

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

21ST June 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 21st June 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: Mary Tennyson, Firgrove, **Garda Colm Horkan**, Charlestown, Co. Mayo; **Paddy Ryan**, Legan (10am Mass); **Patrick Doolin**, Castle Avenue. May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: Bea McConville (6pm); **Mick and Mai Dunphy**, Ballyvoole (10am 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.

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.

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.

Family members of the deceased buried at **St. Mary's Cemetery** are upset at people dumping old wreaths etc near the graves, and behind the wall near Lidl. Please take with you old flowers and flower vases, old wreaths, and other materials you may have no further use for.

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

Father's Day occurs this weekend. Father's Day was founded in Spokane, Washington in 1910 by Sonora Smart Dodd, who was born in Arkansas. Her father, the Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, was a single parent who raised his six children in Arkansas. This year we can salute all Dads, specially all of you who had time to spend with your children, and maybe discovered the gift of parenthood anew.

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.

The Roadmap for reopening Society and Business: The Government has indicated that, **from 29th June**, it 'wants places of worship to resume services again, with precautions.' Resuming services must happen in a safe manner. So, the Bishops' Conference has published a detailed framework document, and a checklist regarding the steps that each parish must take before it re-opens its churches for the public celebration of Mass and the other sacraments. If we in Thomastown consider that we can meet all the guidelines, we must request permission from the Bishop to begin the public celebration of Masses on Monday 29th June. The Bishops say that disregard for the guidelines has the potential for our churches to become foci for new clusters which will not only lead to stricter lockdown measures but will put the lives of people – particularly the elderly and vulnerable – at risk. So, we need to ensure that we can meet the guidelines, and for that we will need your help, both to adhere to the guidelines, and to assist with putting them in place.

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, thereby of course reducing the number of people who will gather in Church at any time. We will have stewards on hand to help in this regard.

Good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will be essential. The PPC and stewards will see to regular cleaning and sanitising of shared spaces.

The Priory Institute in Tallaght offers a Summer course: **Theology, Spirituality and Religious Experience:** The course consists of 10 one-hour online lectures by Fr Pat Collins C.M. given over two weeks delivered entirely online. It is offered twice: 13 - 24 July and 10 - 21 August. Participants can interact on our e-learning platform and there will be a streamed question and answer session following the final lecture. Fr Pat Collins C.M., has lectured in All Hallows College, St Patrick's College Drumcondra and the Milltown Institute, on spirituality, theology and the psychology of religion. In recent years he has published a trilogy of books which are about the interface between subjective religious experience and objective Christian truth, *Guided by God: Ordinary and Charismatic Ways of Discovering God's Will*; *Prophecy: Truth for Today Light for Tomorrow*; and *Countdown to Doomsday: How Our World will End*, which is about apocalyptic prophecy. He helped to introduce the Alpha Course into the Republic of Ireland and is a founder member of the New Springtime Community in Dublin. Check at <https://prioryinstitute.com/events/summer-school-2020-theology,-spirituality-and-religious-experience>