

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

8th December 2024 – Second Sunday of Advent

A Thought... Exams - in the run up to Christmas most school have their Christmas exams - what a way to prepare for the Christmas season... It is no different in Colleges too. Some have their exams this side of the break and more return to face them immediately after the break. Exams are a necessary evil, or a wonderful opportunity to display your learning. I will let you call how it is that you see them. But I think, no matter how you view them, that we do all see the merit in having some system of checking how we are getting on with something - say a particular subject. Maybe Advent is time for that too - asking yourself, in a meaningful manner, how am I prepared for Christmas (and I don't intend by that question - cards and presents)

Fr Dermot

Please remember the following in your prayers

Eddie Scully, Stephen Street, Tom A. Sloyan, Kilkenny City.

Anniversaries

11.00am: Tommy & Agnes O'Neill, Rothe Tce., Jim Maher, Martin Nolan, Dunmore, Paul Slattery.

5.30pm: Julia Heffernan, Mary Malone and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time - Patrick and Rose Wixted, Mary Dowling (nee Wixted), Mary Maher, Mary Saunders, Margaret Thornton, Adrian Freezey, Sean Barry.

Weekly Collections

Envelope Collection €500.00; Baskets €1,786.14. Your support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 19th-25th May 2025

The Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 19th-25th May 2025. Bus transport from Loughboy Shopping Centre and Castlecomer GAA pitch to Cork Airport. Full religious programme. Choice of 3* and 4* hotels €949 and €995 respectively. Bookings JWT 01-2410800 or info@joewalshstours.ie. Assisted pilgrims contact Fr Anthony O'Connor 087-2517766.

Cathedral Bookshop

These weekends the Cathedral Bookshop and Gift shop will be available again at the back of the Cathedral after the 11am Mass. A chance for people to get Christmas Mass cards or gifts. Thanks to Michael and Rita for making this possible.

Scoil Aireagail Winter Concert

Join us, Knocktopher Church, Tuesday, 10th December, 2pm, for an afternoon of music and song in celebration of the festive season. All are welcome, and there will be a bucket collection in aid of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP).

Christmas Offering

Envelopes are ready for distribution and can be collected at Parish Office. Thank you to all who give of their time to distribute envelopes.

Diocesan Draw

Please note the December Draw will take place on Wednesday, 18th December.

Medjugorje May 2025

7 nights. €949 pps half board in Hotel Leone. €50 discount if deposit paid by 15 Jan '25. Spiritual Director: Fr Sheehan. Limited places. Leader Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380

Advent

As we prepare for Christmas there are many activities planned by the Diocesan Faith Development Group. A poster outlining these is available at the back of the church. The first evening Bishop Niall will lead a reflection on the Theology of Hope in St Kieran's College on Wednesday 11th December, 7pm.

Advent Godly Play

A morning for young people, those attending our primary schools to reflect through Godly Play, the hope-filled message of Advent and Christmas. St Mary's Cathedral Chapter House, Saturday, 14th December, 10.30am. To register contact: afd@ossory.ie

Carrigan: Church, Culture, Context

Commemorating 100 years since the death of Canon Carrigan a two-day conference during which historians will reflect on the work of Carrigan and the context from which it emerged. We are delighted that our own Richard Hyland will be among the speakers. This important weekend marks the very significant contribution that was Carrigan's history of our Diocese. St Kieran's College Kilkenny, Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December 2024. Attendance Free. Details and Registration: 056 7721086 email: admin@stkieranscollege.ie

Join **The Kilkenny Choir** for a Classical Christmas, a mix of popular composers and traditional carols for all the family to enjoy, on **Sunday, December 15th** at 4.30pm in St. Canice's Catholic Church. The choir will be conducted by Patrick Rafter and accompanied by professional musicians. Tickets €20 on Eventbrite or at the door, U18s free.

St Mary's Cathedral, Chapter House Bookshop

welcomes you to visit the shop which is now open 5 days a week.
Monday 9.30am till 1.00pm and Tuesday - Friday 9.30am till 5.00pm.

Readers Next Weekend 11am K. Meighan, 5.30pm M. Ryan

Eucharistic Ministers 11.00am R. Neary, R. Heffernan, B. Dunphy, 5.30pm K. Lawlor, F. Culleton.

YOUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES: Sr Betty Cagney and Martina Lawlor
Contact: safeguardingstmarys@ossory.ie

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

Towards Peace Helpline: 01 5053028 www.towardspeace.ie

Please consult the Diocesan website (www.ossory.ie) for all relevant documents and policies.

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