

General Election 2016 “A general election is a moment in which all citizens, and not just political parties, should reflect and take stock of the health of the nation and especially on how we respond to the plight of the most vulnerable. Many citizens are anxious about the uncertain social climate in the country regarding vital sectors of people’s lives, especially regarding health, homes, education, security, the fostering of a solid human ecology, and international responsibility. A true human ecology recognizes the equal right to life of every person from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. The Constitution of Ireland embraces the right to life of the unborn child. It is a fundamental affirmation of equality, where the right to life of no child is considered of less value than that of another. Engage and challenge candidates about their commitment to those questions, and about their understanding of politics as truly working and walking together to foster the common good.” (From the Pastoral Statement of the Catholic Bishops of Ireland on the upcoming General Election)

Don't forget to vote on next Friday, 26th February!!

What can we do group? Pope Francis asks us to be active on the Environment in the “Laudato Si” Encyclical; Fr. Peter McVerry and Sr. Stan are encouraging us to take homelessness seriously; events in Syria remind us of the lead up to WW2 with systematic mass murder. What can we do? What should we do? During Lent an informal group will meet every Sunday after Mass at 12 in the Watergarden Café. We will begin this Sunday.

Thomastown Tidy Towns will be holding their annual AGM on Wednesday the 24th of February at 7:30 in the Thomastown Community Centre.

Kilkenny Bereavement Support are hosting a Public Talk entitled, “Understanding Self-harm and Suicide in Young People” in the Newpark Hotel, at 7.30pm Thursday March 3rd. Adm. €5. This talk will explore the psychology of self-harm and suicide among young people. The speaker is Dr Eoin Galavan, a Senior Clinical and Counselling Psychologist working in Adult Mental Health services. He and Dr Olivia Murphy, Senior Clinical Psychologist working in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health services will hold a workshop for parents and concerned adults on Saturday March 19th.

Any One Could Rob A Bank: A Play by Thomas Coffey set in the 50s written in 1974. A Three Act Comedy: performed by The Eigse Players on Saturday 5th March at The Community Centre, 8pm. Tickets on the door on the night. Adm. €10. Enquiries or booking 087 7728170

Lourdes 2016: Bookings are now being taken for the Ossory Diocesan a Pilgrimage to Lourdes from May 22 to 27. For information please ring Eleanor at 051 880414 or glenmore@ossory.ie

Kilkenny Age Friendly Older Peoples Forum: this group represents the voice of the older people in Kilkenny. It enables people to share their concerns as an older person living in their community and to work with other agencies and service providers. The aim of this Forum is to make sure that Kilkenny is a great place to grow old in. New members are welcome. Contact Mary Holden, Secretary on 056-7772787, alternatively phone 087-6218589 or Email: agefriendlycounty@gmail.com. Membership is free.

Monastic Experience Weekend: Mount St Joseph Abbey, Roscrea from Friday 11th March – Sunday 13th March for men aged 20/40 who may be discerning a monastic vocation. For further information contact Vocations Director, Bro. Malachy email: vocations@msjroscrea.ie or text info to 085 8338503.

Fr Dan Biellard

Tel: 056 7724278
 Mobile: 087 6644958
 Email: dbiellard@ossory.ie

Fr Mark Condon

Tel: 056 7793331
 Mobile: 086 6765476
 Email: markcondon@ossory.ie

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.



21st February 2016

**Over all the noise,
 the din, the racket,
 Lord, help us
 listen to you.
 Show us
 your dazzling glory,
 hidden in the hum-drum
 of our everyday, wondrous lives.**

Newsletter

THOMASTOWN
WEBSITE
www.thomastownparish.ie

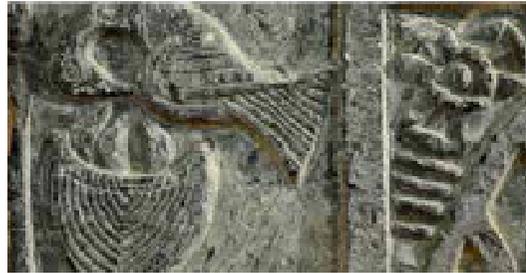


THOMASTOWN PARISH

■ Fr. Dan Beilford
Tel: 056 7724279
Mobile: 087 6644268
Email: dbeilford@ossory.ie

■ Fr. Mark Condon
Tel: 056 7793337
Mobile: 086 6074407
Email: markcondon@ossory.ie

■ Parish Office
Wed, Thurs, Fri 10.00am - 1.00pm
Tel: 056 7793337
Email: thomastown@ossory.ie



CHURCH SERVICES THIS WEEK BEGINNING 21st February 2016

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	11.00am
	Monday, Wednesday & Friday Mass	09.30am
	Adoration Monday	02/08pm
	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
Mong	Saturday evening 27 th February 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 20th February, 05th March at 5.45pm

Mass in Mong Saturday evening 27th February & 12th March at 5.45pm

Deaths/Anniversaries: Paddy Manning, Upper Kilmurry, **Nellie Delaney**, Pipe Street (7pm Mass); **Marian Dunne** (11am Mass); **R J Hughes**, 24, Berkley Lawn; **Gregg Hoban**, Clossgregg; **Thomas & Annie Walsh**, Mill St.. May they rest in peace.

The St. Vincent De Paul Society will hold its monthly collection this weekend 20th/21st February. The contact number for the Society is **086 2664669**.

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

Women's World Day of Prayer: St. Colmcille's Church, Inistioge. At 8 pm. *The Theme is: Receive Children, Receive Me.*

Newfoundland Cultural Exchange 2016: On Friday 19th August a group of about sixty to seventy visitors will arrive in Thomastown from Newfoundland, staying three nights. Accommodation offering Bed & Breakfast is needed. The exchange has been ongoing since 2005. If you are willing to help, please email seamusquigley@gmail.com Mobile number 087 7728170.

Annual Parish Evening: our Annual Parish Retreat will take place at St. Kieran's College on **Tuesday 23rd of February** beginning at 8pm. It is hoped that as many as possible will attend this special night for our Parish. Parents of the children preparing for First Communion are particularly welcome. To book, please contact Marian 086-0693510.

Reading the Gospel of St Luke: Guided reading of St. Luke's gospel with Fr. Mark **every Wednesday of Lent**, 7/8pm in the Mercy Chapel. All are welcome to explore the riches of St. Luke's perspective on Jesus' life and mission.

Lenten Daily Texts: Submit your mobile number to 085 8313100 or 056 7753624 or email afd@ossory.ie to receive a short daily text.

The Psalms: As part of the programme of events for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Fr. Sean Maher will present a lecture on the Psalms at St. Patrick's Centre Loughboy, Kilkenny on Thursday 25th February at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Lenten Retreat: Making Space for God in Lent Saturday March 12th St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny 2/5pm. Led by Fr. Ray Dempsey and the Diocesan Retreat Team. Free Attendance - All welcome.

The Diocesan Draw for the Cathedral takes place next Wednesday at the Chapter House.

Jubilee of Mercy "Mercy is not only an action of the Father. It becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. It is my burning desire that the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching, so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these **corporal works of mercy**: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the **spiritual works of mercy**: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead". "(excerpts from section 15 of *Misericordiae Vultus*)"

