

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

09th August 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 09th August

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	10.00am
	Sunday morning Mass	12.00noon
	Monday, Wednesday Mass	09.30am
	Friday evening Mass	07.30pm
	Saturday Feast of the Assumption Mass	10.00am
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00pm

On **Tuesday** we will have Mass at St. Columba's Hospital only for the patients at 11.30am.

Deaths and anniversaries: Please remember in your prayers this weekend **Anne Cassin**, Boher, who died during the week, and **Bobbie & Annie Power**, Grennan View (6pm Mass); **Paul Stapleton**, Legan (10am Mass); **Catherine Burke**, Castle Avenue (10am Mass); **Michael Kennedy**, Brownsbarn (12 noon Mass); **John Byrne**, Ballylynch; **Declan Fennelly**, Oldtown, Stoneyford; **Mary Doyle**, Kilfane; **Michael Walsh**, Jerpont Abbey; **Monica Villalard**, Richmond, Surrey; **Una Long**, Perth, Australia; **Bridget Power**, Castleview, Grennan and her son **Michael Power**; **Anna Power**, Smithstown; **Eileen Kirwan Burns**, Hounslow, England & Inistioige. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Mass Intentions Next Weekend:

Confirmation 2020 will take place in this Parish on Saturday 29th August. With restricted numbers, we plan to hold two ceremonies, with Mr. Delahunty's class at 10.30am and Mr. Robert's class at 12.15pm. One of the parents accompanying the young person will act in place of the Sponsor. We won't have Mass on the occasion. Meanwhile, the young people and parents will be invited to Mass on the week of the Confirmation ceremony.

To prepare the young people and their families for the Sacrament there are three videos available on the Diocesan website – www.ossory.ie Video one is titled 'Who is the Holy Spirit, and the difference the Spirit makes'. Video two is titled 'Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit'. Video Three is named 'The Confirmation Ceremony'. With each video there are worksheets to help the young people reflect on what they have watched. As Confirmation is a parish event – though attendance at the ceremony is limited this year because of the Coronavirus – please take time to look at the videos too, and remember the young people and their families in your prayer.

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.

Charity Tax Forms: We would appreciate it if the completed Form could be returned as soon as possible if not already returned.

Slimming World Thomastown re-opens Tuesday 11th August under current guidelines on a pre-booked time slots. For further information contact Catherine 089 4137300.

The Roadmap for reopening Society and Business: As society holds its breath, and continues to exercise vigilance, we must seek to make sure that all who gather in Church are safe from the corona virus. We are doing well, and please continue to observe the small things that help to keep us safe, such as social distancing – 2 metres, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, mask wearing. In Church our stewards seek to keep things right, so please accept their directions. 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 Corona virus infection, or have been in contact with someone who has had the virus, should stay at home and, if possible, participate, as now, via webcam, social media, television or radio.

The annual **Youth 2000 Summer Festival** is Ireland's largest Catholic Youth event, but this year, for the first time, it will be streamed live on the 14th-16th of August.

Hear talks and workshops from some of the best Catholic speakers including Fr. John Harris OP, Dr. Scott Hahn, John Pridmore, Petroc Willey (University of Steubenville), Katie Ascough, Sr. Colleen Mattingly, Sr. Mary Hanrahan, Bill Keimig (University of Steubenville), Beth Davis (Blessed is She) and others from Ireland and around the world.

Youth 2000 Ireland's motto is 'Youth leading Youth to the Heart of the Church' and we do this by leading Eucharistic-centred festivals, retreats and prayer meetings throughout the country.

Register FREE at www.youth2000.ie/summerfestival2020

Explore your Faith with the Veritas Blog and the Veritas YouTube channel.

On the weekly blog Veritas shares information, thoughts and prayers aimed at those wanting to know more about the Catholic Faith and the ways in which VERITAS products can help inspire you. The YouTube videos have lots of information about the products with videos from the Veritas Publication authors as well as topical and seasonal videos.

Check out the Veritas blog and YouTube channel today.

The sea somehow can teach us about God and the next world.

First and foremost, the sea is bigger than us – in fact, it's the biggest thing our eyes can glimpse in this life.

But the sea is also incredibly mysterious. We can't see the deep sea because natural light can't reach it, and we can't swim in it because the pressure would crush us like grapes. The sea is also wild, powerful, and unpredictable. You must have respect its strength, and always expect the unexpected when diving in.

The sea is bigger than us, the sea is mysterious, and the sea is wild – and so it is with God. If you don't know that God is wild, you don't know God. If you think God is tame and predictable... that's not God. God is wild, like the sea.

If the ocean is the perfect image of the eternal God, then surfing can only be the perfect image of the joy of dwelling in that mystery – a foretaste, in fact, of heaven. The experience of surfing feels like a confrontation with something ultimate. The experience of catching the perfect wave is ineffable and irresistible; it transcends all fear, boredom, and time; and it creates in us a sense of joy, awe, and even ecstasy. Surfing makes us become little children again.

The experience of that high isn't limited to believers. This may for some people be a first glimmer of transcendence.

God, like the ocean, is bigger, lovelier, and in some ways wilder than all of our conceptions and experiences, and that the whole point of cooperating with the waves of grace – like the whole point of riding the waves of the sea – is to fill us with joy.