

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER 05th January 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 05th January 2020

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	10.00am
	Monday Feast of The Epiphany of the Lord Mass	11.30am
	Monday Feast of The Epiphany of the Lord Mass	07.30pm
	Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday Mass	09.30am
	Wednesday Lectio Divina in Mercy Chapel	10.00am
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00pm
St. Columba's Hospital	Sunday morning Mass	11.30am
	Monday Feast of The Epiphany of the Lord Mass	10.00am
	Monday & Thursday Mass	10.00am

11.30am Sunday Masses will take place as follows: -

St. Columba's	05 th January
Chapel Hill	12 th January
St. Columba's	19 th January
Mong	26 th January.

Deaths/Anniversaries: Jacqui Doyle, Carrickmourne (10am Mass); **Dick, Mary & Con Moore**, Colmcille (7.30pm Mass Monday)

Mass Intentions Next Weekend: Pat Higginbotham, Castle Avenue (Months Mind Mass 6pm) & **Nuala Deluca, Dublin (6pm Mass); Michael Walsh**, Friars Hill (6pm Mass); **May & Eddie Fenlon** (6pm Mass); **Betty & Jim Dockery** (6pm Mass); **Frances & Patrick Lannon**, Station Road (6pm Mass); **Names placed on Memorial Tree in Super Valu** (6pm Mass); **Mary Dunne**, Jerpont Church. (10am Mass); **Noel Dempsey**, Bawnskeha (11.30am Mass)

Adoration will resume on 6th January, beginning with Mass at 10am at the Chapel at St. Columba's Hospital, and will continue at the Hospital Chapel, rather than the Mercy Chapel at the Parish Church.

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet at the Parish Office on Wednesday at 7.30pm.

The Ossory Times, published four times yearly, gives account of a variety of things happening in the Diocese and brings up other topics worth chewing over. The current publication is available at Masses this weekend, and at the Parish Office.

Social Dance at Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny on Friday, 10th January 2020. Dancing to "Checkers" from 9.00pm to Midnight Admission: €10. All proceeds to Group 174, The Irish Pilgrimage Trust bringing young people with special needs to Lourdes at Easter.

Chair Based Exercise classes for older adults in Thomastown recommence in the Community Centre on Wednesday January 15th from 11am to 12. An 8-week block costs €25. It's a recent initiative as part of Age Friendly Town and we need as many as possible attending to make it sustainable going forward. Also, we do our registrations online now and many older people struggle with that. There are numbers on the poster that people can contact to get registered and the library in Thomastown can also help. If you have any further queries please contact Seamus Nugent, Community Sports Development Officer, Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership, John's Green House, John's Green, Kilkenny telephone 056 7794957 / 087 3567884.

Rome Pilgrimage: The Ossory Adult Faith Development group is leading a pilgrimage to Rome (August 24th - 29th 2020). These days in the eternal city are an opportunity through art and sacred sites to unlock knowledge of our faith and to deepen our understanding of God. Anyone interested can contact afd@ossory.ie or 056 7753624.

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 (Rol) 1800 303 416, Mobile number for Hearing Impaired Clients +353 (0) 85-8022859. Website: www.towardshealing.ie

Happy New Year!! It's not so long since we were approaching 2000, and people wiser than you or I advised that computers wouldn't be able to handle the new calendar, and that planes would fallout of the sky. Twenty years later and the world faces more challenges – global warming, tribalism, Brexit, a general election, etc. At Church level, - I won't say we are embracing, rather maybe learning to live with – change, with our Pastoral Areas and new Mass times. Again, it will take imagination, courage and big heartedness to deal with those challenges. In a world of constant change, you and I can make a difference, not so much on the big picture, but locally. Didn't someone say one time 'Think global, act local'.

I take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to all who have been doing that over the course of the past year. Thanks for being a good neighbour; thanks for being a good parishioner, playing your part in the life of the Parish. The mind travels to sports and culture, not forgetting the Community Centre.

I think of the various Church groups, the Sisters and Mgr. Cassin, whom I'm very happy to have as a neighbour and colleague, the Parish Council, with Bernie Dempsey as Chairperson, and of the Parish Finance Committee, whose Chairperson is Fionnula Taylor. A new addition in the past year has been the St. Colmcille's Pastoral Area Council, with Richard Moore as Chairperson. I think too of the Vincent de Paul Society. Thanks too to the staff and Board of Management of our Parish School. Thanks to all who serve in our Churches – sacristans, choirs, musicians, servers, collectors, readers, Eucharistic ministers, children's liturgy leaders, 'do this in memory' leaders, and 'You shall be my witnesses' leaders, co-ordinators of Adoration, cleaners, florists, and many more. Thanks to envelope distributors and money counters. Thanks to the Community Scheme workers at the Church grounds and Cemetery and to Paddy Daly who looks after the shrubs at the Church. Thanks to Anne and Deirdre at the Parish Office. You all make a difference. Thank you!! Each year we invite new people to actively lend a hand. And I assure you of a place in my prayers and am very happy each week to offer Mass for all the people of the Parish – one of the responsibilities of the Parish Priest.
Fr. Dan Bolland.