

## THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

19<sup>th</sup> July 2020

<b>Parish Priest:</b> <b>Fr. Dan Bolland</b> <b>Mobile 087 6644858</b> <b>Email: bollanddan@gmail.com</b> <b>Website <a href="http://www.thomastownparish.ie">www.thomastownparish.ie</a></b> <b>Radio: fm108</b>	<b>Parish Office:</b> <b>Tel No 056 7793191</b> <b>Opening Tuesday and Friday 10 - 1pm</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:thomastown@ossory.ie">thomastown@ossory.ie</a></b> <b>Facebook: Thomastown Parish</b>
--	--

### CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July

<b>Parish Church</b>	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: Sheelagh Doherty**, Carrickmoure; **Rita Kirwan**, Jerpoint Church & **Eileen Delaney**, Lower Conahy, Ballyragget recently deceased; **Stephen Roche**, Grennan, who died a month ago; **Vanessa McGarry**, Jerpoint West (6pm Mass); **Matthew Dunne**, Hillview; **James Reid**, **Joe Reid**, **Richard Reid**, **Gretta Reid**, Knockard (12pm Mass); **Catherine Walsh**, Newtown (12pm Mass); **Declan Roe**, Kilfane East; **James and Margaret Kelly**, Knockbrack; **Thomas, Aggie and Elsie Kelly**, Jerpoint; **Maria Hoban**, Bawnskeha; **Joseph Challoner**, 31 Cloghabrody. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

**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

RTÉnow @ 10.30am

Locally Mass is available from the following:

St John's Parish [www.stjohnskilkenny.com](http://www.stjohnskilkenny.com)

Mooncoin [www.mooncoinparish.ie](http://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.

**Parish Newsletter by email.....** We can now distribute the weekly Newsletter by email. Please drop an email request to [thomastown@ossory.ie](mailto: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](http://www.fitnessbydesign.ie) or contact Declan Wall 086 1246650.

**Thomastown Parish Seniors Citizens Shop** re-opens 23rd July. New Covid 19 opening hours are 10am-2pm every Thursday and Friday. Donations accepted during these hours. Outside of these hours contact 086 8237526.

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

### Diocese of Ossory Clerical Appointments 2020:

Fr. Francis Purcell, St. John's Kilkenny, to become PP Inistioge,

Fr. Dan Carroll, PP Danesfort to become Team Leader St. John's Parish, Kilkenny,

Fr. Mark Condon to become PP Danesfort,

Fr. Raymond Dempsey to further studies,

Fr. Eamonn O'Gorman, already PP of Ballyragget and Conahy, to be PP Lisdowney also,

Fr. Pat O'Farrell retires as PP Lisdowney to be CC to the Pastoral Area of Ballyragget, Conahy and Lisdowney,

Fr. William Hennessy, PP Castletown, to be PP Camross also,

Fr. Liam Taylor, PP Ballycallan to be Administrator Tullaroan also,

Dean Seamus McEvoy to retire.

As you know very well, the past four months have been a very difficult time for people in our country and all across the world. People of faith, as individuals and communities have not been immune to the challenges, the difficulties and the pain of this time. Both people and priests have found themselves in a situation of significant spiritual and pastoral challenge. The difficulty of the situation has been compounded by the additional age related and necessary restrictions on parishioners and priests. Even if the initial crisis has passed- and our gratitude is due to the significant dedication and sacrifice of those on the "front line" – the pandemic is not over, and continues to have a big impact on how we relate to each other, how we work in our parishes, and how we pray together. In sum, the pandemic continues to affect how we carry out our sacramental and pastoral mission in the parish and in the Church. Notwithstanding fear, tiredness and grief, priests endeavoured to stand with those bereaved and suffering even in the midst of the many restrictions and limitations imposed by the Government to curtail the spread of the virus. We have been blessed by their generosity and by the openness of both national and local media to use modern technology in all its forms, so that many people were able to continue to pray the Mass together, and to profess the faith which they feel in the depths of their hearts.

The very real challenges and risks of the pandemic may not be allowed to blind us to the broader pastoral situation in which we find ourselves and which had concerned us all long before the current crisis. It is important that parishes remain alert to the possibility that a priest who retires or is moved to another parish might not be replaced. While parishes in that situation will be looked after pastorally and administratively by the priests in the pastoral area, the loss of their priest is a very significant change in a parish. These challenges call us both laity and ordained, to discover new ways to serve and support each other as we seek to follow the Lord in a new time.

While I am concerned about the lack of candidates coming forward to offer themselves for diocesan priesthood, and to serve the sacramental and pastoral needs of our Church, I also know that our call is not to lose heart, but to hold on to the Lord's promise to "be with us until the end of the age" (see Matthew 28:20). Like the beloved disciple at the Last Supper, we are held close to the Lord (see John 13:23), always in his providential embrace. He is the one who guides our feet on the way of discipleship and peace (see Luke 1:79). And so, although we are beset by many well-founded concerns, let us lose neither hope nor trust in the Lord's loving care for us, and his closeness to every one of us, and to his Church.  
Bishop Dermot Farrell.

*Reflecting on his years in Stalin's labour camps, Alexander Solzhenitsyn had this to say: 'I learnt one great lesson from my years in prison camps. I learnt how people become evil and how they become good. Gradually I came to realise that the line that separates good from evil passes not between states, or between classes, or between political parties, but right through every human heart. Even in hearts that are overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retrained. And in the best of all hearts, there remains an unuprooted small corner of evil. (The Gulag Archipelago).*