

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

12th July 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 12th July

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	10.00am
	Sunday morning Mass	12.00noon
	Monday, Wednesday Mass	09.30am
	Friday evening Mass	07.30pm
	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: **Mary O'Connor**, Walled Gardens, Mount Juliet, recently deceased. **John Comerford**, Burrells Park (10.00am Mass); **Anne Donnelly**, Jerpoint Church; **Mary Grace**, Grennan; **Deceased Members Cassin Family**, Coolroemore. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend:

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

RTEnow @ 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.

The Parish Office will be staffed Tuesday and Friday. Continue to contact the Office, when unattended, 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.

Summer Camp 2020 Super Summer Activities Camp will run in St Marys National School starting on Monday 27th to Friday 31st July. For further information on bookings, covid 19 policy, registration check on www.fitnessbydesign.ie or contact Declan Wall 086 1246650.

Thomastown Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Mercy Chapel.

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 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. Thanks to all who joined us in Church last week and were attentive to the standards of care we have put in place. Already we hear of spikes in the occurrence of the virus, so we need to take care, not because of fear, but for everybody's safety and wellbeing.

- 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, 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, wearing masks, 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.

The Little Sisters of the Poor run a Nursing Home in Ferrybank. To raise funds for their work they are having a fund raising 10km cycle on the Greenway on Saturday 18th July. Some staff & volunteers are taking part.

If you would like to sponsor us, please follow the link <https://www.idonate.ie/lspwaterford>
Please spread the word, pass this on to your families and friends.

Some grains of wheat were found in the tomb of one of the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Someone took some of them and planted and watered them. To the amazement of everyone, the grains came to life and began to grow, after five thousand years lying in a tomb. The seed of God's word, once dropped into the human heart, never dies. It's never too late to act on the word of God. 'A word is dead when it is said, some say. I say it just begins to live that day' (Emily Dickinson).