

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

01st March 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 01st March 2020

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	10.00am
	Tuesday, 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	Monday Mass	10.00am
	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	01 st March
St. Columba's	15 th March
Mong	22 nd March
St. Columba's	29 th March

In St. Columcille 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: **Joe O'Hara**, Kiljames; **Toddy Kelly**, Kilbane East, and **Elizabeth Flynn**, Delvin, Co Westmeath recently deceased, mother of Mary Meegan. **Jim Caulfield**, Monteen (Months Minds Mass 6pm); **Margaret & Jamie Minogue**, Ballydonnell (6pm Mass); **Michael Doyle**, Legan (11.30am Mass); **Christy Kirby**, Dangan Terrace; **Michael & Thomas Hogan**, Coolroebe; **Mary Roche**, Logan Street; **Tommy Reddy**, Dangan. **Margaret Fennelly**, Boher; **Michael Dempsey**, 23, Newtown Tee; **Philip Kelly**, Friarshill; **Frank Woods**, Jerpoint Hill. May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: Roly Collier, Friars Hill & **Alice Collier** (6pm Mass)

Ministers of the Eucharist for March: Unable to attend, please exchange with another Minister

06.00pm	Mary Butler	Helen Comerford	Sheila Swain
10.00am	John Minogue	Alice Challoner	KC Babu

Ministers of the Word for March. Unable to attend, please exchange with another Minister

06.00pm	10.00am	11.30am
Mary Doyle	Harry Beck	Joe Dunphy
Michael O'Byrne	Sandra Walsh	Margaret Freyne

First Friday: Next Friday is the first Friday of March, and those who can't come to Church will receive Communion at home. Please let us know if someone not already on our First Friday list would like a call next Friday.

Mother of Fair Love School Collection this weekend. This collection is to help support the important work of this wonderful school in caring for, and educating, its students. Please give as generously as you can.

First Confessions: The Boys & Girls in Second Class who will receive First Communion in May will have First Confessions on Wednesday at 7.30pm

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: The Diocese will be offering training for people preparing to be commissioned during Lent. Those already trained might like to avail of the talks also. Please consider if you would be involved in this ministry in the Parish. Contact Fr. Dan.

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. This year in Thomastown it is also a time of preparation for **Confirmation**. This weekend, at 6pm Mass the young people preparing for the Sacrament will enrol – commit themselves to making these days a significant time for themselves and their families.

During Lent we invite some people to speak with us at our Saturday evening Masses. Next weekend **Fr. Tom Norris** will lead the liturgy and speak about **St. John Henry Newman**, one of the newest canonised saints. Fr. Tom's brief to speak so that the people of Thomastown will be impressed by the witness of this great man.

Le Chéile: Next Le Chéile Thomastown in the Community Hall Saturday March 7th at 7.30pm. Family friendly gathering, all welcome.

Thomastown Parish Senior Citizens: St. Patrick's Day Annual Dinner at the Community Centre will be held on Tuesday 17th March. Give names at the Shop on Thursday or Fridays, 9:30-2pm.

Conference: Being Christian in this Unprecedented time - To What are we called as Women & Men? will take place on **March 21st, 2020** in St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Loughboy, Kilkenny, from 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m. Speaker Dr. Fainche Ryan. Cost: €10 (bring your own lunch, tea/coffee provided), pay on the door. Booking essential. To book, call Sara/Catherina at 056 7722870.

Lent Online Retreat: Do a free three-day online retreat focusing on Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving available throughout Lent. Register now priory.institute.com +353 1 404 8124

Al-Anon Support Group Are you affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon can offer understanding and support for families and friends of problem drinkers whether they are still drinking or not. Al-Anon Family Groups have weekly meetings where all are welcome, at the Irish Wheelchair Assoc., Claddagh Court, College Rd., Kilkenny --- Tuesdays @ 8.30pm. and St Patrick's Parish Centre Loughboy Kilkenny, Wednesdays @ 12.30pm. Or Telephone the confidential helpline 01-8732699 for further information. Website: www.alanon.ie

Clothes Collection supporting Friends of Calcutta (CHY 13218) on Friday March 6th collecting at Thomastown Church Car Park up to 4pm. All items of wearable clothing, footwear etc most welcome. Unfortunately, we cannot accept pillows, duvets or cushions. To view a short film which captures the joy of what your amazing generosity funded last year please visit 'Rajiv 20' on 'Youtube'. All enquiries to Michael Hopkins 087 9073074.

Message of Pope Francis For Lent 2020: *"Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew" (No. 123). Jesus' Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer.*