

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

10th May 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 10th 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

Mooncoin www.mooncoinparish.ie

Deaths and anniversaries: Bridget Kehoe, Dunan, **Margaret Byrne**, Ballinamona, **Fr. David Gaffney SJ**, Dublin, **Pat Roche**, Logan Street, **Joe Maher**, Dublin and formerly Ladywell all died recently. **Anniversaries: Danny McPherson**, Maudlin St. (6pm Mass); **Marie Woods**, Cloghbrody Heights (6pm Mass); **Mary O'Keefe**, Kilmurry (10am Mass); **Paddy Kennedy, Catherine and Peter Kennedy, Jack Kennedy, Pat Lalor**. May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: Joe Murray, Castle Avenue (6pm 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. 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: BOFIE2D. IBAN: IE39 BOFI 9060 9911 7117 80. For Easter Offerings use the following information: Account name: Thomastown Church Parochial Clergy Fund Account. BIC: BOFIE2D. IBAN: IE50 BOFI 9060 9932 7313 85. Please include your name under 'narrative' or 'reference', and we will assign address for our records.

First Communions 2020: The girls and boys of Second Class, taught by Ms. Moore and Ms. Tyrrell, were to receive First Communion next Saturday, 16th May. Unfortunately, with Schools shut, First Communions throughout the Diocese and country are postponed – presumably until the children are back in School. So, the joy and excitement leading up to the big day for the children and families will have to be held over for some time. Meanwhile, we think of something they miss most these days – the opportunity for a good hug from grandparents. So, let's hold the excitement for a while more, and meanwhile be kind to our families, be faithful to the prayers, and maybe send a greeting to grandparents, godparents, and anyone else who would be sharing the big day.

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, 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.

Weddings in Ireland: New figures released by the Central Statistics Office show that a Catholic church wedding is still the most popular choice for couples getting married in Ireland, with 8,863 couples or 45.1 per cent celebrating a traditional Catholic wedding last year. That figure is down from 93.2 per cent in 1990, however. The number of couples choosing non-religious ceremonies has risen to 41 per cent, just 4 per cent less than those choosing a Catholic ceremony. Statistics also show that couples marry later. The average bride is now 34.8 years old, and a groom, 36.8 years old.

Virus is not 'judgment of God': BISHOP Brendan Leahy of Limerick has criticised Christians who claim that God is punishing the world with the Covid-19 virus, saying this kind of theology develops when people who think the world is in a bad state "project their way of thinking about things on to God". At the beginning of April, a DUP councillor claimed Northern Ireland was "reaping the judgment of God" for the legalisation of abortion and same-sex marriage. Speaking to The Tablet magazine Bishop Leahy said that Pope Francis, and Jesus' own teachings in the Gospel, make it clear that God did not use suffering to judge humanity. "I am saying this is not God punishing us," Bishop Leahy said. "To say that God is punishing us through the virus is a form of blasphemy." He said that this does not mean "we can't learn something from the crisis. God is all the time at work. God can draw good out of everything – even out of evil, and so maybe we can learn lessons at this time." He said people had said that the lockdown had given them more time to think and reflect and more time with their families. "There is something happening in people's lives and I would say that is a sign to us that God is not missing in this experience.

Pope Francis invites the Church to **celebrate Laudato si' week** from 16 to 24 May 2020. In view of the 5th anniversary of the publication of the Encyclical *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis recorded a video message. In it, he addresses Catholic communities around the world. "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who will come after us, to children who are growing up?" Pope Francis asks in the video message. "Motivated by this question", he says, "I would like to invite you to participate in *Laudato Si'* Week. It is a global campaign on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the encyclical letter *Laudato si': On the care of our common home*." "Let's take care of creation, a gift of our good Creator God." You can find suggestions available on the [Laudato si' Week website](#).

Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice: The feast day of Edmund Ignatius Rice was last Tuesday, 5th March. Born in Callan in 1762 Edmund Rice moved to Waterford to live with his uncle and work in his merchant business. He lived most of his life in Waterford, dying there in 1844. He married in 1789 and little is known about his married life. After an accident in which his wife died and left his daughter disabled and with learning difficulties, he devoted the later part of his life to the education of the poor. In 1802 he founded his first school in Waterford (Mount Sion) where he was joined by Thomas Grosvenor and Patrick, both also from Callan. He is buried in Mt Sion CBS Monastery. He founded the Irish Presentation Brothers and the Irish Christian Brothers. James Street CBS Kilkenny was founded in 1860; the primary School was established in 1953.