

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

22nd March 2020

Parish Priest:

Fr. Dan Bolland

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CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 22nd March 2020

Masses Suspended by Bishop Farrell Bishop Farrell has asked that, considering the rapidly changing situation that we are living through, there will be no public mass in our churches at this time. In making this decision Bishop Farrell commented: “*Just as our Lord remains with us, we remain with the people we serve. We continue to celebrate Mass for them and with them – online and via radio*”.

Masses will be celebrated at 6pm on Saturday & 10am on Sunday and people are invited to join in on Radio 108fm.

Ways to join together for Mass In these difficult days, it is good for us to be able to pray together. Our churches remain open for moments of private prayer. It is also possible to be part of the celebration of Mass via Radio or Online from some of our parishes. Each Sunday morning, at 9.30am, a live Mass is celebrated on KCLR96fm broadcast to the people of Kilkenny and Carlow. It is also possible to join Masses via webcams in the following parishes:

St Canice’s Parish www.stcanicesparish.ie St John’s Parish www.stjohnskilkenny.com

Mooncoin www.mooncoinparish.ie St. Mary’s Cathedral www.stmaryscathedral.ie

RTE are also broadcasting Mass at 10.30am on RTENewsNow (and later on @ RTEplayer each day. There will be a daily religious reflection from the other churches at 11.55am.

30 minutes prayer will be held on Monday at midday on 108fm

The Rosary will be prayed on Wednesday at midday on 108fm

Stations of the Cross will be held on Friday at midday on 108fm.

Please share this information with friends and family.

Deaths/Anniversaries: Canon Percy Grant died recently, and Jack Cahill, Smithstown & daughter Ann Grey (6pm Mass); Patrick Lannon, Station Road (6pm Mass), Noreen O’Sullivan, Burrellspark (Months Mind Mass 10am); Denis O’Brien, Mong & Skeough Patrick Lyons (9.30am Mass on Friday); Edmond Forristal, William Grace, Grennan. May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: Neddie Hogan, 3, Newtown Terrace (6pm Mass); Mary Byrne, Carrickmourne (6pm Mass); Mary Doyle, Carrickmourne (10am Mass).

Lent: The particular circumstances of Lent this year impose their own discipline.

Remember **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.

For prayer, check out www.sacredspace.ie This Jesuit website provides daily prayer based on the Gospel readings at Mass.

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.

See also www.catholicbishops.ie and www.catholicireland.net and www.ossory.ie

Lent Online Retreat: Do a free three-day online retreat focusing on Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving available throughout Lent. Register now priory.institute.com 01 404 8124

The Parish Office is currently open at the usual hours. Best contact the Office, in this era of social distancing, by telephone, email, or leave a note into the Office letterbox.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People: ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024. Hours may be extended to meet the demand.

St. Mary’s Cathedral Restoration Fund Draw 2020/2021 due to commence on 25th March has been postponed until further notice due to corona virus.

Lockdown

Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation. Yes there is panic buying. Yes there is sickness. Yes there is even death.

But, they say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet, the sun is no longer thick with fumes but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi people are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality.

To how big we really are, to how little control we really have, to what really matters, to love.

So we pray, and we remember that yes there is fear. But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation. But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death. But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now. Today, breathe. Listen.

Behind the factory noises of your panic the birds are singing again.

The sky is clearing, Spring is coming, and we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul and though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

(Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM)

SAFEGUARDING

*If you have a safeguarding concern contact the
Diocesan Designated Liaison Person*

Mr Cathal Cullen

087 100 0232

dlp@ossory.ie

The Safeguarding Representatives in this parish are

Brigid Begley and Ray O’Carroll

They can be contacted through the Parish Office.