seamus Culleton; Mary Murphy; John Boland; Tess & Paddy Hogan; Ellen Delaney; Edmond O'Dwyer; John Hodge; Catherine Neary; Margaret Rowe; Edmond O'Dwyer; James Dowling; Angela & Albert Kilusungu; Phil Murray; Catherine Leahy.

#### Readers for Next Weekend

6.00pm Mairin Bergin  
 8.00am Niamh Carroll  
 10.00am Séan Colgan  
 11.00am Nora Guilfoyle & Fiona McGearya  
 11.30am Paula Rogers & James Connolly  
 7.00pm Joan Galwey



#### Attendance/Collections Last Weekend

Envelope Collection:		€2,190.00
Mass	Attendance	Baskets
6.00pm St. John's	136	430.00
8.00am St. John's	65	320.00
10.00am Johnswell	33	148.00
11.00am Dunmore	90	265.00
11.30am St. John's	140	502.00
7.00pm St. John's	97	357.00
	561	€2,215.00

#### Ash Wednesday

Our Lenten Journey begins next Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, a day of fast and abstinence. The Lenten Season is part of our Christian Tradition where we are encouraged by prayer, fasting and almsgiving to grow in our relationship with God.

#### Pope's Intention for March - For Families in Crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

#### First Friday of March

Next Friday is the First Friday of March. The priests will try to visit the sick and housebound 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.

#### Blood Donation Clinic - O'Loughlin Gaels GAA

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March and Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 from 15:45pm - 20:00pm.  
 Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March from 12:00pm - 15:30pm. Book appointments: giveblood.ie or 1800 222 111.

#### Mayfair Library

Ag ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge, beidh Caifé Comhrá ar súil i Leabharlann Mayfair. Beidh foireann na leabhairlainne i gceannas; tá alán ábhar suimiúil réidh le plé acu Cuirfear soláistí ar fail, agus beidh ceol ann freisin. Dé Máirt 11ú Márta 6.00pm. Booking advisable 056 779 4174.

#### Monastic Experience Day

The Poor Clares Galway are hosting a Monastic Experience Day for women 18 - 35 years. This is an opportunity to explore and experience Poor Clare life and spirituality. The event will take place from 10.00am to 5.00pm on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March. Contact: vocations@poorclares.ie to register. For more information: poorclares.ie/monastic-experience-days.

### Mass Intentions for Week Beginning - 3rd March

Monday	8.00am	Special Intention
	2.00pm	Johnswell N.S. First Confession
Tuesday	8.00am	Special Intention
	10.30am	Phil Murray
	12.30pm	St John's Jnr N.S. First Confession
Wednesday:	10.30am	Bridie Shaughnessy
Friday:	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday:	10.30am	Mags Dineen
		Seamus Campion
	6.00pm	Dermot Phelan
		MM Anne Croke
		Paddy O'Brien
Sunday:	11.00am	Margaret Ryan
	11.30am	Margaret Dwyer
		Patrick Pa Guidera
		Andy Wall & Jack & Josie Purcell
	7.00pm	John McEneary

### 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

### Trócaire - Take a Box Home - Make a Difference in 2025

Trócaire invites you to be part of this work in Lent 2025. In Somalia, your generosity will give people a way to rewrite their stories despite war, hunger and hunger crises. In Gaza and Lebanon Trócaire staff with other aid agencies are Keepers of Compassion. In Sudan your help allows Trócaire to address widespread malnutrition. The list goes on...

Lent 2025 invites us to help Ilma and Julio's family in Guatemala. Despite working tirelessly to provide for their family, climate change and crop failures are pushing families like theirs into poverty. Through Lent 2025 we can help them protect their homes and grow enough food.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope we are, through the words of Pope Francis, invited to bring hope and action to climate justice. The theme this year is "Injustice is not invincible" taken from Pope Francis' letter *Laudato Si*, 74. Take a box home - make a difference in 2025.

### St Kieran's Day - 5<sup>th</sup> March

Next Wednesday is the feast of St Kieran. Kieran is referred to as the 'first born of the saints of Ireland' and often identified as Kieran of Saighir distinguishing him from St Ciarán of Clonmacnoise who is called Kieran the Younger.

Kieran's mother was a native of Cape Clear in Co. Cork. It is understood that he was ordained in Rome and consecrated a bishop by St. Patrick who commissioned him to return to Ireland. Patrick gave him a bell instructing him to establish a monastery when the bell would ring. This turned out to be Saighir Chiaráin, near the village of Clareen about four miles south-east of Birr, Co Offaly.

Kieran is often depicted as a John the Baptist type figure, dressed in the skins of wild animals and with a bell and church. Saighir Chiaráin was the centre of Christianity until the bishop's chair transferred to Aghaboe - the monastic foundation of St Canice - and later the moved to Kilkenny.

St Mary's Cathedral was dedicated in 1858 and though while often referred to as St Mary's it also has Kieran as its secondary patron. It is the Cathedral of St Mary and St Kieran. Kieran is the patron saint of the Diocese of Ossory.

### Dates for Your Diary

First Holy Communion at St. John's Church - Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025

First Holy Communion at Johnswell Church - Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

St. Kieran's Cemetery Mass - Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dunmore and Johnswell Cemetery Mass - Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025