

**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****14th December 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent**

A thought... This past week we had the Carol Service for St Kieran's College at the Cathedral. It is always wonderful to be part of a packed church, festive song and reflection. The lads did themselves proud. For me, it marks the start of the Christmas feel... Carols are a wonderful way of telling the Christmas story - or aspects of it - that might not have made the scriptures... They make us think in new ways of the characters of these weeks. Next Sunday we will have the annual Carol Service here at the Cathedral. I am biased but we have the best choir in town and they along with the Unity Singers will transport us to, and through, the Christmas story. Please join us for what is one of the highlights of the parish year.

*Fr Dermot***Please remember the following in your prayers****Recently deceased: Mary (Mem) Reynolds, St. Francis Terrace.**11.00am – **Months Mind:** Brendan O'Brien, Fr. Murphy Sq. Anniv Patsy Mackin, Callan, Mary O'Hanrahan, Duke's Meadows.5.30pm-Julia Heffernan, Mary Malone and those whose anniversaries occur about this time
Mary Maher, Jim and Mary Maher.**Weekly Collections**

Envelopes: €475.00, Baskets €1,423.99. Your support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

Medjugorje pilgrimage May 27th 2026, 7 nights, €949 pps (€849 if paid in full by Nov 3rd). Staying in Hotel Leone (half board). Spiritual Director Fr Ted Sheehan. Group Leader Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380 / medjugorjecork@icloud.com or contact JWT on 01 2410800.

Art and Architecture - A pilgrimage exploring God's Gifts

Next year the Adult Faith Development Group are holding a pilgrimage to Northern Italy (Padua, Venice & Bologna) March 20th-26th exploring faith by means of reflecting upon some of the many wonderful pieces of art scattered throughout these cities. Italy is blessed with a remarkable array of religious art - frescos, paintings, sculptures, mosaics and stuccos. This pilgrimage will explore the religious and catechetical meaning of some of these masterpieces. Details in parishes on posters or by email afd@ossory.ie or call 057 93 55050.

Mayfair Library Writing Seminar with author Brendan MacEvilly takes place on Tues Dec 16th 10am-1pm. Learn how to get your writings from page to publication. All are welcome.

St. Vincent de Paul

Annual collection after all Masses today. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Diocesan Draw-The December Draw will take place on Wednesday 17th December at 8.00 in the Chapter Room. All welcome.

Reshaping Structures - Parishes and Dioceses - opportunities to collaborate

All of our parishes have begun to collaborate in our Pastoral Areas. This exciting development allows for the sharing of resources and ideas. In recent years Dioceses have started to come together in a similar fashion to be better able to serve the people in their care. Join with Very Rev Albert McDonnell and Ms Gemma Mulligan this evening to explore the possibilities of such collaborations on Monday 15th December at 7.30pm in St Kieran's College.

Cathedral Cafe

Have you been to the Cafe that is re-opened here at the Cathedral. They are open each Saturday and Sunday and they are being well supported - why not stop down after Mass or the next weekend when you are in town. Profits there support the work of Teac Tom and those working there always have a smile and a warm welcome for visitors.

Patronage of Primary Schools

The current Department of Education survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important in that it will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout the Republic of Ireland. It is important that those who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard. It is equally important that those who wish for a Catholic Education for their children and for those who would wish for sacramental preparation within school would have their voice heard also. For those reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges, please participate in this survey if you are a parent or a prospective parent of a Primary school student. It can be accessed at www.gov.ie/primaryschool survey.

Creative Christmas Connections 2025 - Kilkenny Age Friendly Events.Tea, Tunes and Tidings : Tuesday 16th December 10.30am to 12.30pm. St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Loughboy, Kilkenny R95 RF97. Enjoy festive treats, tea and music. Limited places and booking is essential!. email agefriendlykilkenny@kilkennycoco.ie or phone 056 779 4920'

Christmas Carol Service Annual Diocesan Carol Service will take place on Sunday next 21st 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.

Medjugorje Evening of Prayer. Rosary-Mass-Adoration in St Fiacre's Church, Loughboy on 15th December at 7.30pm. Please note change of date.

St Mary's Cathedral, Chapter House Bookshop

Range of Christmas Mass Bouquets, Christmas Cards, Cribs, Christmas Gifts now available. Open - Monday & Tuesday 9.30am - 1.00pm and Wednesday - Friday 9.30am - 5.00pm.

Readers Next Weekend 11.00am – M. Whelan, 5.30pm – T. Lawlor Eucharistic Ministers 11.00am-R. Heffernan, E. Tallent, M. Tallent: 5.30pm –T. Lawlor, K. Meighan.

YOUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS: Sr Betty Cagney, 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
