

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

7th June 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 7th June 2020

Here in Thomastown: Mass will be celebrated on 108fm at 6pm on Saturday and 10am on Sunday. The Parish Council is working to make Sunday Mass available on UTube. We failed last Sunday, but hopefully will have more success this 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

Mooncoin www.mooncoinparish.ie

Deaths and anniversaries: **Mgr. Jim Cassin**, Thomastown, who died on Friday, **Joe Maher**, Castleknock and formerly Ladywell (Months mind Mass 10am); **John Maher**, Durrow (6pm Mass); **Ellen O'Rourke and Mary O'Rourke**, Newtown; **Tommy Delaney**, Pipe Street (10am Mass); **Larry Walsh**, Cappagh, **Patrick Walsh**, Cappagh, **The O'Leary family**, Pleberstown; **Maureen and Donal Cullinane**, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: Esther and Jack Woods, Newtown Terrace (6pm Mass).

We're saddened at the death of **Mgr. Jim Cassin**. From Coolroebeag, he was ordained in 1972, worked in Hexham and Newcastle in the north of England for two years, and returned to work as Professor, later Director of Formation at the Seminary at St. Kieran's College and later he became President of the College. In 2004 Mgr. Jim went to work with the Bishop's Conference at Maynooth, until his retirement due to poor health in 2017. He came to live here in Thomastown in 2018. May he now rest in peace in God's presence.

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.

Colmcille Cemetery Our annual gathering at Colmcille Cemetery takes place around the feast of St. Colmcille. Unfortunately, gatherings are unwise this year. For those who would regularly attend, call down in your own time on Tuesday, while observing social distancing. Fr. Dan will bless the graves. on Tuesday morning We think of the lovely inscription to be found there: *May the meek and festive countenance of Jesus Christ appear to thee that he might give thee a place around those who are to stand around him forever.*

Family members of the deceased buried at **St. Mary's Cemetery** are upset at people dumping old wreaths etc near the graves, and behind the wall near Lidl. Please take with you old flowers and flower vases, old wreaths, and other materials you may have no further use for.

The Roadmap for reopening Society and Business indicates that community worship will resume July 20th. The Bishop is asking each parish to consider plans so that our coming together in Church will respect physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, etc. The Parish Council is considering how to make sure that when we come to Church – whether to say a few quiet prayers during the day, or whenever we gather for prayers and Mass – that everyone is safe from the coronavirus. When public Masses return, we may require 'stewards' to see that all is carried out appropriately.

Our Parish Church is open during the day, for people to call for private prayer. The door remains open so that people don't have to open doors or hold door handles. Please observe social distancing, and use the gel on entering, before departing, and after you light a candle. The Sacrament of Baptism with reduced congregation, can be celebrated, as can the Sacrament of Marriage.

Attendance at funerals allows for 25 people to attend - and only members of the household, close family or close friends if the deceased has no household or family members.

People think of gathering for Cemetery Masses at this time of year. The customary gatherings at Colmcille and St. Mary's won't take place this year because it is not wise for people to come together. We will seek to uphold the spirit of the occasion while doing it differently. Meanwhile, keep up the good work! This weekend we have new regulations. People will be able to travel, and visit. The challenge we face, and are dealing with great courage and generosity, is one that we can complete only if we deal with it together.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of Coronavirus. Staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance. Alone is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

The Trinity: *One day two learned men were walking along the seashore – maybe you and a companion in those times when we walked on seashores. They were discussing the mystery of God. However, they weren't making much progress.*

They came across a small boy playing on the beach. He had dug a hole in the sand and kept running down to the sea, dipping his toy bucket in the water, and running back up the beach to empty the water into the hole. The two men watched him as he ran back and forth, filling and emptying his bucket. Upon enquiring what he was doing, he told them he was emptying the ocean into the hole he had dug in the sand. The two smiled and walked on, continuing their discussion about God.

Then one of the men said to the other 'we were amused when the youngster told us what he was trying to do. What we are doing is just the same. It is as impossible for anyone to understand the mystery of God as it is to empty the ocean into the hole the boy dug. With our limited minds we can't understand God fully. We can relate to Him though. Let's do it.