

The Christmas Shepherds Play: There will be two performances of the Shepherds Play this year in the Community Hall this Sunday 20th at 4.30pm & on Tuesday 22nd at 7.30pm. There will be real animals and Tea will be provided by the Community Hall Committee. Our own Church Choir will provide the music. Suitable for all the family. Admission €2 for the Community Hall Building Fund.

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.

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.

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: Mary trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled. Step out in faith and God will be there to guide you. (Luke 1:39-45) 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

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. For your convenience, the barrel will be located at Super Valu. Enquiries 087 7728170.

Parish Office: The Office will open on Wednesday and will be closed Thursday 24th December and will reopen on Thursday 7th January. Meanwhile, please email anniversaries or leave a note in the Letter Box at the Parish Office. The next News Letter will be 9th January.

Christ, our Saviour, not only loved the poor, but rather 'being rich he became poor', he lived in poverty. His mission centred on advising the poor of their liberation and he founded his Church as a sign of that poverty among people.

Happy Christmas!! We take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Happy Christmas. May you discover the Lord in the midst of things, often where unexpected. May you bring him with you where ever you go. May it be a happy time, happy because you, like the Lord, put others first.

Fr Dan Bellard

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Fr Mark Condon

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Parish Office

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

THOMASTOWN PARISH Newsletter



BAPTISMS

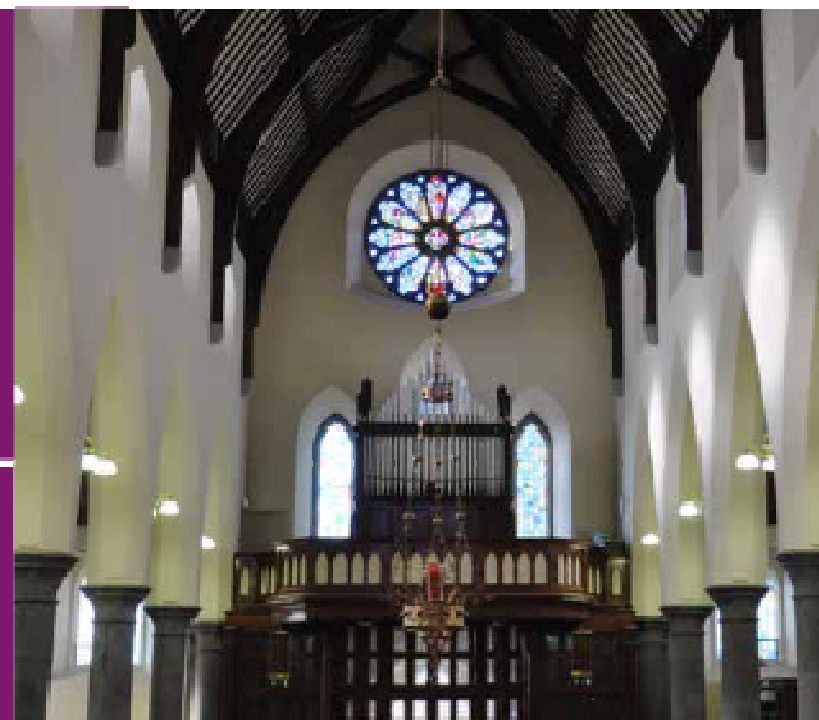
Baptisms are held on 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month and on 2nd Sunday of each month after 11.00am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office, tel 056-7793191, or email: thomastown@ossory.ie

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.



**20th December 2015
Fourth Sunday of Advent.**

Christmas happens. Christ comes, but in strange ways and surprising circumstances. Many of us miss the coming of Christ because we expect him where and when he is not coming.

God has to "make us turn in a different direction" so that we can find Christ in poverty (Bethlehem) and in the poor and outcast (Mary and Elizabeth

Newsletter

THOMASTOWN
WEBSITE
www.thomastownparish.ie

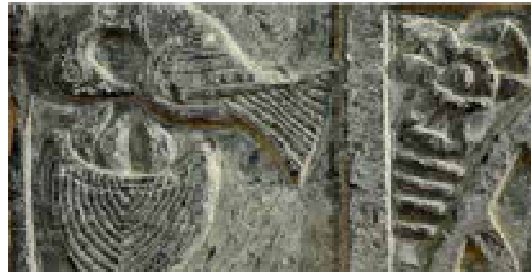
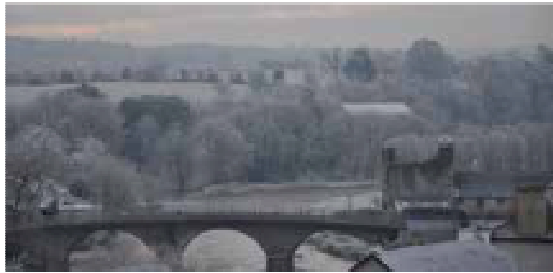


THOMASTOWN PARISH

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■ Fr. Mark Condon
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■ Parish Office
Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 O'Clock - 1 O'Clock
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Email: thomastown@cessary.ie



CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 20 December, 2015

Parish Church	Sunday morning 20 th December Mass	11.00am
	Monday 21 st December	09.30am
	Wednesday 23 rd December Mass	09.30am
	Thursday 24 th December Christmas Eve (Family Mass)	06.30pm
	Thursday 24 th December Christmas Midnight Mass	09.00pm
	Friday 25 th December Christmas Day Mass	11.00am
	Saturday 26 th December Vigil Mass	07.00pm
	Sunday 27 th December Mass	11.00am
	Monday 28 th December Mass	10.00am
	Wednesday 30 th December Mass	10.00am
	Friday 01 st January Mass	10.00am
	Saturday 02 nd January Vigil Mass	07.00pm
	Sunday 03 rd January Mass	11.00am
	Monday 04 th January Mass	09.30am
	Tuesday 05 th January Vigil Mass Feast of the Epiphany	07.30pm
	Wednesday 06 th January Feast of the Epiphany Mass	11.00am
	Friday 08 th January Mass	09.30am
St. Columba's Hospital	Sunday morning 20 th December Mass	09.30am
	Tuesday 22 nd December Mass	10.00am
	Thursday 24 th December Mass	10.00am
	Friday 25 th December Christmas Dawn Mass	09.30am
	Sunday 27 th December Mass	09.30am
	Tuesday 29 th December Mass	10.00am
	Thursday 31 st December Mass	10.00am
	Sunday 03 rd January Mass	09.30am
	Tuesday 05 th January Mass	10.00am
	Wednesday 6 th January Mass	10.00am
	Thursday 07 th January Mass	10.00am
Chapel Hill	Friday 25 th December Christmas Day Mass	10.00am
	Saturday evening 02 nd January Mass	05.45pm
Mong	Friday 25 th December Christmas Day Mass	10.00am
	Saturday evening 09 th January Mass	05.45pm
	Confessions Saturday 11am & after 7pm Mass	

Deaths/Anniversaries: **Mary Delaney**, Pipe Street (7pm Mass); **Mary Moylan**, Cloughabrody (11am Mass); **Margaret Bookle**, Bawnskeha (5.45pm Mass); **Teresa Lee**, 39, Newtown Terrace (7pm Mass Sat. 26th); **Margaret Behan** (11am Mass Sun. 27th); **Margaret Forristal**, Colmcille (7pm Mass 2nd Jan); **Fr. Paul Fitzgerald**, **Kathleen Holden**, Knockbrack; **Mary & Larry Costelloe**, Knockanroe; **Margaret & Michael Lanigan**, Friars Hill; **Seamus Byrne**, Dangan Tce; **Seamus Kavanagh**, Harristown, Graiguenamanagh; **Nora & Jackie Dunphy**, Dangan; **Luke Donnelly**, Jerpoint Church; **Johnny Butler**, Pleberstown. **John Maher**, Ladywell; **Joseph Kelly**, Station Road; **Mary Kelly**, 42, Newtown Terrace; **Sarah Gibbons**, Colmcille; **Sean Doyle**, Colmcille; **Corporal Liam Kelly**, **James & Mary Kelly**, **Helena Power**, **Kieran Power**, (Snr) & **Kieran Power**, (Jnr) & **Jim Power**, Jerpoint; **Terry Brennan**, Cloughabrody; **Patrick Doyle**, **Joe Doyle**, Kilfane *May they rest in peace.*

Eucharistic Ministers for month of January. If unable to attend please exchange with another Minister.

07.00pm	Fiona Fitzpatrick	Helen Comerford	Mary McComb
11.00am	Tom Brett	Marie Kinsella	Margaret Ryan

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.

Holy Hour: A sacred time of the Lord's Mercy on Monday night from 7/8pm with an opportunity for Confessions.

Congratulations to Bishop Laurence Forristal who is celebrating his Diamond Jubilee — 60 years as a priest on Monday next 21st December. We can identify with Bishop Freeman who says 'With the deepest of gratitude I thank Bishop Forristal. He finds true joy in his faithfulness to his mission, by doing what the good Lord asks of him as priest and bishop, and that is, in serving the people of God entrusted to his care'. Please keep Bishop Forristal in your prayers.

Holy Communion to the Homebound: The homebound will be visited for Christmas next Wednesday. Please let us know if you won't be home. There will be no First Friday round on the 01 January.

Remembrance Tree at Supervalu: Thanks to all who have volunteered, and to all who will contribute. Volunteers are still welcome and your support is much appreciated. Please be there at the assigned times.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Monday Adoration in the Parish Church will not be held for the next two weeks but will resume again on Monday 4th January.

