

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

17th May 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 17th 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: **Joe Murray**, Castle Avenue (6pm Mass); **Tom and Breed Skehan**, Newtown (6pm Mass); **Jack Lanigan**, Badgerock (6pm Mass); **Brigid Kirwan**, Goatsbridge (10am Mass); **Maureen Hennessy** (nee Meegan) Ballyduff and London. May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend:

First Communion 2020: We think of the children of Thomastown, and indeed of other parishes also, who would have received First Communion this weekend in normal circumstances. Please God the opportunity will present itself when School starts again. We ask Jesus to be very close to the children and pray that they welcome his friendship even if they don't for the moment receive the Sacrament. We think too of families – some family members would have travelled a long way to be at what is a special family gathering too. Take the opportunity this weekend to be thoughtful of other family members and let them know you are thinking of them.

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 COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. Alone is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

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.

The Roadmap for reopening Society and Business – this is where we enter a challenging time, as we begin, gently and gradually, to start opening things again. Monday 18th will mark a start to this. Let's all try to observe the levels of safety so that the coronavirus is managed, and a recurrence is prevented. The current restrictions will remain in place, while some businesses open once more.

You have been doing great over the past few weeks – since before St. Patrick's Day. Keep up the good work. Think of the 'saints next door', and we thank God for all who have shown kindness and thoughtfulness to others. Thanks to all who have been working in our shops, and all keeping essential services going. Our hats go off to the staff at St. Columba's, who work in trying circumstances to show care for the residents there. The residents – please God they will soon be able to receive visitors.

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. Attendance at funerals is kept to a maximum of 10 people - and only members of the household, close family or close friends if the deceased has no household or family members.

The roadmap 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, hygiene, etc. The Parish Council will meet next week via Zoom to consider this. Still we rely on the 'house churches', your home where you and the family pray as a family and join the Masses on radio and television. We must continue to be the People of God, not gathered physically for the moment, but united in prayer and care.

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 asks "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who will come after us, to children who are growing up?" "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 fifth anniversary of the encyclical letter *Laudato si': On the care of our common home.*" You can find suggestions available on the [Laudato si' Week website](#).

Healing the Spirit: Janet E Sahafi wrote this book some years ago, and it is available to you at Amazon.uk and can be downloaded as a kindle for free or print it and share it. You'll be given questions to explore and write about. You'll find where your spirit may have been wounded or side-tracked. You'll remember your heart's desire and receive tools to remove obstacles on your path. *Check it out.*

Janet will lead our 30 Minutes Prayer next Wednesday at midday.

Crochet or knit a square to help vulnerable children in South Africa. Kilkenny County Council Arts Office has initiated a blanket project to help you use up of all that extra wool you have lying around your house and to help improve the lives of children in South Africa. Knit or crochet a square 7" x 7" and your squares will be stitched together into beautiful blankets for the children supported by the Elkana Childcare charity in South Africa. Call the Arts Office on 056 779 4203 or e mail bernadette.roberts@kilkennycoco.ie We ask that for now you collect your knitted squares at home and we will send out further instructions regarding collection in due course.

Towards Healing Counselling & Support Services is available to survivors of Church, Religious and Institutional abuse. The Towards Healing director is Mr Michael Lyons and the service provides lay independent and fully accredited counsellors to support survivors. Towards Healing may be contacted by Freephone (RoI) 1800 303 416, Mobile number for Hearing Impaired Clients +353 (0) 85-8022859. Website: www.towardshealing.ie

Ossory Pilgrimage to Lourdes To mark those days when our diocese should be on pilgrimage in Lourdes the rosary will be prayed for five nights at 8 pm using the WebCam facilities of Urlingford parish church. To login simply enter Urlingford parish WebCam