

Book Launch: No.12 of *In the shadow of the steeple* will be launched in the Ouncel House, Dungarvan, Wednesday, 9th December at 7.30 p.m. This issue will contain a number of articles of Thomastown interest. Msgr Martin Drea, who will be fondly remembered by many of our more senior parishioners, is the subject of one such article. The role of Canon Philip Moore of Columbkille in promoting the Kilkenny Archaeological Society in the mid-nineteenth century is examined in detail. The heroic exploits in India of Thomastown-man William Dowling V.C. are rescued from obscurity, and the history of Comerford's Bakery, along with some wonderful photographs, is related. The journal will be on sale at €10 on the night. All are welcome.

Invitation to join the South Kilkenny Historical Society for its Night of Reminiscing on Thursday, December 10th, at 8pm In Mullinavat Parish Hall (opposite church). Free admission - all welcome. Refreshments served later. This will be a night of recalling, with affection, old habits and customs which have since died away. There will be opportunities for all in attendance to participate if they so wish in remembering Irish history and social change.

Book Signing at St. Mary's Cathedral Bookshop on Saturday 12th December, 11am to 3pm.: Fr. Jim O Connell MHM will be in the Cathedral Bookshop to sign copies of his book: **A Life to Live – Awakening to God's Abiding Presence (Columba Press 2015)** . The foreword is by Fr. Liam Lawton who concludes by saying, "I hope the book will inspire others as it has inspired me. It is so rich and insightful that further comment is not necessary".

Thomastown Parish Senior Citizens: Christmas Dinner Sunday 13th December at @ 2pm €10 per person. Limited spaces on Bus. Leave name into SHOP on Thursday or Friday only for Bus which will take off from Community Centre at 1.15pm

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 wvd@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: Have sense? Give your 1 and 2 cents to Thomastown Community Centre. Help us to fill a barrel as we continue to restore the past and build for the future. Thomastown Community Centre for you for everyone. Drop in your cents Monday to Saturday between 9am and 1pm. Help us to round up your cents! Enquiries 087 7728170.

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.

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'.

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THOMASTOWN PARISH Newsletter



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.



**06th December 2015
Second Sunday of Advent.**

'MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER'

*'A Holy Year of Mercy' begins 8th December until 20th November 2016. 'Jesus Christ is the face of God's mercy. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus by his words, his actions, his entire person reveals the mercy of God. Everything in him speaks of mercy'.
Pope Francis*

Newsletter

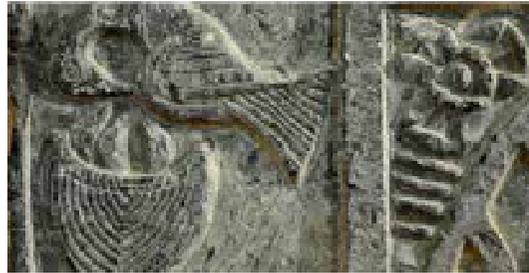


THOMASTOWN PARISH

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CHURCH SERVICES THIS WEEK BEGINNING 06th December 2015

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	11.00am
	Monday Vigil Feast Immaculate Conception Mass	07.30pm
	Tuesday Feast Immaculate Conception Mass	11.00am
	Wednesday Mass	09.30am
	Adoration Monday	02/07pm
	Lectio Divina Wednesday	10.00am
	Friday Mass	09.30am
	Saturday evening Vigil Mass	07.00pm
St. Columba's Hospital	Sunday morning Mass	09.30am
	Tuesday Feast Immaculate Conception Mass	10.00am
	Thursday Mass	10.00am
Mong Confessions	Saturday evening 12 th December Mass	05.45pm
	Saturday 11am & after 7pm Mass when requested	

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

Mass in Chapel Hill Saturday evening 05th December, 19th December at 5.45pm
Mass in Mong Saturday evening 12th December & 26th December at 5.45pm

Deaths/Anniversaries: Pappachen, Kerala, India who died during the week Ansy's father also **Dick Forristal**, Colmcille (7pm Mass); **John Whelan**, Jerpoint Church (9.30am Mass); **Maureen Croke**, Castle Avenue (11am Mass); **Eileen O'Mahony**, Carrickmourne; **Elizabeth Fanning**, Grennan; **Mary Walshe**, Dysart; **Thomas Morrissey**, Coolroemore; **Billy McMahon Snr.** Newtown; **William Doyle**, Friars Hill; **William Mackey**, Logan Street; **John Kelly**, Grennan Hill. May they rest in peace.

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

The St. Vincent De Paul Society will hold its monthly collection next weekend 12th/13th December. The contact number for the Society is **086 2664669**.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated on Tuesday, 8th December. We are asked to honour Mary, Jesus' mother, who played such a significant part in God's plans. Note the times of Masses for the feast, above.

Safeguarding Sunday This weekend we mark our annual diocesan Safeguarding Sunday. The aim of this Sunday is 'to create a greater awareness of safeguarding in our parishes and also to recognize the significant contribution of so many people in ensuring that our Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and Procedure are being adhered to. We must be vigilant at all times ensuring the safety of children who participate in our Church'. (Bishop Freeman).

Eucharistic Ministers December. If unable to attend please exchange with another minister.

07.00pm	Sr. Bernadette	Anne Treacy	Patricia Dempsey
11.00am	Alice Challoner	Mary Walsh	Seamus Quigley

Laudato Si We conclude the reading of the Popes's letter on our Common home on Monday at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

UN Climate Change Summit occurs in Paris, November 30th to December 11th. This year, countries already adopted a new sustainable development agenda and will hopefully adopt a new global agreement on climate change in Paris. The Summit presents a historic and unprecedented opportunity to bring the countries and citizens of the world together to decide and embark on new paths to improve the lives of people everywhere. These decisions will determine the global course of action to end poverty, promote prosperity and well-being for all, protect the environment and address climate change.

The Watergarden's popular Advent Fair will take place on Sunday the 6th of December from 12 until 5pm. This fundraiser for the Watergarden is a unique and enjoyable occasion for all the family with christmas trees, nativity crib, food and drinks, children's workshops and over thirty crafts stalls.

St. Columba's Hospital: The recently formed choir of residents, those attending Day Centre, staff and families at St. Columba's Hospital invite you to their premier performance in a celebration of Christmas in song and word on Saturday 12th December at 3 pm in the Hospital Chapel, followed by mince pies and tea/ coffee. All Welcome.

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 for distribution by the St. Vincent de Paul Society before Christmas.

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

