

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Parish Office: St Mary's Cathedral, James's Street, Kilkenny
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Rev Dermot Ryan, Adm. Email: dermotryan@ossory.ie
15th December 2024 – Third Sunday of Advent

A Thought... Last weekend our caretaker Dermot brought over the pieces for the Cathedral crib and Jim and Edel assembled it on Saturday. It is a big jigsaw - literally and figuratively. It slowly comes together from lots of smaller pieces to finally stand as the complete picture - the magnificent Crib that we all know well for years here. It strikes me that Jim and Edel also prepare the Easter fire for the Easter Vigil each year... little pieces that come together to form the complete picture. It is very appropriate - without the crib we would not have Easter - the two are forever linked. In fact without Christ's death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, his birth would have no meaning. His resurrection marked by that fire is for him, and us all, a birth to new life. So yes we know the story - but do we see how all the parts matter...

Fr Dermot

Please remember the following in your prayers

Anniversaries

11.00am: **Months Mind:** Paddy Mahony, Fr. Murphy Square. Anniversaries Mary Hanrahan, Dukes Meadows, Jimmy King, James's Green, Catherine King, Marble Crest. and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time – Anna Keegan, Ann Hurley, William, Ellen and Liam Bergin, Nora Kennedy, Nan Donovan, Chrissie Comerford and Billy Phelan.

Weekly Collections

Envelope Collection €455.00; Baskets €1,429.66. 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.

Diocesan Draw

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

Christmas Carol Service

Annual Diocesan Carol Service will take place on Sunday next 22nd December here in the Cathedral starting at 7.30pm featuring Tanya Sewell, Soloist, St. Mary's Cathedral Choir, Kilkenny Youth Orchestra and The Unity Singers. An evening of music, song, prayer and reflection. Collection will be taken up for charity.

The Bible - a message of Hope

Rev. Dr Sean Maher, a priest of the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin - an evening exploring the hope filled message of the Scriptures; St Kieran's College, Tuesday, 17th December; 7.00pm.

Join **The Kilkenny Choir** for a Classical Christmas, a mix of popular composers and traditional carols for all the family to enjoy, today, **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.

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.

Evening Retreat - forgiveness our Hope

Very Rev. Ray Dempsey and the City Priests lead a short evening Retreat and an opportunity for reconciliation in preparation for Christmas at St Patrick's Parish Church, on Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm

Medjugorje Pilgrimage May 28th 2025. Last chance to avail of €100 discount if fully paid by 20th December. Cost €849 pps with discount (€949 thereafter). All who travel with this group entered in to draw for this group only, to win base cost of pilgrimage. Group Leader Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959390. Still a few seats available. Tour Operator Joe Walsh Tours

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 M. Finnegan, 5.30pm M. Dowling

Eucharistic Ministers 11.00am B. Quinn, D. Quinn, N. Molloy, 5.30pm T. Lawlor, B. Cagney.

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