



## ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Parish Office: St Mary's Cathedral, James's Street, Kilkenny

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7th January 2024 – The Baptism of the Lord

### A Thought...

Pope Francis has continually reminded us that Baptism is the Sacrament that is most important - it is the one that welcomes us into the Church; it is the beginning of our journey of faith; it is the Sacrament that bestows on us our Christian dignity. Baptism is the great leveller in that we all have that same dignity - no one is greater in the Church. Baptism also calls us to action in that we are expected to live differently as a result of that Sacrament, our lives should reflect that we are baptised. One of the ways we do this is to be part of the life of the Church or our parish.. We have been asking for people to read at Mass and to become Eucharistic Ministers. It is great that we have people who are volunteering - we would love more. Please consider giving your name to one of these ministries.

### Please remember the following in your prayers

#### Recently Deceased

Sean Casey, Old Callan Road.

#### Anniversaries

11am Seamus & Margaret Dunlop, Rothe Tce., Mary Doheny, Rioch Tce.

5.30pm Breedge & Danny Nolan, Dominic Street.

And for those whose anniversaries occur about this time

Ann Guilfoyle, Bernie Kelly, Sean O'Dwyer, William Kavanagh, William, Ellen and Liam Bergin, Michael and Anne Ruth, Lorenzo Mahony.

#### Weekly Collections

Envelope Collection: €440.00; Baskets €1305.29. Your support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

#### Weekly Envelopes

Envelopes are now ready for distribution and can be collected at parish office. Thank you to all who distribute our envelopes. It is much appreciated.

#### Ministers of the Word and the Eucharist

Sincere thank you to those who have given their names to act as Ministers of the Word or Eucharist – but we are still asking for more... 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](mailto:stmaryscathedral@ossory.ie). Training for both ministries will be provided. The pay for all help given is out of this world!

#### Priests Retreat

This week the priests of the Diocese are getting together in Wexford for a few days of Retreat. Time to spend together in prayer. These are important days as the "work" of a priest is not to be simply a functionary doing what needs to be done but it is to be a person of faith, one who is in dialogue with God in prayer so that, in turn, he can try to bring God to people. Life is busy and the time of a Retreat allows the priests to reset and focus on God, on prayer, and on what should be at the heart of our ministry. Please keep us in your prayers, we will be praying for the people of our parishes in these days.

#### Thanks

PJ who has been working in the Cathedral gift shop is set to leave us at the end of this week. His attention to detail and his willingness to help all who called on him was very notable. We want to say a sincere thank you to him for his time with us and wish him well in his future endeavours. Hopefully he has gained new skills from his time here and they will serve him into the future. Michael will remain with us in the Cathedral gift shop and therefore you know you will be still made very welcome and looked after - he will be joined in the weeks ahead by Olesia and we look forward to helping her to settle in.

#### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> class to 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:stmaryscathedral@ossory.ie) to leave your details.

#### French Classes

The Alliance Française in Kilkenny will be enrolling students for the new term on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January from 7 to 8.30 pm in the Club House Hotel. The Alliance offers French classes to all levels from beginners, improvers and advanced and classes are available in person (in the Club House Hotel) or online via Zoom. There are daytime and evening classes for adults, and for students doing the Leaving Certificate. More details online at [www.afkilkenny.org](http://www.afkilkenny.org) or [info@afkilkenny.org](mailto:info@afkilkenny.org) or 087-2539734.

#### OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE:

Sr Betty Cagney

**Counselling Services - Towards Healing** Confidential Helpline 1800 313 316 – [www.towardshealing.ie](http://www.towardshealing.ie)

Please consult the Diocesan website ([www.ossory.ie](http://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](http://www.stmaryscathedral.ie/friends)