

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

13th October 2019

Parish Priest:**Fr. Dan Bollard****Tel 056 7724279****Mobile 087 6644858****Email: dbollard@eircom.net****Radio: fm108****Parish Office:****Tel No 056 7793191****Opening Hours Tues. Wed. Thur. Fri. 10 - 1pm****Email: thomastown@ossory.ie****Website www.thomastownparish.ie****Facebook: Thomastown Parish****CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 13th October 2019**

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| Parish Church | Sunday morning Mass | 11.00am |
| | Monday, Wednesday & Friday Mass | 09.30am |
| | Monday Adoration in Mercy Chapel | 10.00am |
| | Monday Adoration in Mercy Chapel | 07/08pm |
| | Wednesday Lectio Divina in Mercy Chapel | 10.00am |
| | Saturday Vigil Mass | 07.00pm |
| St. Columba's Hospital | Sunday Morning Mass | 09.30am |
| | Tuesday Mass & Thursday Mass | 10.00am |

Mass times in Chapel Hill & Mong for the coming weeks.**Mass in Chapel Hill** 19th October at 5.30pm & 02nd November at 5.30pm**Mass in Mong** 12th October at 5.30pm & 26th October at 5.30pm

Deaths/Anniversaries: **Liam Burke**, Castle Avenue and **Mary Barron**, Ballyconway, died recently and **Elizabeth Walsh**, Kilmurry (7pm Mass): **Maura Byrne**, Carrickmourne (9.30am Mass). May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions Next Weekend: **Michael Bookle**, Newtown (Months Mind Mass 7pm); **Michael Conlon**, Legan (7pm Mass); **Kitty Holden**, Oldtown (9.30am Mass), **Kathleen Stapleton**, Legan (11am Mass); **Dixie Doyle**, Carrickmourne (11am Mass), **Kathleen Denieffe**, Newtown (11am Mass).

Adoration: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is spreading to many parishes in this Diocese of Ossory. So often we are like Martha, the lady in the Gospel who was very busy. We ought to spend some time like her sister Mary, who sat and spent time with Jesus. That is what Adoration is all about. Someone will come to speak with us at Masses in two weeks' time.

October Stations A reminder – please make your contribution for the October Stations, one of the six collections for the support of the priest in our Parish.

Mission Month: Next weekend our parish will celebrate World Mission Sunday. We will hold a collection to support overseas missionaries, many of whom work in some of the world's most improvised communities. Go to www.wmi.ie to learn more about World Mission Ireland.

Ministers of the Word: Mass times are due to change at the beginning of Advent. Due to the changes it will be necessary to hold a Meeting of all Readers of the Word to draw up a new rota to suit Reader's needs. This Meeting will take place during the second half of October. Very grateful for the present readers, this is a great time to invite new people to proclaim God's Word in Church. So, new people, please consider making yourself available to read. Contact Joe Dunphy, Fr. Dan or the Parish Office.

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. There will be a **Public Rosary in Inistioge Square** on the 14th October at 3 o'clock in honour of Our Lady of Fatima. All are welcome and bring a friend.

Thomastown Parish Finance Committee will meet on Monday at the Parish Office.

Parish Records: We are looking for a parishioner or better still parishioners who would be interested in genealogy to volunteer to create a spreadsheet of Baptism and Marriage records of the parish from 1910 to 1960s. We often receive requests from families that have left Thomastown and would like to research their roots. The ideal person would have a good knowledge of Thomastown and the surrounding areas and be computer literate.

A simple Prayer Course, based on: How to PRAY the 'Our Father.'

"Everyone prays, but no one finds it easy. We all need a little help." (Pete Greig)

Venue: St Kieran's College. Date: Monday 14 October (six weeks). Time: 7.30 pm – 8.45pm.

Contact: Pauline Haughney (083 3956945) text or call for a place or email afd@ossory.ie

The Irish Blood Transfusion Service will visit Thomastown on Thursday 17th October, with the Clinic at St. Mary's National School, 5pm to 8.30pm.

Thomastown Parish Senior Citizens Association: To all current, past and new members Thomastown Age Friendly are looking to host free courses in computing, cookery, yoga, makeup etc to name a few. If you are interested, please call in to the shop on Thursday or Friday for further information and register your interest or call 0868237526.

Could you offer a short break to a person with a disability? Home Share is a family-based respite service being developed in the South East. An allowance as well as ongoing training and support are provided to host families. Home Next training date 16th and 23rd November 2019. For More information contact: 086 0148212.

Tidy Towns: The following officers were elected for the coming year at a recent meeting: Seamus Quigley is Chairperson, John Phelan and Nicky Davis are joint Secretaries, Collette Murphy is Treasurer, and Rosaleen Garry is PRO. Please come to a meeting at Thomastown Community Centre at 7pm on Wednesday 16th October. Enquiries to 087-7728170.

St. Colmcille's Pastoral Area comprising Thomastown and Inistioge. That is appropriate because of the local ties with the Saint – the parish Church in Inistioge is dedicated to him, and we have a townland called after him. Going into this new time there will be lessons to be learnt from his life. Members of the two Parish Councils have formed a Pastoral Area Council. One of the first, and most difficult, tasks addressed at the meetings was the number of Masses in the area, based on the number of priests and the desire for a better quality of liturgy with fewer Masses. Bishop Farrell listed several principles to be considered.

Applying those principles, new Mass schedules will apply throughout the Diocese at Advent. So, both parishes will have the new Mass schedule beginning 1st Sunday of Advent 2019, that is 30th November, as follows: **Saturday Vigil Masses will be in Thomastown at 6pm, and in The Rower at 7.30pm. On Sunday Mass will be in Thomastown at 10am and in Inistioge at 11.30am. While there are two priests in the Area and both are available for Masses, there will be Mass in Clodiagh at 9.30am on Sunday, and at St. Columba's Hospital at 11.30am on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month, in Chapel Hill on the second Sunday of each month and in Mong on the fourth Sunday of each Month.** All parishioners will join in the Parish Church for Holy Week, Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. These arrangements will last for this coming liturgical year. From Advent 2020 Mass will be celebrated in Mong and Chapel Hill on alternate first Sundays of each month. Please note that this is a change from previous arrangements and has been agreed in conversations between the Parish Council and reps from the Chapel Hill and Mong Church communities. This new schedule will be reviewed at the end of two years.

It was decided too that from Advent Sunday Funeral Masses won't be held in the Area.

Please God we will all approach and embrace this new time with openness, courage and hope.