



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

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

Tel: (056) 772 1253 Email: stmaryscathedral@ossory.ie

Rev Dermot Ryan, Adm. Email: dermotryan@ossory.ie

31st December 2023 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

A Thought...

If you took the time to visit the cribs in the churches of the city this past week – they are all so different but they all have one key item in common. At the heart of the crib is an infant baby Jesus. God was not born God in our world. He started here as a helpless infant. He needed the care of Mary and Joseph and so many others in his wider family and community to help him grow.. It occurs to me, then, that long before Jesus (God) encountered hatred and violence in the world he met in humanity a great warmth, love and care. Yes there are many problems in the world, in our own worlds and in the global world, but there is also much that is good and beautiful – much that makes it all so worth while, enjoyable – be the face of love to someone this week. Even God needed to find that in others.

Please remember the following in your prayers

Recently Deceased

May Hurley (nee Blanche), Stephen Street, Sean Casey, Old Callan Road

Anniversaries

11am **Months Mind** Bridie Sunderland, Circular Road,

Anniversaries Sean Hayes, Dean Cavanagh Place, Rosie Byrne, James's Green

5.30pm John Walsh, Rioch Court.

Weekly Collections

Envelope Collection: €1395.00; Baskets €1807.61. Christmas Eve €1896.58. 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 and a sincere thanks to all those who support the parish by means of these collections. It is truly very much appreciated and makes the life of the parish possible.

To Welcome the New Year

A group of parishioners will gather in Dunmore Church around midnight on New Year's Eve to say a prayerful farewell to 2023 and welcome the New Year. All are welcome to join in Adoration, scripture readings, prayer and song between 11.00pm and 00.15am as we welcome the New Year. All are invited to join.

Baptistry and Shrine

As you know we have Michael and Dermot helping out as caretakers of the Cathedral and grounds. They are doing great work and the place looks wonderful. I want to thank them both - you will also notice that the Baptistry, which houses the font that Bishop Freeman had redone in memory of his parents, has been cleaned and repainted as has the shrine to St Victoria - Dermot has done wonderful work on these beautiful additions to the Cathedral.

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 – And we will stay asking!

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

As few people have indicated that their children would like to serve Mass here in the Cathedral and we are delighted to get this going soon. 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. There will be training!

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.

Catholics in the South East of Ireland Facebook Group invites you to join our next Book Club Meetup on Saturday 6th January, 2024, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Club House Hotel, Kilkenny R95 DX76. Book: Theology for Beginners by Frank Sheed. For more information contact Gissell at 087-761-7792.

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