



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

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

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24th December 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Thanks...

When I was a student I spent a few summers in New York working in a parish and the Parish Priest, a very learned man who taught me lots, told me that the most important thing a priest can ever do is to say thank you to people – after all, he reminded me, that the people we work with are mainly volunteers and they are doing it for the same reason as we are – to help bring the faith to life.. Since I have come to St Mary's I am amazed by the people who make this parish work so well and as we give thanks at Christmas, I want to say a sincere thank you to them all... Jack and Kevin who look after the church and sacristy, Rita in the office, Michael and PJ in the shop, Dermot and Michael who caretake the church and grounds, Joan and the many Ministers of the Eucharist she coordinates, Eddie and Marie who take communion to people at home, and our many Ministers of the Word, Sean and Joy and the wonderful Cathedral Choir, Ger who looks after our Facebook, Sr Betty Safeguarding, our Parish Council, Finance Committee – and the many people who have recently agreed to join those groups in the new year, the people who volunteered on the new Boards of Management of our schools... and to you all who support the parish – a very sincere and heartfelt thank you and a very happy Christmas.

Please remember the following in your prayers

Ben Young, St. Francis Terrace. Mary (May) Hurley (nee Blanche), Stephen Street

Those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Edward Davin, Peggy Blanchfield, Anna Keegan, Denis Maher, Paddy Moynihan, Ann Murray, Patrick Sinnott, Jim Kelly, Julia and Tommy Delaney, Mary Maher, Aaron Molloy, Mary Malone, Peg Molloy, Breda Molloy, Seamus Fry, Patrick and Julia Burke, Milo and Ann Fry, Kay Scott, Edward Taylor, William Teehan, Sean Dooley (1st Anniversary) and Paddy Purcell.

Weekly Collections

Envelope Collection: €375; Baskets €1060.28. Your support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

Christmas Masses in the Cathedral

Christmas Eve – 6.00pm

Christmas Day – 9.00am and 11.00am

Mass next week at 9.00am

Adoration in Blessed Sacrament Chapel as usual rota.

The Annual Church Christmas Crib Walk will take place on St Stephens Day beginning at the Friary Church at 11 am. This is the 21st year of the walk which in Kilkenny traditionally took place on St. Stephens Day. This year the Crib Walk will have a special prayer for peace in the Middle East and Bethlehem. This year also marks the 800th anniversary of the making of the first crib by St Francis of Assisi. Each walker will receive a Bethlehem cross to mark this special year. The walk will be led by Fr Willie Purcell.

RTE Celebrations

We know all too well that the crib of Christmas is linked to the cross of Good Friday. It is the story of our faith, one speaks directly to the other... But then we also know that cross speaks to new life too. This Easter RTE will broadcast their Easter Ceremonies from our St Mary's Cathedral. Good Friday and the Easter Vigil will be broadcast from here. So as soon as the New Year starts we will be thinking of what is to come.. how can we celebrate that in a way that is most beautiful.

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!!

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.

French Classes

The Alliance Française in Kilkenny will be enrolling students for the new term on Tuesday 9th 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 or info@afkilkenny.org or 087-2539734.

Lourdes

The annual Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 is now available to book! The departure will take place on 22 May 2024 from Cork flying direct to Lourdes with accommodation available in the hotels La Solitude, Padoue or Agena.

With capacity being limited this year, it is strongly advised that pilgrims wishing to travel to Lourdes book as soon as possible.

Should you require any additional information on the pilgrimage, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01 2410800 or info@joewalshstours.ie.

Assisted Pilgrims contact Fr Anthony O'Connor 087-2517766 maoc50@me.com

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