



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

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17th December 2023 – Third Sunday of Advent

A Thought...

This is a busy time of year. We are rushing around trying to get the essentials done - cards to be bought, then written, then sent! Presents to be thought about, purchased and then wrapped. Then there is the food and all that goes with welcoming visitors, friends and family... It is easy to get caught up in the wave of activity that is the run into Christmas. Try, if you can, to take time to slow down, attend a carol service or visit the cribs in our city churches. This year, 2023, marks the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi constructing the first Christmas crèche in a cave in Greccio, Italy. To mark this special anniversary the Irish Bishops have invited everyone to share a picture of their crib whether it is at home or in the workplace - send yours to cribs@ossory.ie and they will be part of the virtual display on the Diocesan Website.

Anniversaries

11am Jimmy King, James's Green, Catherine King, Marble Crest,
Peggy Moore, Kickham Street, Rose Walsh, Kickham Street.

And for those anniversaries occur about this time:

Paul Slattery, James Murray, Annie Donovan, Chrissie Comerford, Billy Phelan, Mary Loughman, Mary Delaney, Jim Maher.

Weekly Collections

Envelope Collection: €510; Baskets €814.97. Your support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

Advent Penitential Service - Sacrament of Reconciliation

A Penitential Service for the four City Parishes will be held in St John's Church on Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm. Come along and join us.

Carols at the Cathedral

Annual Carol Service tonight 17th December at 7.30pm featuring St. Mary's Cathedral Choir, The Kilkenny Youth Orchestra, The Unity Singers with special guest Tanya Sewell (Soprano).

Diocesan Draw

The December Draw will take place on Wednesday, 20th December at 8.00pm in the Chapter Room. All welcome.

Christmas Cards

A great stock of Christmas Cards is available in the Cathedral Shop. Also gifts for Christmas, a selection of cribs and other seasonal stock. The shop is open Monday-Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm

Christmas Masses in the Cathedral

Christmas Eve – 6.00pm

Christmas Day – 9.00am and 11.00am

Our Journey Through Advent 2023

"Inside the Synod – the experience of being part of the synodal journey in Rome" Rev Professor Eamonn Conway, Professor Of Integral Human Development, University of Notre Dame, Australia, will give a talk on his experience of the Synod on Monday 18th Dec., St. Kieran's College, 7.30pm.

Concert 22nd December

On Friday next why not treat yourself to an evening of classical music and festive tunes in the beautiful setting of our Cathedral, Kilkenny, with musicians from Kilkenny and across Ireland. A beautiful way to begin the Christmas holidays with family and friends! All proceeds in aid of Marble City Hawks Basketball Club and Cois Nore Cancer Support Centre. 7.30pm-9pm.

Ministers of the Word and the Eucharist

Might you be willing to read at Mass, or to help distribute Communion at Mass, or take Communion on occasion to someone who cannot come to Mass. If so we would be delighted to hear from you. Please let us know – call the office or email stmaryscathedral@ossory.ie. Training for both ministries will be provided. The pay for all help given is out of this world!

Altar Servers

Many of us served Mass when we were young children. Sadly, many parishes, particularly over covid, have let this wonderful opportunity to young people to be involved slip. We would like to bring it back. Have you sons or daughters from 3rd class to 6th who would be willing to serve at Mass? A schedule would be set up for them to serve on a rota. If you have someone who might be interested please let us know – phone the office or email stmaryscathedral@ossory.ie to leave your details.

Carols for the Homeless:

Join the Kilkenny Gospel Choir for **Carols for the Homeless** on Sunday December 17th at 2 pm upstairs in the Kilkenny Design Centre:

OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: Sr Betty Cagney

Counselling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline 1800 313 316 – www.towardshealing.ie Please consult the Diocesan website (www.ossory.ie) for all relevant documents and diocesan policies.

Invite your family members to support the Cathedral **FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL** at www.stmaryscathedral.ie/friends