

### **Chrism Mass**

This coming Wednesday we will celebrate the Mass of Chrism here in the Cathedral at 7.30pm. This is always a special moment in our Diocese as Bishop Niall blesses the sacred Oils, the Oils of Chrism, Catechumens and the Sick, that will be used for the celebrations of Sacraments in our parishes throughout the year ahead. The priests of the Diocese also renew their Ordination promises at this Mass. Please come along to join us for this very important celebration.

### **Annual Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock**

Takes place on Sunday 14th April 2024. Bus leaves from Woodies Carpark at 6.45am sharp. Cost €35. For more details please contact 086 1666547.

### **Polish Mass**

Drodzy rodacy, dołączcie do nas w cotygodniowym celebrowaniu mszy Świętej w języku Polskim, w Katedrze Najświętszej Marii Panny w Kilkenny przy ulicy James's Street, w Kaplicy Najświętszego Sakramentu, przy Katedrze. W trakcie Wielkiego tygodnia, Poswiecenie Pokarmów o godzinie 13.00 w głównej Katedrze, Msza Święta w Niedzielę Wielkanocną o godzinie 9:00 rano. Więcej informacji na Facebooku: Wspólnota Katolicka Kilkenny.

### **The Annual Good Friday Walk**

The Annual Good Friday Walk will begin at St. Johns Church Kilkenny at 7pm, the walk will go through the city to the Friary Church for Prayer Around The Cross. Bishop Niall Coll will lead this year's walk. All Welcome.

### **Conversations with Women in the Bible**

Conference will be on 11th May 2024 in The Pembroke Hotel, Patrick Street, Kilkenny from 10.00am – 4.30pm. Speaker Thérèse Fitzgerald Cost: €20 (includes tea/coffee) pay on the door. Booking essential: Contact Sara or Catherina @ 056 7722870 9.00–5.00 pm Monday to Friday or e-mail regionaloffice@ssjg.ie before May 7th.

### **OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: Sr Betty Cagney**

If you, or anyone you know, has a Safeguarding concern please contact: Diocesan Director of Safeguarding and Designated Liaison Person, DLP, Ailish Higgins at 087 8021633

TUSLA: Kilkenny 052 6177302; Laois/Offaly 044 9353997; Waterford 053 9198201

An Garda Síochána: 1800 555 222 or your local Garda Station

Towards Healing Helpline: 1800 313416 [www.towardshealing.ie](http://www.towardshealing.ie)

Towards Peace Helpline: 01 5053028 [www.towardspeace.ie](http://www.towardspeace.ie)

Please consult the Diocesan website ([www.ossory.ie](http://www.ossory.ie)) for all relevant documents and diocesan policies.



## **ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL**

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

**Tel: (056) 772 1253 Email: [stmaryscathedral@ossory.ie](mailto:stmaryscathedral@ossory.ie)  
Rev Dermot Ryan, Adm. Email: [dermotryan@ossory.ie](mailto:dermotryan@ossory.ie)**

**24th March 2024 – Palm Sunday**

*Invite your family members to support the Cathedral  
FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL at [www.stmaryscathedral.ie/friends](http://www.stmaryscathedral.ie/friends)*

## A Thought...

This past week to conclude the City Retreat we had a Penitential Service led by Bishop Niall. What a fitting way to end our mini retreat - to encounter the mercy of God. Pope Francis tells us that Mercy is at the heart of God. He once noted "I am always struck when I reread the parable of the merciful father; it impresses me because it always gives me great hope. Think of that younger son who was in the father's house; who was loved; and yet he wants his part of the inheritance. He goes off, spends everything, hits rock bottom, where he could not be more distant from the father. Yet when he is at his lowest, he misses the warmth of the father's house and he goes back. And the father? Had he forgotten the son? No, never. He is there, he sees the son from afar; he was waiting for him every hour of every day. The son was always in his father's heart, even though he had left him, even though he had squandered his whole inheritance; his freedom? Each of us, at every moment of our lives at at the heart of God... What a wonderful thought as we approach Easter.

*Fr Dermot*

## Please remember the following in your prayers

### Recently Deceased

John Austin, Cathedral Square, Breda Cullen, Rose Hill Court.

### Anniversaries

I am Joseph Brannigan, Drakelands Middle.

5.30pm Months Mind – Jimmy Cullerton, Old Callan Road.

Months Mind – Sr. Colombiere Costello, Presentation Convent.

And for those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Ann Butler

## Weekly Collections

Envelope Collection: €330.00; Baskets €1337.81. Your support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

## Sacristy Corridor

If you have not yet been on the Sacristy corridor - take a walk down there at some stage. The history walls tell the wonderful story of this magnificent Cathedral, the old reliefs from the Killkenney black marble altar are once more there to be seen. In these past weeks Dermot Hennessy has cleaned all the old varnish from the tiles on the floor. They are not as good as they will be yet... but they are a lot better than they were. Thanks also to Jennifer McCreery who came in on her own time to help us figure a way to get that varnish off...

## Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee

A sincere thanks to the members of the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee who both met during the past week. These groups help to ensure that we are trying our best to fulfil the mission of the parish. As always I am so taken by how willing people are to volunteer their time and talents - thank you!

## Easter Ceremonies on RTE

As you know this year RTE will broadcast the Easter Ceremonies from our beautiful Cathedral. These ceremonies will be live on Good Friday at 3pm and for the Easter Vigil at 11pm on Holy Saturday night. We thank all those in the parish who are working so hard to prepare for these celebrations: readers, ministers of the eucharist, servers, Kevin and Jack our sacristans, Rita in the office, Michel and Oleisa and Sean and Joy and the choir. It was easy to say yes to RTE - but then the work had to be done. So thank you to all who made it possible. These promise to be special celebrations in our Diocese. Don't stay at home to watch it, record it on TV, and be sure to come to the celebrations themselves.

## Diocesan Draw

March draw will take place on Wednesday, 27th March at 2pm in the Chapter Room. All Welcome. Please note change of time.

## Cathedral Heating

We have undertaken some work, small items, on improving the Cathedral heating - and hopefully they are making a difference. The next item that we are about to undertake is the insulation of the Cathedral roof. Look up and imagine, if you will, that there is not one bit of insulation in those wooden ceilings! Is it any wonder that we feel cold on occasion. Starting immediately after Easter we are going to install insulation in every part of the roof of the Cathedral. Hopefully this will make a massive difference when we return to winter next year.

## Confirmation

Congratulations to the boys and girls of the Mother of Fair Love, the CBS Primary School and Presentation Primary School who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Cathedral on Friday. Bishop Niall reminded them of the great gift that faith offers them. It was truly a special celebration and our thanks to the teachers, SNAs and school Principals and all who helped the children prepare. We know that the Holy Spirit will be with the children always - our prayer is that they now know that too.

## Reconstituted Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council ODPC

In July 2023 Bishop Niall established a working group to consider the form of Diocesan Pastoral Council that would best serve the Diocese at this time. The group met several times and consulted widely with other dioceses and pastoral advisers as well as to best practice. The group submitted proposals to Bishop Niall at the end of August. Taking these proposals into account, Bishop Niall has appointed the following as members of the new ODPC: Bishop Niall Coll, Frs. Dan Carroll, Dan Bolland, Martin Delaney, Ms. Ann Daly, Ms. Sarah Rice, Ms. Brid Duffy, Mr. Diarmuid Healy, Mr. John Shortall, Ms. Gemma Mulligan, Sr. Helen Maher. Sarah Rice accepted the role of Chairperson. The first meeting of the new ODPC took place on 19th January.