

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

22nd April 2018

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CHURCH SERVICES BEGINNING SUNDAY 22nd April

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	11.00am
	Monday, Wednesday & Friday Mass	09.30am
	Monday Adoration in Mercy Chapel	10.00am
	Monday Adoration in Mercy Chapel	07/08pm
	Wednesday morning Lectio Divina	10.00am
	Saturday Vigil Mass	07.00pm
St. Columba's Hospital	Sunday Morning Mass	09.30am
	Tuesday Mass & Anointing of Sick/Elderly	10.00am
	Thursday Mass	10.00am
Confessions	After 7pm Mass when requested.	

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

Mass in Chapel Hill	21 st April at 5.45pm, 5 th May at 5.45pm
Mass in Mong	28 th April at 5.45pm, 12 th May at 5.45pm.

Deaths/Anniversaries: **Margaret O'Carroll**, Hillview, died recently, **Larry O'Keeffe**. Market Street (7pm Mass); **Robert Lee**, Dangan Terrace, (Months Mind Mass 7pm); **Matty Lawlor**, Maudlin Street (9.30am Mass); **John Dalton**, Dangan Terrace (11am Mass); **Bridie Heavey**, Allen, Co. Kildare. (11am Mass), **John Dempsey**, Chapel Hill (11am Mass). **Jimmy Holden**, Graiguenamanagh; **Brid Fanning**, Grennan; **Con O'Neill**, Grennan; **John Furlong**, Copenagh. May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions Next Weekend: **Chinnamma Chacko** (7pm Mass); **Mary Doyle**, Carrickmourne (Months Mind Mass 11am)

Chapel Hill Evening of Prayer: with its focus on Family, will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th April, with Canon Susan Green, Church of Ireland Chaplain at Kilkenny College as the presenter.

Church Gate Collection for young people travelling to Medjugorje is this weekend 21st/22nd April.

You Shall be my witnesses is the Parish preparation for those who will present themselves for Confirmation on Saturday 16th June. Our final meeting takes place on 25th April, at 7.30pm.

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust Pop Up Sale will take place at St. Fiacre's Church Loughboy from 10.00am to 1.30pm on Sunday, 22nd April. Lots of new quality items at amazing prices. Proceeds will be used to defray the cost of the recent Easter pilgrimage/holiday to Lourdes for young people with special needs from our area.

St. Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund Draw: The second of the current Draws will be held next Wednesday 25th April. Thanks to all who have supported the Draw in other years. Join the Draw at Reddys Gift Shop, Murphy Victualler at Market Street, the Parish Office, or Fr. Dan.

This Weekend we celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations: The church recognises that everyone receives a vocation from God, through Baptism, be it to married life, single life, or some form of ministry. We focus this weekend on the need to pray for vocations to ordained ministry (priesthood & Diaconate) and to religious life in all its forms.

What you can do to encourage Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

- Make a special effort to ask the Lord for more vocations?
- Pray for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call.
- Pray for the priests and religious who have ministered to you, both living and dead.
- Keep your priests and religious in your prayers throughout the week.
- Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation?

Prayer Initiative for protection of the 8th Amendment. In May, Our Lady's Month, there will be three penitential Fast Fridays of bread and water May 4th, 11th & 18th, following the example of Queen Esther in the Bible, when the Jewish people were going to be destroyed, killed and annihilated by King Ahasuerus. Queen Esther asked the people to fast for 3 days and the Jews were saved.

Lough Derg: Come home to the love of God's Family on Lough Derg. Pilgrimage Season opens on Saturday 5th May. One Day Retreats or Three-Day Pilgrimages available. For information contact 071 9861518 or www.loughderg.org

South Kilkenny Historical Society – upcoming events: Lecture, Thursday April 26th – Putting Ireland on Four Wheels by Dr. Austin O'Sullivan, 8pm, Mullinavat Parish Hall. Saturday, May 26th – Coach Trip to Dublin (The Little Museum of Dublin and EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum). Cost €60 (€55 society members). Booking and further information from either Brigid Barron (brigidbarron@hotmail.com) or Eddie Synnott (edsynnott@yahoo.co.uk).

Men As Learners and ElderS: You are invited to an information evening meeting of MALES Ireland which will be held on Thursday 26th April in the Club House Hotel, Patrick Street, Kilkenny at 7.30pm. This meeting is open to both men and women and information will be given on the Men As Learners and ElderS programme and the Men's Rites of passage. For more information, please visit www.malejourney.ie or call Gerry at 0862326988

Community Centre: Eigse Players will perform "Who's the Daddy?" Saturday 28th April at 8pm. Tickets €10 on sale at the Door. Complimentary Tea and Coffee. Enquiries 087 7728170 Seamus.

World Meeting of Families: to attend all or part of the events, register now for the Pastoral Congress on www.worldmeeting2018.ie. Places for the Congress are limited, tickets will be scarce for the Festival of Families and the Final Mass which will be led by Pope Francis. Teachings, in preparation for the World meeting can be got on www.worldmeeting2018.

Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love. Chapter 2 is titled 'The Experiences and challenges of families'. It lists challenges like individualism, the speed with which people move from one affective relationship to another – 'the culture of the ephemeral', fears associated with permanent commitment, the politics of reproductive health, Consumerism, the weakening of faith and religious practice, the lack of dignified or affordable housing, migration. The Pope concludes chapter 2 'The Synods reflections show us that there is no stereotype of the ideal family, but rather a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems. If we see any number of problems, these should be a summons to revive our hope and to make it a source of prophetic visions, transformative actions and creative forms of charity'. (Section 57)