

# THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

**Parish Priest:**

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**CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020**

**Here in Thomastown:** Mass will be celebrated on 108fm at 6pm on Saturday and 10am on Sunday.

As we continue with the restrictions due to the coronavirus,

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

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

**30 minutes prayer** will be held on Friday at midday on 108fm.

**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**

Sunday Morning: KCLRfm @9.30am.

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](http://www.stjohnskilkenny.com)

Mooncoin [www.mooncoinparish.ie](http://www.mooncoinparish.ie)

**Mass Intentions next weekend: Larry Stapleton**, Ladywell; **Marjorie Scott**, Oklahoma, **Charlie O'Hanlon**, Checkpoint, died recently, and **Jim Kearney**, Oldtown (10am Mass); **Elizabeth Dempsey**, Newtown Terrace; **Delia Roche**, Grennan, **Richard and Andrew Forristal**, Ballyconway. May they rest in peace.

**Mass intentions next weekend: Danny McPherson**, Maudlin St. (6pm Mass); **Marie Woods**, Cloghabrody Heights (6pm Mass); **Mary O'Keeffe**, Kilmurphy (10am Mass).

**The Parish Office** is not staffed on a regular basis these days. Best contact the Office, in this era of social distancing, by telephone – leave your name and number and we will get back to you – email, post, or leave a note into the Office letterbox.

**Thank you** for contributions to the weekly envelope collection, which goes to support the Parish projects, to the Easter Collection, which is for the support of the priests. Your support is always appreciated and needed. Please leave your contributions into the Parish Office. You may find it more convenient if you set up an account transfer using the following information: Account name: Thomastown Church Parochial Current Account. BIC: BOFIIIE2D. IBAN: IE39 BOFI 9060 9911 7117 80. For Easter Offerings use the following information: Account name: Thomastown Church Parochial Clergy Fund Account. BIC: BOFIIIE2D. IBAN: IE50 BOFI 9060 9932 7313 85. Please include your name under 'narrative' or 'reference', and we will assign address for our records.

Thank you for €800 which you have contributed to **Trocaire**. Please send in further money to the Office, or forward directly to Trocaire.

**Accord establishes support phone line to help relationships during COVID 19:** To help support marriage and relationships in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, Accord has established a new relationship support phone line which will be staffed by experienced couples and relationships counsellors. This will be a free service, but calls are charged at a local rate. The support line is open from 9.00am – 8.00pm Monday to Friday and will be contacted at 015313331.

This Sunday, 3 May, is Vocations or **Good Shepherd Sunday**, the dedicated annual day for Catholics around the world to offer special prayers to encourage vocations from families and parishes to the priesthood and to religious life. In your prayers this week please pray that the Good Shepherd enlist the help of people who will serve the People of God as priests and religious.

Pope Francis is encouraging the faithful to pray **the Rosary** during the month of May, when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. He provides prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that he will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all for all of us.

*In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.*

*Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.*

*Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.*

*Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone. Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus. Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.*

*Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.*

*Beloved Mother help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.*

*Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.*

*To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, O we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary.*