

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

06th September 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 06th 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: **Ann Cassin**, Boher (Months Mind Mass 6pm); **Rita Kirwan** (Mass 12 noon); **Ellen Walsh**, Cappagh, Thomastown; **Jane Walsh**, Ashbourne & London; **Eily Butler**, Pleberstown. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Cead Mile Failte: Welcome to Martin Oisín Farrell, Dublin Road; Aron Alexander Burke, Jerpoint West; Lewis Art John Redmond, Jerpoint West; Jamie Noel Doherty Davis, Clogregg; Odhrán Patrick Croke O'Neill, Kiltorcan; Daithí Tomás Donnelly, Mong baptised into the family of God recently.

First Communions for last year's second class, will take place over two days, with two Masses each day. On 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.

To help with preparation for this wonderful event in our parish, the children, and all the rest of us too, are invited to look at three videos which are available on the diocesan website. The first video has to do with the Sacrament of Forgiveness, followed by a video on the different parts of the Mass. The third video reflects on how to prepare and practice for receiving Holy Communion for the first time.

Thomastown Parish Seniors Citizens AGM: Wednesday 16th September @7pm in Thomastown Community Centre.

The Roadmap for reopening Society and Business: The Government introduced a number of measures on 18th August to stop the spread of Covid-19. Regarding Religious Services in places of worship (including funerals), things remain unchanged (i.e. pods of up to 50 with social distancing, etc. The limit of 6 is for indoor settings in homes and applies to funeral related events in private homes (eg. wakes, etc) Church leaders all over the island recommend and encourage the use of face coverings at all services of worship. In Church our stewards seek to keep things right, so please accept their directions. 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, if possible, participate, as now, via webcam, social media, television or radio.

Let's all commit – in the obvious practical ways - to make sure that our Schools are safe places for our young people, so that formal education will play a big part in their future.

From a spiritual point of view, hardness of heart is one of the worst things that can happen to anyone. A hard heart is a closed heart, so it can't receive. A hard heart inevitably becomes a barren heart. To adopt a hard-hearted attitude is to maim oneself. 'fear not that your heart might be broken; fear, rather, that it might turn into a stone' (Oscar Wilde). F. McCarthy SDB

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

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.

Season of Creation: 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.

Resources for parish groups who would like to take action locally and globally during the Season of Creation can be found at the following links; <https://www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes/laudato-si> and <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2020/07/15/season-of-creation-2020/>

National Grandparents Pilgrimage 2020. Broadcast live on Sunday 13 September at 3pm from Knock Basilica. This year due to covid-19 restrictions, capacity will be very limited in the Basilica. The Grandparents Pilgrimage will be streamed online. We invite grandparents and their families everywhere to join us online at www.knockshrine.ie/watch

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/>

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.

In the Irish language the word for **reconciliation** is *athmhuintearas*, which means the restoration of relationships, recovery of the unity which has been damaged by the sin that divides. This is precisely the kind of ministry that every Christian is called to exercise in a Church struggling with the wounds caused by serious mistakes made in the past and present. Naming accurately the failures has been easier than finding healing and peace. Truth does not always set free, it appears. It depends on how we use it. When delving into the past it is easy to name and shame, but humiliation does not bring either peace or reconciliation. In his ministry Jesus acted out of deep respect when he sought to correct sinners. He had strong words for some of them, but he always left them an opening for change and for repentance. He offered them a pathway that would lead to growing freedom, freedom from sin and the freedom found through Gospel living. (M. Drennan)