

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

5th July 2020

Parish Priest:

Fr. Dan Bolland

Mobile 087 6644858

Email: bollarddan@gmail.com

Website www.thomastownparish.ie

Radio: fm108

Parish Office:

Tel No 056 7793191

Opening Hours Tues. Wed. Thur. Fri. 10 - 1pm

Email: thomastown@ossory.ie

Facebook: Thomastown Parish

Masses this week beginning 5th July:

At the Parish Church on **Sunday** we will have Mass at 10am and at midday.

During the second and fourth weeks of the month we will have Mass in Chapel Hill and Mong. Strange times bring about change, so this is a temporary arrangement, and please God we will in time also be able to return to the Hospital for Sunday Mass.

On **Monday** and **Wednesday** we will have Mass at 9.30am.

On

Friday we will have Mass at 7.30pm. These Masses will also be available at 108fm.

On **Thursday** we will have Mass at St. Columba's Hospital only for the patients.

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

RTÉnow @ 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.

Deaths and anniversaries: **Nancy Skehan**, Newtown Terrace (6pm Mass); **John Morrissey**, Clogregg (10am); **Nina Cattigan**, Roscommon (10am Mass); **Mitchel Walsh**, Jerpont Abbey (11.30am Mass); **Sheila Treacy**, Ballinamona; **Mary O'Reilly**, Ladywell Street; **Brendan Griffin**, Kilmurry; **Patrick (Paud) Kelly Snr**; May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend:

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.

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.

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.

The Report of the Parish Finances for 2019 is published and is available at the back of the Church. The Committee thanks you wholeheartedly for your support during the past year and counts on that support for the future.

The Roadmap for reopening Society and Business: At last our Churches have opened for Masses with you, the People of God joining physically. It is wonderful that we will gather together in the 'Teach an Phobail' once more. There is an element of anxiety, like when shops and offices reopen, as we seek to make sure that all who gather are safe from the corona virus, and so we must put some 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, should stay at home and, if possible, participate, as now, via webcam, social media, television or radio. The same applies to those who have been in recent contact with someone who has the virus, in accordance with public health advice.

- 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. Whereas we could take about 90 people, only 50 people will be admitted to the Church for Mass at this time, according to State regulations. Those coming will be asked for their names and telephone number, to help tracing if there should be an occurrence of the virus in the area. We will have stewards on hand to help in this regard. For that reason, please come to Church in good time.

- Once the number threshold 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. Why not wear a mask! The PPC and stewards will see to regular cleaning and sanitising of shared spaces.

- To protect physical distancing, we won't call on our wonderful servers for the moment.

- At all times Eucharistic Ministers will give Communion in the hand. For those who remain outside during Mass, Communion will be distributed at the Church steps.

- Collection baskets won't be passed around during Mass. The congregation is asked to make its contributions at the box at the door instead.

- 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.

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. The support line is open from 9.00am – 8.00pm Monday to Friday and will be contacted at 015313331.

Towards Healing Counselling & Support Services is available to survivors of Church, Religious and Institutional abuse. 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

Evelyn Waugh wrote a play about Helena, mother of the emperor Constantine. In it Helena is meditating on the coming of the Wise Men to the crib. They arrive late, missing the angels. Unlike the simple barefoot shepherds who just ran over the grass to adore without a second thought, the Wise Men had travelled laboriously with their cumbersome gifts. In Jerusalem they made a diplomatic call on Herod – because one does, after all, present one's credentials to the local authorities. Helena understands and pities them. For her they represent those who are confused by knowledge and speculation, and who stand in danger by reason of their talents. Simple faith is a shining and beautiful thing. There has to be a space too for those whose faith is threatened by their cleverness.