

The Prodigal Son

Today we reflect on our belief that Jesus is the chosen one of God, he is the anointed one, he is the Christ. He is the one who gives sight to our blindness, the one who restores our health, the one who reconciles us to the Father.

Today, because it is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is also Mothers' Day when we give thanks to God for our mothers, we make a special fuss of them, and think of how much we owe to them for their care and love.

So let us think of all of God's blessings to us: for giving us loving mothers, for giving us his love and forgiveness, and for sending us Jesus the Christ.

This Sunday is traditionally known as 'Laetare Sunday' from the opening word of the introit: Laetare Ierusalem ... (Be joyful O Jerusalem ...) which has been retained as the entrance antiphon in the current Missal.

The parable of the prodigal son, as today's Gospel is commonly known, is probably the most inaccurately titled story in all of literature. Jesus' tale tells us less about the boy's sin than about the abundant mercy of his father who forgives his son and joyfully welcomes him home even before the son can bring himself to ask. The father's joy stands in sharp contrast to the prodigal son's brother, who cannot even bring himself to call the prodigal his "brother" – in confronting his father, he angrily refers to the brother as "this son of yours." This parable of forgiveness and reconciliation reveals a God of such great love that he cannot bear the loss of a single child. Jesus holds up the father as the model of the love and forgiveness of God the Father that we should seek in all relationships.

Liam Lawton Concert

Liam Lawton & the RTE Concert Orchestra, with guests, in Concert in St Mary's Cathedral on FRIDAY 8th APRIL in aid of the Restoration Fund. Tickets €25 from Parish Office.

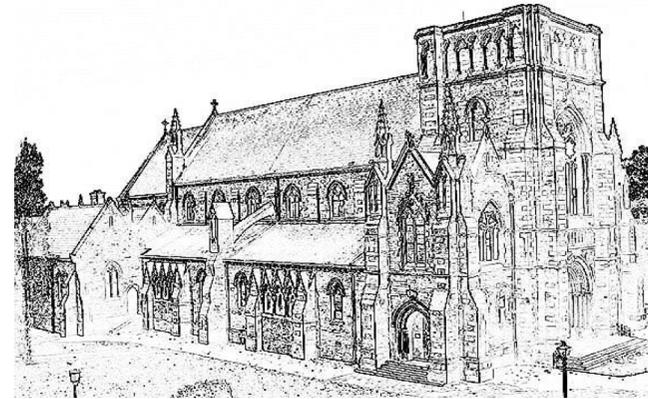
Mental Health

Mental Health / Suicide Awareness Talk on Wednesday 9th March in the Springhill Court Hotel at 7pm. Speakers are Vincent Byrne, Angela Hayes, and Cecilia Shefflin. Music by Claire Walsh & James Rice. All Welcome

Lough Derg

You are invited to consider going on Pilgrimage or Retreat to the sanctuary of St Patrick, Lough Derg. Pope Francis has placed pilgrimage at the heart of the Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016. Organised parish and community groups will come to this unique place of pilgrimage this year – varying in size from a car load to a mini bus. The Lough Derg team can offer support if you decide to organise a group by contacting Nuala or Lorraine on 071 9861518 email: info@loughderg.org.

ST JOHN'S PARISH ↔ KILKENNY



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Fourth Sunday of Lent 6th March 2016

Prayer for Mothers

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old. We pray for young mothers, who give life and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy. We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; may they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways. We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion. We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.

Prayer of Mothers

How blessed is Motherhood. Mothers have the power to raise their children truly as God's children – as Mary raised Jesus. Father in Heaven, grant me the grace to appreciate the dignity which you have conferred on me. Make me a good mother to all my children after the example of Mary, the mother of your Son. Through the intercession of Jesus and Mary, I ask your continued blessings on my family. Let us all be dedicated to your Service on earth and attain the eternal happiness of your kingdom in heaven. Amen

Deaths – Month’s Minds – Anniversaries

Deaths: Daisy Shortis, England, formerly Newpark (7.30pm)

Anniv: Patrick & Eileen Hennessy (6.30pm); Seán Connick (10.30am); Margaret Bolger (11.00am); John McEnery (12.00 noon); Peg Hickey; Mags Dineen; Judith Murphy; Paddy & Tess Hogan; Michael Dowling; Bernard & Bridget Taylor; Ellen McCabe; Michael Comerford; Ellen Kelly; Peg Hickey.

Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend – Panel 1 Readers for Next Weekend – Page 176

8.00am	Ann Marie Hogan
10.30am	Peggy Wall
12.00noon	Tony Dalton
7.30pm	Eileen Kinane
Johnswell 10.00am	Robert Butler
Dunmore 11.00am	Tom Comerford & Maise Powell

Weekly Envelope Collection

Thanks to all who contribute and those who pay by Standing Order. S.O. forms available in Parish Office.

Ossory Vocations Promotion #15

God welcomes us home with extravagant love. Let the call to holiness draw you home into a deeper relationship with God. (Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32)
If you think God is calling you to priesthood, call Fr. Willie Purcell Ossory Vocations Director. 056 7770261 or email ossoryvocdir@gmail.com

Kilkenny & Carlow Contact

We are currently looking for volunteers in Kilkenny & surrounding area. If you can commit to 1 or 2 hours per week to befriend an Older Person, please contact Coordinator Eleanor Doyle on 056/7772151 or 086/4108902.

Prayer Service for Daffodil Day

The annual prayer service for those whose lives have been touched by Cancer will take place in St Mary's Cathedral on Friday March 11th at 7.30 pm. All Welcome.

Cathedral Restoration Draw

The new year of the draw begins next month and **the new draw cards** are now available for collection from the Parish Office.

We appeal to the current Promoters and Members to continue and we seek New Promoters & Members to help raise urgently needed funds for this project.

Novena to St Joseph

Mill Hill Missionaries' Novena to St Joseph begins Friday, 11th March, and finishes on Saturday, 19th March.

Novena Mass and Prayers every evening at 8.00 p.m. in the Chapel at Mill Hill Missionaries, St Joseph's, Waterford Road. All are welcome.

'You Shall Be My Witnesses'

The fourth and final night of the Confirmation Program: 'You Shall Be My Witnesses' will take place tomorrow (Monday) evening at 7.30 p.m. in the Senior School. It has been exceptionally well supported by the Candidates and the Parent/Leaders. Sincere thanks to all concerned for their support and loyalty to this preparation program.

We thank the school Principal, Ms Neary, and all the teachers who willingly gave the use of their rooms to run the program. It's much appreciated by all.

First Reconciliation

First Confessions for Johnswell School will take place on Tuesday evening at 7.30 p.m. in Johnswell. The Lake and Model Schools will have their First Confessions in St John's on Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m.

Blessed Edmund Rice

The monthly mass to pray for the intercession of Blessed Edmund Rice in our lives and for his canonisation will take place in Westcourt on Monday, 7th March at 7.30pm. Callan Bereavement Group organise the liturgy for the mass. All are welcome.

Coeliac Support Group

The next meeting of the Kilkenny Coeliac Support Group will take place in St Patrick's Parish Centre Loughboy on Monday March 7th at 8.00pm.

Rehab Care

Annual church gate collection in will take place weekend, 19th and 20th March. Rehab Care provides services for Adults with disabilities. All money raised from the event will go directly to rehab Care in William street.

Monthly Rosary

The Monthly Rosary in James Green takes place this Sunday 3.00pm.