

Learn the Lord's Prayer in Irish for St Patrick's Day – The children will help you!! Áir nAthair ata ar neamh, go naofar d'ainm, go dtaga do ríocht, go ndéantar do thoil ar an dtalamh mar a dhéanfar ar neamh. Ár n-arán laethiúl tabhair dúinn inniú, agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha mar a mhaithmidne dár bhféachachúna fein agus ná lig sinn i gcathú, ach saor sinn ó olc. Amen.

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.

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. Tá fáilte roimh gach duine buailte ag an ngalar céiliach.

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.

Mental Health / Suicide Awareness Talk: Wednesday 9th March in the Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny at 7pm. Speakers on the night are Vincent Byrne, Cycling Against Suicide; Angela Hayes, The Thomas Hayes Trust; Cecilia Shefflin, Mindfulness Coach and Music by Claire Walsh & James Rice. All are welcome.

Kilkenny Bereavement Support Dr Eoin Galavan, a Senior Clinical and Counselling Psychologist working in Adult Mental Health services 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.

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.

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 seamussquigley@gmail.com Mobile number 0877728170.

Jubilee of Mercy: *In reflecting upon the parable of the Prodigal Son, the spiritual writer Henri Nouwen once wrote: 'Perhaps the most radical statement Jesus ever made is 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate'. God's compassion is described by Jesus not simply to show me how willing God is to feel for me, or to forgive my sins and offer me new life and happiness, but to invite me to become like God and to show the same compassion to others ... I am destined to step into my Father's place and offer to others the same compassion that he has offered me. The return to the Father is ultimately the challenge to become the Father'.*

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Parish Office

Wed Thurs Fri 10:00am - 1:00pm
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THOMASTOWN PARISH Newsletter



BAPTISMS

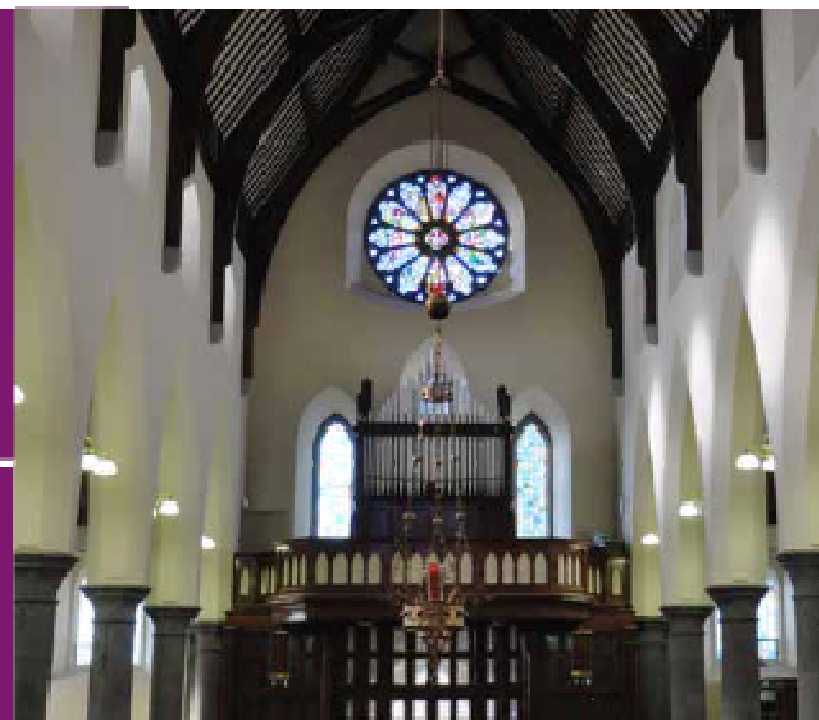
Baptisms are held on 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month and on 2nd Sunday of each month after 11.00am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office, tel 056-7793191, or email: thomastown@pcssary.ie

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 March 2016

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jesus, are you a prodigal son?

Did you waste your life on us?

Or

**God, are you the prodigal father
overflowing with love**

**who runs to meet us, embraces and kisses us,
killing the tasty calf for us?**

**Prodigal Son, prodigal Father and prodigal Holy Spirit,
we are filled with awe and wonder
at the love you squander on us.**

Newsletter

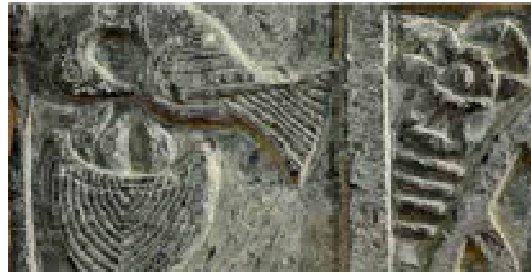
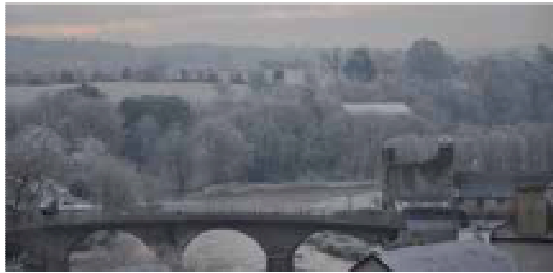


THOMASTOWN PARISH

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CHURCH SERVICES THIS WEEK BEGINNING 06th March 2016

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	11.00am
	Monday, Wednesday & Friday Mass	09.30am
	Adoration Monday	02/08pm
	Lectio Divina Wednesday	10.00am
St. Columba's Hospital	Saturday evening Vigil Mass	07.00pm
	Sunday morning Mass	09.30am
Chapel Hill	Tuesday & Thursday Mass	10.00am
	Saturday evening 05 th March 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 05th March, 19th March at 5.45pm

Mass in Mong Saturday evening 12th March, 26th March at 5.45pm

Deaths/Anniversaries: **Philip Kelly**, Friars Hill, recently deceased. **Pat Forristal**, Ballyconway (Months Mind Mass 5.45pm); **Roly Collier**, Friars Hill & **Alice Collier** (7pm Mass); **May Behan** (11am Mass); **Teresa Lee**, 39, Newtown Terrace; **Patricia Carolan**, **Patty Ryan**, Friars Hill; **Teresa Maher**, Ladywell; **Anna Challoner**, Grennan, **Christy Kirby**, Dangan Terrace; **Mary Roche**, Logan Street; **Edward & Mary Dempsey**, Powerswood; **Andrew Walsh**, Powerswood. May they rest in peace.

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 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 are welcome.

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 are Welcome.

Thomastown Parish Finance Committee will meet on Monday at 7.30pm.

Eucharistic Ministers for March. If unable to attend please exchange with another Minister.

07.00pm	Sr. de Lourdes	Anne Lee	Anne Sheehy
11.00am	Marian Fennelly	Roseleen Garry	Cian Hogan

Thank you to Paddy Daly who did a great job on the shrubbery in front of the Parish Church. As someone whose excuse for knowing nothing about gardening is that where I grew up we didn't even have window boxes. Seeking Paddy's advice he readily set to work pruning, removing, and replacing the shrubs. Thank you Paddy.

Lent Dues: A gentle reminder, dear reader, that this is the time for one of the six Contributions for the support of the priests of the Parish. If you haven't got envelopes, let us know and we will be happy to provide them. For the moment, please put your contribution in an ordinary envelope, with your name and address.

Envelopes If contributing to Parish funds by envelope at weekend Masses, please use the boxes provided at the back of the Church. If left on the plates that circulate at the Offertory at Mass they may fall off or have been known to get lost.

Trocaire: We can be '*merciful like the Father*' as we practice some form of self denial, saying no in some respect so that we may be able to say 'yes' to those in need. Please take a Trocaire packet and please be generous to those in need. The focus this year is on Kenya, where people suffer because of lack of water. Your contribution will help install systems to water the land and so afford people the opportunity to live by the land.

Mill Hill Missionaries' Novena to St. Joseph from Friday 11th March to Saturday 19th March. Novena Mass & Prayers will be held every evening at 8pm in our Chapel at Mill Hill Missionaries, St. Joseph's, Waterford Road, Kilkenny.

Dates for Accord Pre-Marriage Courses to take place in Kilkenny this year: 11,12th March, 8,9th April, 27,28th May, 17,18th June, 23,24th September, 21,22nd October, 25,26th November. Please check the Accord website, and if one of the above dates suits you, book early as courses get filled up.

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

