

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

15th March 2020

Parish Priest: Fr. Dan Bolland Mobile 087 6644858 Email: dbolland@eircom.net Website www.thomastownparish.ie Radio: fm108	Parish Office: Tel No 056 7793191 Opening Hours Tues. Wed. Thur. Fri. 10 - 1pm Email: thomastown@ossory.ie Facebook: Thomastown Parish
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CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 15th March 2020

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	10.00am
	Monday Vigil Mass St. Patrick Day	07.30pm
	Tuesday St. Patrick's Day Mass	10.00am
	Wednesday & Friday Mass	09.30am
	Wednesday Lectio Divina in Mercy Chapel	10.00am
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00pm
	Sacrament of Reconciliation	05.30pm
St. Columba's Hospital	Adoration in St. Columba's Hospital Chapel on Monday	10.30/9pm
	Thursday Mass	10.00am

11.30am Sunday Masses in this parish will take place as follows

St. Columba's	15 th March
Mong	22 nd March
St. Columba's	29 th March

In St. Colmcille Pastoral Area Masses are celebrated in The Rower at 7.30pm each Saturday, and in Clodiagh at 9.30am and in Inistioge at 11.30am each Sunday Morning.

Deaths/Anniversaries: **Margaret Manning**, Kilmurry recently deceased; **Roly Collier**, Friars Hill & **Alice Collier** (6pm Mass); **Toddy Cassin**, Boher (6pm Mass); **Ned Nevin**, 24, Dangan Terrace (6pm Mass); **Kathleen (Kit) Behan, May Behan & extended Behan Family Members** (10am Mass); **The Kavanagh Family**, Ballyconway (10am Mass); Colum Dack, 26 Castle Avenue (10am Mass on Tuesday); **Josie Dack**, Cloughabrody; **Bridget Ryan**, Stoneyford; **Nora Morrissey**, Coolroemore; **Michael O'Reilly**, Bridge Brook Arms; **T. J. McCarron**, Low Street & Redhills, Co. Cavan; **Fr. Peter Orr**, Edinburgh; **Jim Challoner**, Dangan Terrace May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: Rene Kelly & Michael Kelly (6pm Mass); **Jack Cahill**, Smithstown & daughter **Ann Grey** (6pm Mass); **Noreen O'Sullivan**, Burrellspark (Months Mind Mass 10am); **Gobnait Murphy** (10am Mass); **Denis O'Brien**, Mong & Skeough (11.30am Mass).

Do This in Memory Programme this Sunday 10am Mass is cancelled.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society will join with Parish Adoration Day at St. Columba's Hospital Chapel on Monday 16th March to pray for Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life with Rosary & prayers at 7.00pm. All welcome, please join us.

Lent: Think **Trocaire**. The customary Trocaire boxes are available at the Churches. This is the Irish Church reaching out to people less fortunate than we are. A way of exercising some self-denial. Think **Lectio Divina**. This is a way of receiving and responding to God's word as put before us in the Sunday Gospel. The Pastoral Area will provide a Lectio Divina session each Saturday at 2pm at the Library at St. Colmcille Church in Inistioge.

Check the Diocese of Ossory website for numerous 'offers' from **Adult Faith Development**. Avail of a **Lent Text message** – text your number to the Adult Faith Development group at 0858313100. Lent is a time of preparation for Easter.

One of the big issues of our time is the care of our common home. We become conscious of it as we experience changes in weather patterns and in climate change. Pope Francis has written about it in Laudato Si. **Sister Geraldine Fitzpatrick**, John of God sister, will speak about it at Mass this weekend.

Next weekend Fr. Jim Murphy will speak with us about St. Colmcille, who is, after all, the patron of our Pastoral Area. His life and witness may help us address some issues of our present times.

St. Vincent de Paul Society holds its Church Door Collection this weekend. Your support is greatly appreciated. The telephone number of the Thomastown St. Vincent de Paul Society is **086 2664669** for anyone who wishes to make contact with the Society.

Emigrant Collection: will be taken up at Masses on St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, 17th March.

Thomastown Parish Pastoral Council is scheduled to meet this coming Wednesday. Members will be contacted if this meeting is postponed.

The Irish Blood Transfusion Service will be at the Abbey Hall in Graignamanagh on Thursday 19th March, from 4.30pm.

COVID - 19 Steps we are taking

To help counter the spread of infection, we are asked to:

- suspend shaking hands at Mass as a sign of peace;
- suspend the distribution of the chalice (including for concelebrants);
- receive Holy Communion only on the hand;
- suspend the use of holy water fonts;
- request Eucharistic Ministers and Priest to use hand sanitiser before and after distributing Holy Communion;
- Collection baskets: priests are asked to provide an alternative to the practice of passing collection baskets through the congregation. For example, parishioners may place your envelope donation in a supervised basket box at the entrance to the church as they enter or exit, or both in the case where two collections are taken up.
- use the hand sanitiser placed at the Church doors.
- use normal sensible procedure when sneezing etc.
- If you are unwell please, as a precaution, stay at home and you can follow Mass on TV, by local radio and from some parishes on our Diocesan website.

For now, while the holy water fonts are not being used, if anyone would like to have holy water blessed for use in their own home, the Priest celebrating Mass is happy to do so after Mass.

Thomastown Parish Senior Citizens: St. Patrick's Day Annual Dinner at the Community Centre has been postponed due to the corona virus.

The Conference: Being Christian in this Unprecedented time which was to take place on March 21st, in St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Loughboy has been cancelled due to the corona virus.

Towards Healing Counselling & Support Services is available to survivors of Church, Religious and Institutional abuse. The Towards Healing director is Mr Michael Lyons and the service provides lay independent and fully accredited counsellors to support survivors. Towards Healing may be contacted by Freephone (RoI) 1800 303 416, Mobile number for Hearing Impaired Clients +353 (0) 85-8022859. Website: www.towardshealing.ie

St. Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund Draw 2020/2021: Please support this good cause. Join the Draw, €10 per month, at Reddy's Gift Shop, Murphy Victualler at Market Street, the Parish Office or Fr. Dan.