

The December Cathedral Draw takes place Wednesday 16th December.

Thomastown Tidy Towns Committee invites all businesses and organisations to spruce up Thomastown for Christmas by decorating windows, doors and facades. Our junior judges will be making inspections and selections at a secret time between the 14th & 18th December. Prizes for the best window!

World Youth Day 2016: World Youth Day 2016 will take place in Poland at the end of July 2016. Pope Francis will attend and will lead the Way of the Cross on Friday, the overnight Vigil on Saturday and celebrate Mass on Sunday 31st July. The Diocese of Ossory invites young people to attend. Young people (over 18) are invited to make contact through wyd@ossory.ie Fr Richard Scriven (087 2420033) or Derek Dooley (087 938 4242) for further information.

Ossory Pilgrimage to Rome for this special Year of Mercy August 29th to September 3rd, staying at the Irish College. For full details see the back of the Church, and for further details or to book contact Ossory Adult Faith Development, tel 056 7753624. Email afd@ossory.ie

Community Centre: The December Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Kilkenny City will be held at the Concert Hall on Friday 18th December at 2pm. You are cordially invited to attend to observe. Only items on the Agenda will be discussed. The new streetscape of Market Street erected outside the Community Centre will be officially unveiled by Mayor Joe Malone at 1.30pm.

The Carers Association are providing the QQI (FETAC) Level 5 Healthcare Support Award training in your area in January 2016. For more info contact the training unit on 0579370221.

Kilkenny Leader Partnership are running a couple of 'one day Career Support Workshops' across County Kilkenny over the coming weeks with a follow on 1-1 for those who require additional support. We will be in the Thomastown Community Hall delivering our Workshop on Tuesday 15th of December from 9:30am till 3pm. Main areas covered in the Workshop are: Career Advice & planning; C.V. Preparation and Employment Networking; Interview techniques. For more information, contact 056 7752111. The Workshop is completely free and we will supply sandwiches, tea/coffee on the day.

L'Arche provides supported living for people with intellectual disabilities. The model of care is based on a shared community living whereby assistants and those we serve live together, sharing life's joys and challenges. Based in Kilkenny, L'Arche support people across the South East region.

L'Arche fosters an environment to celebrate the unique value of each in our community, recognizing our need of one another, ensuring our residents lead more inclusive, meaningful and dignified lives.

On **St. Stephens Day** we are holding our inaugural Slievenamon charity trek. It promises to be a great family event after which we will be providing refreshments for participants and supporters alike. Registration will be open from 9am in the community hall Kilcash. Please come along and walk off the Christmas Day excess while supporting a wonderful cause.

Visit the L'Arche Ireland Facebook page or contact Paul Ahearne at paul@larcheireland.org.

Ossory Vocations: "what ought we to do?" Let joy and gladness show forth in you. You are called to be the presence of Jesus. (Luke 3:10-18) If you think God is calling you to priesthood, call Fr. Willie Purcell Ossory Vocations Director. 056 7770261 or email ossoryvocdir@gmail.com. www.ossory/vocations

As Pope Francis opens a 'Holy Door' in Rome, our Cathedral in Kilkenny will have a 'Holy Door', to be opened on Sunday 13th December, at the 5.30pm Mass. By passing through this door, people will be able to cross in a symbolic way 'the threshold of mercy' and enter into a moment of more intimate union with God the Father of mercy'.

Fr Dan Biellard

tel 056 7724278
Mobile 087 6644958
Email dbiellard@pc-romm.ie

Fr Mark Condon

tel 056 7793337
Mobile 096 6765476
Email markcondon@ossory.ie

Parish Office

Wed Thurs Fri 10:00am - 1:00pm
Tel 056 7793191
Email thomastown@ossory.ie

THOMASTOWN PARISH Newsletter

THOMASTOWN
WEBSITE
www.thomastownparish.ie



BAPTISMS

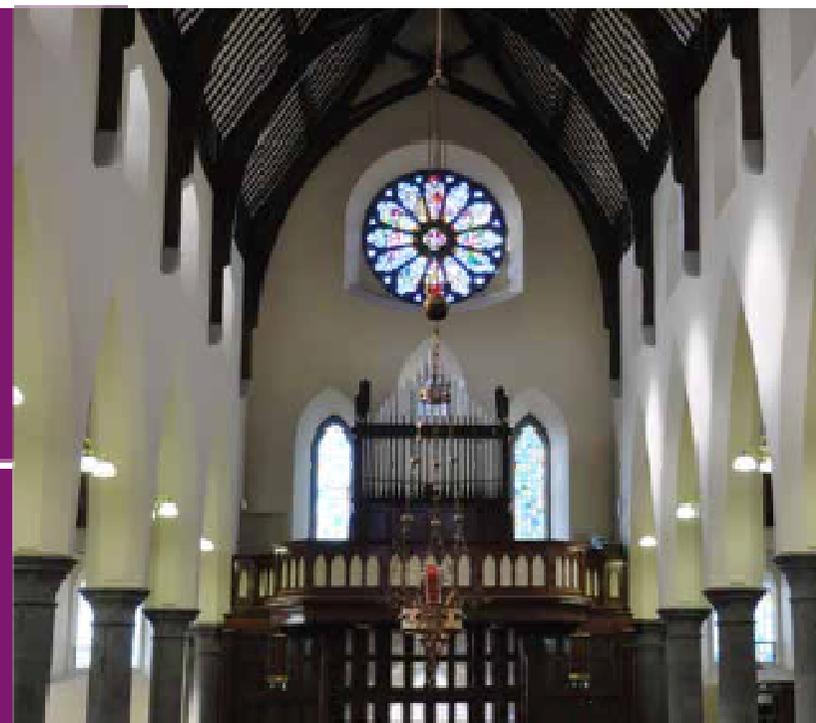
Baptisms are held on 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month and on 2nd Sunday of each month after 11.00am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office, tel 056-7793191, or email: thomastown@ossory.ie

MARRIAGES

All people planning Marriage in Church in Thomastown must give at least three months notice to the Parish. Please contact the Office or one of the Priests. With such a significant step for life, it is important that couples intending Marriage undergo a course of Marriage Preparation. Accord is the official provider of Pre-Marriage courses.

PARISH OFFICE:

Notices for the Newsletter must be placed in the letter box before Thursday 12 noon for inclusion in the coming weekend's Newsletter.



13th DECEMBER 2015

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Let your peace be a strong sentry at the gates of our hearts.

Let it keep anxiety and fear under its watchful eye.

Give it any name: joy, love, trust; yet grant it entry to our lives.

And please receive our peaceful thanks.

Newsletter

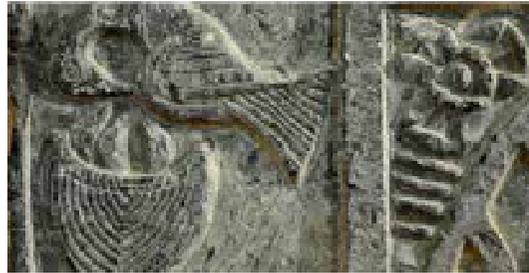


THOMASTOWN PARISH

■ Fr. Dan Bealard
Tel: 055 7724279
Mobile: 087 6644268
Email: dbealard@cessary.ie

■ Fr. Mark Condon
Tel: 055 7793337
Mobile: 086 6074400
Email: markcondon@cessary.ie

■ Parish Office
Wed, Thurs, Fri 10.00am - 1.00pm
Tel: 055 7793337
Email: thomastown@cessary.ie



CHURCH SERVICES THIS WEEK BEGINNING 13th December 2015

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	11.00am
	Monday, Wednesday & Friday Mass	09.30am
	Adoration Monday	02/07pm
	Lectio Divina Wednesday	10.00am
	Saturday evening Vigil Mass	07.00pm
St. Columba's Hospital	Sunday morning Mass	09.30am
	Tuesday & Thursday Mass	10.00am
Chapel Hill	Saturday evening 19 th December Mass	05.45pm
Confessions	Saturday 11am & after 7pm Mass when requested	

Mass times in Chapel Hill & Mong for the coming weeks.

Mass in Chapel Hill Saturday evening 19th December, 02nd January at 5.45pm

Mass in Mong Saturday evening 12th December & 26th December at 5.45pm

Deaths/Anniversaries: **Bernie Stapleton**, Maudlin St (7pm Mass); **Stephen Ryan**, Stoneyford (9.30am Mass); **Niall Hogan**, Ruppia House (11am Mass); **Jack Collins**, Kilcross, Inistioge (9.30am Mass Wednesday); **Mary & James McNamara**, Dublin; **Jimmy Dockery**, Friars Hill; **James Lawrence**, Nore View Crescent. May they rest in peace.

Do This In Memory Programme at the 11am Mass this Sunday.

The St. Vincent De Paul Society holds its monthly collection this weekend. Be generous as the Society seeks to help the least fortunate in our area at this Christmas time. The contact number for the Society is **086 2664669**.

'I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord.' Philippians 4:4

Joy / being happy is always the by-product of something else. As the various versions of *The Prayer of St. Francis* put it, we can never attain joy, consolation, peace, forgiveness, love, and understanding by actively pursuing them. We attain them by giving them out. That's the great paradox at the centre of all spirituality and one of the great foundational truths within the universe itself: The air that we breathe out is the air we will eventually breathe back in. Joy will come to us if we set about actively trying to create it for others.

Carols after 7pm Mass at the Parish Church, Saturday 12th December with the choirs of the Parish.

The Giving Tree As the Saviour did, we are called these days of Advent to think of others first. You are invited to bring some non-perishable food items, or toys, to Church these days – there is a basket in the Sanctuary – for distribution by the St. Vincent de Paul Society before Christmas.

The Sacrament of Mercy Having entered in upon this Holy Year of Mercy, be sure to avail of the Sacrament of God's Mercy as part of your preparation for Christmas. Maybe when shopping in Kilkenny you call to the Friary, or to the Carmelites in Knocktopher, or to the Parish Church. Note the times here – 11am on Saturday, and after the Saturday evening Mass. On Monday 21st the Sacrament will be available from 7 to 8 pm, during the ongoing prayer at the Mercy Chapel.

The Parish Pastoral Council invites all our families to **Christmas Eve Vigil Mass** at 6.30pm. During this Mass we hope that our younger parishioners will be leading us in prayers and songs.

We also have a **Christmas colouring card** at the back of the church which the PPC invites our younger parishioners to colour in and write a special birthday message to the infant Jesus, which you can bring to our family liturgy Mass on Christmas Eve when you will be invited to leave your card for Jesus in the church.

Used Postage Stamps are a help to the poor and the needy in the Missions. If you collect the stamps off your letters and send them to Sister Maria, Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Upper Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin they will sort them out and sell them and the money goes directly to the Missions.

Remembrance Tree at Supervalu: is in aid of the Church Organ Restoration Fund. The collection takes place from Saturday 19th to Thursday 24th Dec. Volunteers are required. If you would like to help, please fill in one of the forms in the Church giving your name, Tel No. and the time you are prepared to help out.

Thomastown GAA 5K Fun Walk takes place on St. Stephen's Day beginning at 12 noon from the Community Centre. There will be refreshments afterwards in the Community Centre. All proceeds raised will be given to local causes.

Part-time Cleaner is required for St. Mary's National School. Applications in writing with C.V. and references to the school office on/before 16th December 2015.

'Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. Wherever there are Christians everyone should find an oasis of mercy.' Pope Francis

