

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

20th September 2020

Parish Priest: Fr. Dan Bolland Mobile 087 6644858 Email: bollarddan@gmail.com Website www.thomastownparish.ie Radio: fm108 Diocese of Ossory Reg. Charity No. 20015831.	Parish Office: Tel No 056 7793191 Opening Tuesday, Wed and Friday 10 - 1pm Email: thomastown@ossory.ie Facebook: Thomastown Parish
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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 20th September

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	10.00am
	Sunday morning Mass	12.00noon
	Monday & Wednesday Mass	09.30am
	Friday evening Mass	07.30pm
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00pm
	Sacrament of Reconciliation after 6pm Saturday Mass.	

Deaths and anniversaries: Please remember in your prayers this weekend - **Micheál Bookle**, Newtown (6pm Mass); **John Costelloe**, Galway & **Costelloe Family**, Pipe Street (6pm Mass), **Imelda Rimmer** (12 pm Mass); **Nancy Carroll**, Ladywell (12pm Mass); **Laurence Holden**, Knockbrack; **Billy O'Brien**, Friarhill; **Mary & Peter Challoner**, Smithstown; **John & Catherine Doody**, Colmcille. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend:

Webcam A webcam has been installed in the Parish Church. This means that Masses and other Services will be videoed and sent to the Parish Office for transmission through the Parish website. So, if you wish to join us for Mass, go to the www.thomastownparish.ie You will find the link there.

Mgr. Jim Cassin died in June. Mass will be held for him on Wednesday, his birthday, at 7pm in the Parish Church. This 'month's mind' Mass was delayed in the hope that that many relatives, friends and associates, unable to gather at his Funeral Mass, could come. However, Stage 2 restrictions will be in place for six to nine months, and those who would wish to come are asked to respect the regulations.

First Communion Next Saturday 26th September the boys of Mrs. Moore's class of last year will have Mass at 10am, with the girls following at 12pm. Ms. Tyrrell's class of last year will follow on Saturday 3rd October. These occasions are wonderful parish events, and all should be very welcome. With current restrictions re corona virus only children and their parents can be facilitated. We are invited to look at three videos which are available on www.ossory.ie. These videos will help all of us to prepare for this special event in the life of our Parish. Be sure to include the children and their families in your prayers in the coming weeks.

The Plan for living with Covid-19 For Religious Services in places of worship (including funerals), up to 50 can be admitted, with social distancing, etc. Face coverings are requested. The limit of 6 is for indoor settings in homes and applies to funeral related events in private homes (e.g. wakes, etc). Up to 50 guests can gather for weddings and receptions. Much as we would want to return to Mass, firstly remember that people who are vulnerable or unwell, and especially those with any symptoms that might suggest corona virus infection, or have been in contact with someone who has had the virus, should stay at home and participate, as now, via webcam, social media, television or radio.

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

St. Vincent de Paul Society The telephone number of the Thomastown St. Vincent de Paul Society is **086 2664669** for anyone who wishes to contact the Society.

Season of Creation: 1st September to 4th October. Think of our use of water. All human beings, animals, birds of the air and insects need water. Sources of fresh water are essential for health care, agriculture and industry. Some countries have no access to safe drinking water. Unsafe drinking water results in illness, disease and death. Detergents and chemical products commonly used continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and sea thus polluting our water (laudato Sí29)

Let's each reflect on our use of and waste of water. How do I use the gift of water? Do I take constant availability of water for granted? Do I waste water more than I need? Boiling a full kettle when I only need one cup? Do I turn off taps properly? What change can I make? Is there one area that I can reflect on and which will make a difference?

Cathedral Draw: The first draw of the Diocesan Draw 2020/2021 was postponed due to the Covid - 19 Pandemic. The draw will now run from September 2020 to August 2021. The first draw of Year Six will be held on Wednesday 30th September. Do please consider joining. Join the Draw, €10 per month, at Reddy's Gift Shop, Murphy Victualler at Market Street, the Parish Office or Fr. Dan.

Parish Newsletter by email..... We can now distribute the weekly Newsletter by email. Please drop an email request to thomastown@ossory.ie if you are interested.

ALONE manage 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 seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

Safeguarding Concerns

If you have a child safeguarding concern or wish to raise a matter from the past you may contact any of the following:

Diocesan Designated Persons

Mr. Cathal Cullen 087 100 0232 or

Ms. Rose Brophy 087 331 4330

Garda National Protective Services

01 6663430/35

Civil Authorities

Tusla Child & Family Agency Carlow

Kilkenny area 052 617 7302

Safeguarding Reps. for this Parish are:

Brigid Cassin Begley and Ray O'Carroll.

Contact them through the Parish Office.

Counselling Services

Towards Healing Confidential Helpline

1800 313 316

www.towardshealing.ie

Towards Peace Spiritual Support Service

01 505 3028

www.towardspeace.ie

According to an old Jewish saying, it took God one day to get the Israelites out of Egypt, but it took him 40 years to get Egypt out of the Israelites. Getting beyond self-pity was not easy, but God eventually won out and Israel came to look back on her story as a tale of a loving God at work bringing his people to himself. The pattern of misunderstanding, resistance, self-pity, letting go and saying 'yes' to God in thanksgiving, was repeated many times to Israel's story. The struggle to let go of self-pity and choose to be happy in a world of limitations continues today in our faith journey. In all of it, a life of faith continues to mature into a life of thanksgiving for God's victory over our resistance. (Bishop Martin Drennan)

Split the pot winners Saturday 12th September, Sinead Bolger €150, Marty McLoughlin €50, Dylan Komar €35. Envelopes can be purchased at Credit Union, Treacys Hardware, Dinos Takeaway, Time Bar, Centra, Supervalu, Quick Pick, Prendergast Butchers, Kullens Kitchens & Community Helpers. If anyone would like envelopes dropped to your house contact Mary [0860769880](tel:0860769880), thanks for your continued support

Season of creation

Resources during the Season of Creation can be found at the following;
<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2020/07/15/season-of-creation-2020/>

Meadow Meaning – A Reflection by Brother Richard Hendrick OFM Cap

Shhhhh...Look...Listen..... Even the blades of grass... Even the flowers you dare to call weeds.....Even the light fast lives of tiny buzzing beings hear the call of Divine love..... and give themselves totally to grow towards the light.....
And what of you?

A brand-new outdoor classroom has been added to 'From Home 2 Home', Thomastown. Spaces are available in both Preschool and Afterschool in small groups. Please contact 085 8374116 for any queries or email fromhome2home@hotmail.com

Collection for Holy Places what weekend to be suggested. Skip. We'll make a contribution.

In parts of our planet our beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish. Reflect on how I appreciate our beautiful landscape here in Thomastown. This may be an opportunity to make a new start. What one positive action can I make which will make a difference?

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 contact the Society. **Collection not taking place!**

Meister Eckhart, a theologian of the Middle Ages, wrote the following:

Apprehend God in all things

for God is in all things.

Every single creature is full of god

and is a book about God.

Every creature is a word of God.

If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature –

even a caterpillar – I would never have to prepare a sermon

so full of God is every creature.

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The Season of Creation this year is 01st September to 04th October. Christians around the world unite to renew our love for each other and the home we share. We celebrate the riches of the Christian faith, expressed by our efforts to protect our common home. Creation is a gift of God for humankind, and for all living beings. It is our responsibility to protect it as good and reliable stewards, and as faithful servants of God. The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development. This year's theme for Season of Creation is "Cultivating Hope" as we focus on building a better future for all humanity and for our common home.

The Priory Institute: We are taking registrations now for our autumn online theology courses. The courses are up to degree level and are heavily subsidised by the Irish Dominicans. They could be just the thing as the nights draw in and we look to an uncertain winter. Tel: +353 (0)86 8510769 (mobile) www.prioryinstitute.com <https://prioryinstitute.com/>

Getting Back on Track Financially

Most of us have some level of debt, but when unpaid debt becomes such a burden that it prevents you from getting out of bed in the morning, brings a sense of dread when answering the phone or opening the post, it is time to take control of the situation.

The unfortunate reality is that due to the impact of COVID-19 many more people in Ireland may be struggling to pay their debts having recently lost their jobs or struggling to make ends meet on reduced incomes.

The effects of problem debt on a person's wellbeing and mental health can be severe and can prevent them coming forward for help but there is a solution to every debt problem and this is where the Insolvency Service of Ireland (ISI) can help.

The ISI is the independent government body with four debt solutions to help people with all levels of problem debt - from credit cards to mortgages. It regulates debt advisors called Personal Insolvency Practitioners (PIPs).

You could be insolvent if:

- you can't pay your bills in full when they are due
- You're paying a little off each bill trying to keep creditors at bay
- You've had calls and letters about missed repayments and threats of repossession.

If you are insolvent and in arrears on your home mortgage you could also be eligible for a free consultation with a PIP under the State-funded Abhaile Scheme. The purpose of that Scheme is to help people in serious arrears to find the best available solutions, with the help of professional advisors. The priority will be to find a sustainable solution that keeps a person in their home, where possible.

For more information visit www.backontrack.ie or freetext GETHELP to 50015 for a callback.

Charity Tax Forms: We would appreciate it if the completed Form could be returned as soon as possible if not already returned.

Collection for the Holy Land next weekend 13th/14th September. Omit

Family Carers Ireland are now accepting nominations for the 2020 Netwatch Carer of the Year. If you know of someone who is looking after a loved one at home and would like to recognise them for everything that they do, you can nominate online at www.familycarers.ie or contact the local office on 0567721424 for a form. Nominations are also being accepted for Young Carer of the Year. Now more than ever it is time to recognise the valuable contribution that family carers bring to society.

The prayer calling the Holy Spirit on those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation

All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your

sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Interested in studying Theology in 2020? The one year, part-time Higher Diploma in Theological Studies at St Patrick's College, Maynooth is now offered as a "Blended Learning" programme. Suitable for those with an undergraduate degree in any discipline (or equivalent), the course will run from 25 September to May, with online lectures taking place on Wednesday evenings, complimented with self-directed study. There will also be 6 residential weekends over the course of the year. In certain cases, the programme can serve as a pathway into programmes which require a background in Theology, such as the Higher Diploma in Healthcare Chaplaincy or Masters in Theology. The course also meets the Teaching Council's requirements for the teaching of Religion in Secondary Schools. Closing date for applications extended to Friday 18th September 2020. For more information, please contact Barbara Mahon, Admissions & Marketing Officer, at admissions@spcm.ie or see www.maynoothcollege.ie

Please continue to observe the small things that help to keep us safe, such as social distancing – 2 metres, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, mask wearing.

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Explore your Faith with the Veritas Blog and the Veritas YouTube channel.

On the weekly blog Veritas shares information, thoughts and prayers aimed at those wanting to know more about the Catholic Faith and the ways in which VERITAS products can help inspire you. The YouTube videos have lots of information about the products with videos from the Veritas Publication authors as well as topical and seasonal videos.

Check out the Veritas blog and YouTube channel today.

With restricted numbers, we plan to hold two ceremonies, with Mr. Delahunty's class at 10.30am and Mr. Robert's class at 12.15pm. One of the parents accompanying the young person will act in place of the Sponsor. We won't have Mass on the occasion. Meanwhile, the young people and parents will be invited to Mass on the week of the Confirmation ceremony.

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Civil Authorities

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Kilkenny area 052 617 7302

Safeguarding Reps. for this Parish are:
Brigid Cassin Begley and Ray O'Carroll.
Contact them through the Parish Office.

Available at the Office: **Mass cards** for various occasions – traditional Mass cards on the occasion of death, Birthday Mass cards, Get well Mass Cards, Mass bouquets.

MABS: The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is a free, confidential and independent service funded through the Citizens Information Board. MABS assist people who have debt problems, who are in difficulty paying a mortgage or who are facing legal action because of debt. They also provide information and access to Insolvency Services.

For more information contact MABS on: www.mabs.ie or call MABS on 0761 072610.

<p style="text-align: center;">Counselling Services Towards Healing Confidential Helpline 1800 313 316 www.towardshealing.ie</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Towards Peace Spiritual Support Service 01 505 3028 www.towardspeace.ie</p>
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We have guidelines in place.

- As we move forward take it for granted that things will change from week to week as we try to see what works best for everybody. So do keep an eye on the Newsletter.
- Much as we would want to return to Mass, firstly remember that people who are vulnerable or unwell, and especially those with any symptoms that might suggest Covid-19 infection, or have been in contact with someone who has had the virus, should stay at home and, if possible, participate, as now, via webcam, social media, television or radio.
- Coming to Church, departing, and while there, we must maintain physical distance from each other (currently at least 2 metres). So, Church seating will be based on this guideline. Those coming will be asked for their names, to help tracing if there should be an occurrence of the virus in the area.
- Once the number threshold of 50 is reached, others will be asked to remain outside – to join in the prayer in the Church grounds or listen to the car radio.
- Good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will be essential. Please wear a mask!
- At all times Eucharistic Ministers, wearing masks, will give Communion in the hand. For those who remain outside during Mass, Communion will be distributed at the Church steps.
- The congregation is asked to make its financial contributions at the box at the door.
- The toilets at the Church will be locked and opened at the times of Church services.

Pope Francis says mass each morning at 7am. He starts the Mass by dedicating the liturgy to a group of people: this has included health care workers, families, the elderly and those who have died from the virus. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

Ways to join together for Mass

St Mary's Cathedral @ 11am and 5.30pm

St John's Parish @ 11.30am

Monday to Saturday: St Mary's Cathedral Webcam @ 9am

RTENow @ 10.30am

Locally Mass is available from the following:

St John's Parish www.stjohnskilkenny.com

Mooncoin www.mooncoinparish.ie

Thanks to KCLR for their 9.30am Sunday Mass, to Bishops Farrell and Nulty and Fr. Ryan for leading the Masses. This has stopped, now that the shutdown is over.

The Parish Office will be staffed Tuesday and Frida

- The toilets at the Church will be locked and opened at the times of Church services. Otherwise we are unable to maintain a proper level of sanitation.

Affordable Live-in Homecare If you are looking for a live-in carer for your relative, please call Eileen or Tom today on 087 9916791. Our website is www.alhomecare.ie

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.

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

These two Collections not taken up due to Masses being celebrated privately

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Whistle blowing: The Diocese has a policy regarding whistleblowing. The term is used to describe the action of someone who reveals/discloses wrongdoing within an organization to the public or to those in positions of authority. It enables them to report concerns in a way that will not be disloyal to their settings and colleagues. Although this can be difficult to do, it is particularly important where the welfare of children may be at risk. Please check the Diocesan website regarding the Policy.

The vision of **Towards Peace** is to provide a safe supportive space where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace one step at a time. **Towards Peace** provides a spiritual direction service. Up to nine sessions with a specially trained spiritual companion can be made available; there is no fee. **Spiritual direction** offers a safe space to attend to your own spiritual life and sense of the Sacred. It is an ancient practice in many religious traditions. Within the Christian tradition, spiritual direction offers a way to tune into the presence of God's love within your own life. Phone 01 5053028; email towardspeace@iecon.ie web www.towardspeace.ie

Lost: A set of Keys on Tuesday 17th December night of Carol Service in the Parish Church. Any information please contact the Parish Office.

Envelopes: These days envelopes are being distributed throughout the Parish for the weekly envelope collection, which is to pay for costs incurred by the Parish throughout the year in various projects that need to be undertaken. Meanwhile, the offertory collection will, hopefully, meet the ordinary running costs of the Parish. Envelopes are also distributed for the payment of the priest of the Parish. Like every home and business, costs are run up, and need to be attended to, so we rely on the generosity of our parishioners. If you haven't got envelopes, please contact Fr. Dan, any member of the Finance Committee, or the Parish Office. A word of thanks to those who undertake the task of delivering the envelopes. They say they enjoy the opportunity to meet and greet the neighbours.

whistle Blowing

What is whistle blowing:

Whistle blowing is a term used to describe the action of someone who reveals/discloses wrongdoing within an organization to the public or to those in positions of authority. It enables them to report concerns in a way that will not be seen as disloyal to their settings and colleagues. All staff and volunteers within the context of the diocese must acknowledge their individual responsibility to bring matters of concern to the attention of their parish priest. Although this can be difficult to do, it is particularly important where the welfare of children may be at risk.

You may be the first to recognise that something is wrong, but you may not feel able to express your concerns out of a feeling that this would be disloyal to colleagues, or you may fear harassment or victimisation. These feelings, however natural, **must never result in a child or young person continuing to be unnecessarily at risk.** Remember, it is often the most vulnerable children or young people who are targeted. These children need an advocate to safeguard their welfare.

Don't think, 'what if I'm wrong?' Think, 'what if I'm right!'

Principles:

- The Diocese of Ossory is committed to the highest possible standards of openness and accountability.
- Employees and volunteers are expected and encouraged to voice any concerns about activities involving children and young people to the appropriate person i.e. activity leader, parish safeguarding representative, parish priest or to the diocesan designated person.
- All people have the right to raise concerns about perceived unacceptable practice or behaviour.
- All concerns will be treated as far as possible in the strictest confidence and every effort will be made not to reveal the identity of the complainant, if requested. However, if the concerns require further action, the complainant may at some future date have to act as a witness and/or provide evidence.
- It is recognized that whistle blowing can be difficult and stressful. Advice and support will be made available in the first instance by the parish safeguarding representative, or by the designated person or by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland. (See Diocesan Safeguarding Children Contact Details).

- No action will be taken against the complainant if the concern proves to be unfounded and was raised in good faith. This is in line with the Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998.

- Malicious allegations will also be treated in line with the Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998.

What stops people from whistle blowing:

- Fear of starting a chain of events which spirals out of control.
- Disrupting the work or project.
- Fear of getting it wrong.
- Fear of repercussions or damaging carers.
- Fear of not being believed.

What the law says:

There is legislation related to whistle blowing; and this applies to employees of Church bodies, as well as to agency workers in certain circumstances; to contractors and consultants engaged on contract by the Church body; and to trainees, temporary workers and those on work experience with the Church body. It does not apply to volunteers.

The legislation is the *Protected Disclosures Act 2014*, a guide to which can be accessed electronically at [Easy Guide to Protected Disclosures Act 2014](#)

How to raise a concern:

If the issue appears to be of a relatively minor and straightforward nature and clearly does not involve a formal child protection investigation, it may be dealt with at local level. It is important to:

- Voice your concerns, suspicions or uneasiness as soon as you feel you can. The earlier a concern is expressed, the easier and sooner action can be taken.
- Try to pinpoint exactly what practice is concerning you and why.
- Approach the activity leader, parish safeguarding representative, (who will give you a copy of the General Complaints Form SG-08), parish priest or diocesan designated liaison person as appropriate.
- Make sure you get a satisfactory response – don't let matters rest.
- Put your concerns in writing, using the General Complaints Form SG-08, which outlines the concerns and issues, dates etc.

What happens next:

- You should be given information on the nature and progress of any enquiries within ten days of submitting the General Complaints Form.
- You are not expected to prove the truth of an allegation but will need to demonstrate sufficient grounds for the concern.
- No action will be taken against you if the concern proves to be unfounded and was raised in good faith.
- You are entitled to be protected from harassment or victimization following a complaint.

Self-reporting:

- There may be occasions where a member of staff, paid or volunteer has a personal difficulty, perhaps a physical or mental health problem, which they know to be impinging on their professional competence. That person has a responsibility to discuss such a situation with their group leader or parish priest so that professional and personal support can be offered.
- Whilst such reporting will remain confidential in most instances, this cannot be guaranteed where personal difficulties raise concerns about the welfare or safety of children.

November 2019

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

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Each of us knows the kind of situations that cause us to be fearful and doubtful. We can't stop ourselves from feeling afraid. But we must not allow our fears to cripple us. Courage is not never feeling afraid; it is feeling afraid and going on despite it.

For an **Advent Calendar**, see catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar

offers a way to tune into the presence of God's love within your own life. Phone 01 5053028; email towardspeace@iecon.ie web www.towardspeace.ie

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Your TCN Management team 2019/2020:

Chairperson - Mary Deevy
Vice Chair - Jackie Hoyne
Treasurer - Bob Wemyss
Secretary - Teresa Slattery
Tidy towns - Seamus Quigley
Gillian Mason
Ann Wemyss

Parish Records: We are looking for a parishioner or better still parishioners who would be interested in genealogy to volunteer to create a spreadsheet of Baptism and Marriage records of the parish from 1910 to 1960s. We often receive requests from families that have left Thomastown and would like to research their roots. The ideal person would have a good knowledge of Thomastown and the surrounding areas and be computer literate.

Thomastown Parish Senior Citizens Association: To all current, past and new members Thomastown Age Friendly are looking to host free courses in computing, cookery, yoga, makeup etc to name a few. If you are interested, please call in to the shop on Thursday or Friday for further information and register your interest or call 0868237526.

Marrying in Thomastown: It is advisable for parishioners considering getting married in our Parish Church to make contact in good time to avoid disappointment if the date you choose is already booked.

The vision of **Towards Peace** is to provide a safe supportive space where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace one step at a time. **Towards Peace** provides a spiritual direction service. Up to nine sessions with a specially trained spiritual companion can be made available; there is no fee. **Spiritual direction** offers a safe space to attend to your own spiritual life and sense of the Sacred. It is an ancient practice in many religious traditions. Within the Christian tradition, spiritual direction

Children's Liturgy: We invite children of school age in the first three years of School to join in the Children's Liturgy each Sunday at 11am Mass. They take the opportunity to get a sense of the Word of God in an age appropriate way.

Anniversary Masses: as is the practice in many other parishes, more than one anniversary or months mind remembrance will now be assigned to a weekend Mass. It has become very difficult to accommodate the number of Masses requested on particular weekends. If that doesn't suit, the Mass can be offered at our weekday Masses, Monday to Friday.

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GROW Mental Health Support groups are free and confidential and open to all, no referral or booking needed. Meeting Times are: Tuesday @ 10am. Wednesday @ 8pm Friday @ 10.30am. Venue: Grow Office Barrack Street Kilkenny. (CEART grp: mental health effects of living with chronic pain/long term illness. Please contact Mary 087 2843424

Anniversary Masses: as is the practice in many other parishes, more than one anniversary or months mind remembrance will now be assigned to a weekend Mass. It has become very difficult to accommodate the number of Masses requested on particular weekends. If that doesn't suit, the Mass can be offered at our weekday Masses, Monday to Friday.

If someone is in hospital or ill at home and would like if Fr. Dan were to call, please let him know. Often peoples stay in hospital is brief, and a visit may be appreciated.

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Notification of changes to chaplaincy list protocol at St. Luke's Hospital in Kilkenny: The General Services Manager has informed Bishop Farrell that with the introduction of GDPR legislation, the Hospital will no longer be providing a chaplaincy list on request by a priest. If a patient of the Hospital requests a visit from a priest, they should contact the priest directly. If a priest would like to know the ward location of a patient, they can enquire at the hospital reception desk.

The June Collection, one of the six contributions for the priests of our Parishes is due these times. Fr. Dan appreciates your support. Please get the envelopes back presently, and if you haven't got envelopes, contact the Office or place it with your name and address, in an ordinary envelope.

Towards Peace provides a spiritual direction service. Up to nine sessions with a specially trained spiritual companion can be made available; there is no fee. **Spiritual direction** offers a safe space to attend to your own spiritual life and sense of the Sacred. It is an ancient practice in many religious traditions. Within the Christian tradition, spiritual direction offers a way to tune into the presence of God's love within your own life. Phone 01 5053028; email towardspeace@jecon.ie web www.towardspeace.ie

Easter offerings are one of the six contributions to support the priests of our Parishes. Fr. Dan appreciates your support. Please get the envelopes back presently, and if you haven't received envelopes, please contact the Office or place it with your name and address, in an ordinary envelope.

Are you struggling with Anxiety or Depression? Finding Life Difficult? Isolated?

GROW is here to help you. Our Mental Health Support groups are free and confidential and open to all, no referral or booking needed. Meeting Times are: Tuesday @ 10am. Wednesday 8pm & Friday 10.30am at Grow Office Barrack Street Kilkenny (CEART grp: mental health effects of living with chronic pain/long term illness. Please contact Mary 087 2843424).

Lenten Dues: The Dues are one of the 6 collections throughout the year that are for the financial support of the priest. Please return as soon as possible and thank you in anticipation.

Facebook: Thomastown Parish is back with Facebook. Have a look. Deirdre O'Keeffe is back to work at the Parish Office on Tuesdays, so she is looking after it. While exploring Thomastown Parish on Facebook, be sure to keep an eye on the Parish website. You will get the Newsletter there too, if you haven't got a hard copy.

The Kilkenny Great War Memorial Committee: Second World War Names Appeal. If you know someone from Kilkenny who took part in World War II, please email: kilkennywarmemorial@gmail.com phone 086 3369080 Post to 48, John Street. If possible include rank, regiment, service number and any other relevant information.

SAFEGUARDING

*If you have a safeguarding concern contact the
Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Mr Cathal Cullen
087 100 0232
dli@ossory.ie
The Safeguarding Representatives in this parish are
Brigid Begley and Ray O'Carroll
They can be contacted through the Parish Office.*

You Shall be my Witnesses. The young people commit, in preparation for the Sacrament, to take time each day to pray, to participate in the prayer of the community by being at Mass every weekend, to take part fully in the preparation for Confirmation at school, in the parish and at home, and to be the kind of person that Jesus would want them to be at home, at school and in the parish community. Noble aspirations, and how can you help them to be faithful to their commitment? The 4-week programme continues on Tuesdays at 7.30pm, at the National School. A group of Moms and Dads conduct the programme over the four weeks.

MABS: The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is a free, confidential and independent service funded through the Citizens Information Board. MABS assist people who have debt problems, who are in difficulty paying a mortgage or who are facing legal action because of debt. They also provide information and access to Insolvency Services. For more information contact MABS on: www.mabs.ie or call Kilkenny MABS on 0761 072610.

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Final Document of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment has been published, and can be accessed on the website of the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference. Have a read of it. It is described as a 'roadmap', to guide the way forward for the coming years.

Baptism Ministry: Is this something that you may like to be involved in? We want to say a big 'Thank You' to all the wonderful families who have welcomed our Teams into their homes over the past fourteen years and we in turn have welcomed them into the Lord's House on behalf of the Community, when presenting a family member for Baptism. If you would like to be involved in this worthwhile Ministry, please contact Margaret: 086-8548509 or Marian: 086-0693510. Did you get time to look at www.catholicireland.net. It describes itself as 'an online source of information and inspiration'. This week you will find some further good reading on www.catholicireland.net. Why not have a look at the website of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. There is a lot of information on the Bishops' Conference – they meet regularly at Maynooth and seek to work as a team, under the chairmanship of the Archbishop of Armagh, Eamon Martin.

Christmas Offerings will be gratefully received. If you haven't an envelope, please put your donation in an ordinary envelope with your name and address. You may find it more convenient to set up a Standing Order using the following information: Account Name: Thomastown Church Parochial Current Account. BIC: BOFIE2D. IBAN: IE39BOFI90609911711780.

Could you put a version of this on the Newsletter. Fr Dan edit as you wish!
Sarah

Review of 2018 Christmas Carol Service. We have had some lovely feedback regarding the Carol Service "I thought it was a great success this year. The length of time was perfect and family friendly. Choirs were excellent, and the audience participation was good fun! Santa went down really well at the end also. Big congrats to all involved on the committee". To give feedback you can speak to any committee member Majella Morrissey (chair), Bernie Dempsey, Helena Hull, Brideen Kirwan, Sarah Rice or Fr Dan or email thomastown@ossory.ie with your comments/suggestions which will be used to plan for future Carol Services.

- Joyeux Noël! Frohe Weihnachten! Feliz Navidad! Buon Natale! Feliz Natal! Vrolijk kerstfeest! Wesolych świąt Bożego Narodzenia!

How to say "Happy New Year"

- French: Bonne Année
- German: Gutes Neues Jahr
- Spanish: Feliz Año Nuevo
- Italian: Felice Anno Nuovo
- Portuguese: Feliz Ano Novo
- Dutch: Gelukkig nieuwjaar
- Polish: Szczęśliwego nowego roku

Do This in Memory Programme this Sunday at 11am Mass.

Sacrament of Forgiveness and Reconciliation As we prepare for Christmas, this is a good time to take stock of our lives and where necessary avail of the Lord's mercy and forgiveness. Girls and boys in the National School are invited to avail of the Sacrament during school time. The Sacrament is available after Saturday evening Masses – Fr. Dan will be available at the Confessional at the end of the Church.

Are you? Struggling with Anxiety or Depression? Finding Life Difficult? Isolated?

November Offerings Please remember to support the priest in the Parish financially. If you haven't got an envelope, please put your offering in an ordinary envelope, with your name and address.

You might like to take a copy of the chaplet for the Holy Souls which you will find at the back of the Church. On Tuesday, with Mass at St. Columba's, we remember the members of the Hospital community who died last year.

Kilkenny Bereavement Support: Have you been bereaved recently or in the past? Would you like to meet a trained bereavement volunteer in the peaceful surroundings of Villa Maria, Freshford Road, Kilkenny. Kilkenny Bereavement Support offer a confidential, free bereavement support service to people of all ages. Phone: 056 7756538.

Anniversary Masses: Over the past few months it has become increasingly difficult to accommodate the number of Anniversary Masses requested in the weekend Mass schedule. With immediate effect, as is the practice in many other parishes, more than one anniversary or months mind remembrance will now be assigned to a weekend Mass.

Children's Liturgy: We invite the children not yet in Second Class to come aside, to the room over the Sacristy, to do something age appropriate based on the word of God. The Children's Liturgy takes place during 11am Sunday Mass. We invite all parents who would be interested in getting involved in a rota approximately once every 7 weeks for the school term to contact Dawn Dack on 0863799316.

SAFEGUARDING

*If you have a safeguarding concern contact the
Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Mr Cathal Cullen
087 100 023241047/**

*dlp@ossory.ie
The Safeguarding Representatives in this parish are
Brigid Begley and Ray O'Carroll
They can be contacted through the Parish Office.*

All Church personnel have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse. The New Revised Safeguarding Children Policy & standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016 is now available at www.safeguarding.ie

If you are concerned about the welfare and safety of children contact:

and Family Agency: Kilkenny area: tel 059 9136570

Services Bureau 01 666 3430 / 01 666 3435

Cathal Cullen: 087 100 0232. Email: dlp@ossory.ie

313 316 www.towardshealing.ie

Tusla – Child

Garda National Protective

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person – Mr.

Towards Healing Helpline: 1800

Are you struggling with anxiety or depression? finding life difficult? feeling isolated? in need of support? GROW is here to help you. GROW is a *community*-based mental health organisation which holds weekly meetings in your local community. GROW meetings provide help and support to anyone experiencing mental health difficulties or struggling with any aspect of their mental wellbeing. Meetings are confidential and no referral is necessary, just come along. GROW promotes breaking social isolation and promoting social connectedness and is centred around the idea that *'I alone can do it, but I cannot do it alone'*.

For Kilkenny Carlow Groups:

Tuesday @ 10am, Grow Office, Ormonde Home, Barrack St Kilkenny

Tuesday @ 7.45pm, St Catherine's Social Service Centre, Joseph's Road, Carlow

Wednesday @ 8pm, Grow Office, Ormonde Home, Barrack St Kilkenny

Friday @ 10.30am Ceart/Grow Group, Grow Office, Ormonde Home, Barrack St Kilkenny

Thomastown Safeguarding Our Safeguarding representatives are Brigid Cassin Begley and Ray O' Carroll. Their task is to see that policies and procedures are adhered to in all Churches and Church activities. To contact them, you might like to leave a message for them at the Parish Office.

Thomastown Parish Finance Committee the Finance Committee arranged for an engineer to carry out a survey of Chapel Hill and Mong churches. The report is available on the parish website. If unable to access that, please call to the Parish Office for a copy of the report.

MABS: The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is a free, confidential and independent service funded through the Citizens Information Board. MABS assist people who have debt problems, who are in difficulty paying a mortgage or who are facing legal action because of debt. They also provide information and access to Insolvency Services. For more information contact MABS on: www.mabs.ie or call Kilkenny MABS on 0761 072610.

First Friday: Next Friday is the first Friday of the month, so Fr. Dan and Sister Anna will bring Holy Communion to the homebound. If you would like to receive Communion in your home, please contact us. If we call regularly and you plan to be away, please let us know.

If someone is in hospital or ill at home and would like if Fr. Dan were to call, please let him know. Often peoples stay in hospital is brief, and a visit may be appreciated

St. Vincent de Paul Society holds its Church Door Collection this weekend. Your support is greatly appreciated. The telephone number of St. Vincent de Paul Society is **086 2664669** for anyone in need.

Cead Mile Failte: Aoibhinn Ellen O'Neill, Barrack Street, Waterford; Angelica Tiba, Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny; Conor Michael O'Mahony, Chapelizod, Dublin; Ciara McKillen, Jerpoint West; Abigail Bowman, Dublin; Cian Thomas Treacy, Kilmurry Jack James McDonald, **Mong.** baptised into the family of God recently.

St. Colmcille's Pastoral Area

- comprising Thomastown and Inistioge.

Saturday Vigil Masses will be in Thomastown at 6pm, and in The Rower at 7.30pm.

Sunday Mass will be in Thomastown at 10am and in Inistioge at 11.30am.

Mass in Clodiagh at 9.30am

St. Columba's Hospital at 11.30am,

Sunday one three and five of each month

Chapel Hill on Sunday two

Mong on Sunday four.

From next weekend Funeral Masses will be held Monday to Saturday.

Please join your parish community for Mass. Churches in neighbouring parishes offer a wide choice of times for Masses also.

Saturday Mass will be held in

Stoneyford at 6.30pm,

Graignamanagh at 7pm,

Ballyhale and The Rower at 7.30pm,

Tullaherin at 8pm.

Sunday Mass will be held in

Dungarvan at 9am,

Clodiagh at 9.30am,