



St. Patrick's Parish

Telephone: 056 776 4400

Email: stpatricksparish@ossory.ie

Website: www.stpatricksparishkilkenny.com Facebook: facebook.com/StPatricksKK

Parish Office Opening Hours—Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm

Parish Safeguarding Children Policy: See Parish Website

Team Leader: Fr. Kieran 056 776 4400 ext 3

In residence Fr. Peter Muldowney

Who are you?

The question "Who are you?" is asked of John the Baptist in this weekend's Gospel passage. Notice John does not say who he is by giving his name or by providing any personal details or his title but by drawing attention to his mission which is to be a voice crying in the wilderness. John's mission is to be carried out in a particular place and time. God has called and sent him to witness to the coming of the Lord.

Suppose someone asks you or me that same question this Advent, "Who are you?". What would our response be? It is good to reflect on this because all of us through our Baptism have been called to prepare a way for the Lord too. Another word for a person who prepares a way for the Lord is 'missionary'. This is at the heart of who we are as Baptised members of the Church. We are not just onlookers but we are called to be witnesses, missionaries of the joy of the Gospel. Pope Francis speaks about this constantly. You may ask how can I fulfil the mission given to me, surely this is beyond me? The readings this weekend indicate that it is possible! As we read in Isaiah each of us can say that; "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me" & with Paul we trust that "God has called you and he will not fail you".

So like Mary the mother of Jesus let us rejoice in God who has called us and let us embrace the mission to bring Christ to all we meet they too can discover God's Love for them. Let's not be afraid to be joyful witnesses to the Lord and let people see who we truly are.

Last Sunday the annual Carol Service was held in Foulkstown Church, it really was a special moment of reflection and peace. A big thank you to all involved and who shared their gifts and talents on the day and all who worked so hard to put the service together. Well done all!

During the past week and again this coming week young people in our parish and schools are living out their mission to bring the joy of Christmas to us all. Mile Buiochas to all our teachers and staff of our schools who prepare the children and young people for carol services, nativity plays etc. On Friday a group of students from St Kieran's College gave a hand with decorating the Christmas Tree in St Patrick's Church. A big thank you to them and all who are helping to prepare our Churches for Christmas. Kieran

Pray for Our Deceased Friends

Recently Deceased: Mary Hanrahan, Dukesmeadows
Anniversaries:

6.15pm: Ray Pembroke
Willie Maher (Months Mind)

9.30am: Martin McCorry

10.30am: Tom Downey.
Martin Meally.
Milton Americas.

Jane & Jeff Power
12.00noon: Ann Mulhall Galvin
Dick Lynch
Mary Blanchfield

Lucyna Wowk (Birthday Remembrance)
Wed 10.30am: Elizabeth & Walter Gahan & their son
in law James Cullen.

Thurs 10.30am: Mary, John & David Doran.

Fri 10.30am: Ellen & Thomas O'Neill.

Mary & Michael Drennan. Rene Sheridan. Molly & Kathleen Wall. Annie Donovan. Chrissie Comerford.
Billy Phelan. Jim Dollard. Mary Loughman. Nonie (Nora) Kennedy. Mary O'Neill.

Intentions for Next Weekend: Elizabeth Comerford. George Byrne. Peg Larkin (Sat 6.15). Loretta Barr (Sun 12.00).

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday. Unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed and forever dear.

Blessing of Christmas Tree & Baby Jesus figures from home Crib

On Tuesday evening at 7 pm in St Fiacre's Church we will have a service to bless our Christmas Tree and all Christmas trees in our Parish and at home. Children preparing for First Communion and their parents will join us on the evening and all are invited to bring along a figure of Baby Jesus from their Cribs at home to be blessed too.

Christmas Mass Times QR Code

Christmas Eve

St. Fiacre's Church - 6pm

St. Patrick's Church - 7.30pm

Christmas Day

St. Patrick's Church - 9.30am

Foulkstown Church - 10.30am

St. Fiacre's Church - 12.00noon.



Mass Schedule

Weekday: St Patrick's Church - Monday & Tuesday 9.30 am, Saturday 11am.

St Fiacre's Church - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10.30 am (*The Rosary will be recited on Monday & Tuesday at 10.10 am*

in St Fiacre's followed by Liturgy of the Word and distribution of Holy Communion)

Weekend: St Fiacre's Saturday Vigil Mass: 6.15 pm (*followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation*)

Sunday Masses: St Patrick's 9.30 am, St Joseph's 10.30 am, St Fiacre's 12 pm

Parents & Children are invited in a special way to be part of our Christmas Masses.

On Christmas Eve we invite all children present for Mass to dress as people of Bethlehem (tea towels on heads and sheets are ideal!) and to be part of our walk to Bethlehem! In St Fiacre's children and parents are invited to gather in the main room of the Parish Centre from **5. 30 pm** and ready to process at **6 pm** into the Church where we will place Baby Jesus in the Crib and bless it.

In St Patrick's Church children & parents will be invited to gather at the door walk from the door at **7.30 pm** for the blessing of the Crib.

On Christmas Day the same process will be repeated in Foulkstown Church at **10.30 am** Mass!

If you would like your child to be considered as the carrier of Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve in St Fiacre's & St Patrick's and on Christmas Day in Foulkstown please contact the parish Office by 4 pm on Wednesday 20th Dec. Names will be then entered in a draw!

Ushers for Christmas Masses

It would be great to have some ushers to welcome people etc at our Christmas Masses. This ministry might suit young people in transition year or upwards. If you would like to be involved please contact the Parish Office by Wednesday evening 20th Dec. for more details.

Parish Office & Centre Christmas Times

The Parish Office, Parish Centre and Shop will close for the Christmas holidays at **1pm** on Friday 23rd December and will reopen on Monday 8th January 2024 at 9am. The priests can be contacted by following the prompts on the phone system.

Priests Christmas Visits

Priests will visit the sick and housebound on Thursday & Friday of this coming week.

Weekly Collections

Envelope Collection: €1125

St. Patrick's Baskets: €276.44

St. Fiacre's Baskets: €1312.09

Foulkstown Basket: €339.65

Thank you for your continued support.

Annual Christmas Concert

St. Patrick's Brass & Reed Band proudly present their Annual Christmas Concert in St. Patrick's Church on Monday, 18th December 2023 at 7.30pm featuring St. Patrick's Senior and Junior Bands. Free Admission.

Advent Penitential Service

A Penitential Service for the City Pastoral Area (St. John's, St. Mary's, St. Patrick's and St. Canice's Parishes) will be held in St John's Church this Tuesday, 19th December at 7.30pm.

St Mary's Cathedral Annual Carol Service

The St Mary's Cathedral Annual Carol's at the Cathedral will take place this Sunday 17th December at 7.30pm. Music by St Mary's Cathedral Choir, Tanya Sewell (Soprano), The Kilkenny Youth Orchestra and The Unity Singers. All are welcome

Carols for the Homeless

Join the Kilkenny Gospel Choir for Carols for the Homeless on Sunday December 17th at 2 pm upstairs in the Kilkenny Design Centre:

Safeguarding

Designated Liaison Person

Ailish Higgins

085 802 1633 dlp@ossory.ie

Gardaí 1800 555 222

TUSLA - Kilkenny 052 617 7302

Parish Representatives

Samantha Dolan Michelle O'Connor 056 776 4400

Children must be accompanied by an adult when using toilet facilities in our churches

Readers Next Weekend: Sat 6.15: Frank Heslin. Sun 9.30: Mary Sheehan. Sun 10.30: Kevin Mahon. Sun 12.00: Deirdre O'Shea.

Eucharistic Ministers Next Weekend: Sat 6.15: Mary Doran. Bernadette Walsh. Laura Jordan English. Sun 9.30: Mary Wise. Pauline Lucey. Sun 10.30: Joe O'Dwyer. Patti O'Dwyer. Sun 12.00: Madeleine O'Neill. Barry O'Connor. Michéal O Máirtín.

Readers for Christmas Masses: Christmas Eve 6pm: Donal Cadogan. 7.30pm: Niamh Maye. Christmas Day 9.30am: Joe Gannon. 10.30am: Cathal Cullen. 12.00: Michéal O Máirtín.