

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

24th May 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 24th 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: Siobhan Stapleton, Kilfane (6pm Mass); **Billy Keating**, Ballydonnell (6pm Mass); **Billy Stapleton**, Ladywell (10am Months Mind Mass); **Ellie Roche**, Jerpoint Church (10am Mass); **Thomas and Nora Townsend**, Jerpoint; **Stasia and Michael Collins**, Norelands, **Ned Dack**, Castle Avenue; **Mai Power, Stephen Power, Jimmy Power, Esther Power, Peter de Loughry**. May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: Niall Walsh, Station Road (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.

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.

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

Roadmap for reopening Society and Business 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 is considering how to make sure that when we come to Church – whether to say a few quiet prayers during the day, or whenever we gather for prayers and Mass – that everyone is safe from the coronavirus.

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. Please observe social distancing, and use the gel on entering, before departing, and when you light a candle.

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.

People think of gathering for Cemetery Masses at this time of year. The customary gatherings at Colmcille and St. Mary's won't take place this year because it is not wise for people to come together. We will seek to uphold the spirit of the occasion while doing it differently.

Meanwhile, keep up the good work! The challenge we face, and are dealing with great courage and generosity, is one that we can complete only if we deal with it together.

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 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 email 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.

Every year **Trócaire** asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. This year, of course, it was not possible to return Trócaire boxes through schools or parishes in the usual way. This is the worst possible timing coming just as the world's poorest people need us most. Therefore, Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways

1. Online at www.trocaire.org
 2. By phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)
 3. By post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (ROI)
 4. You may find it more convenient if you set up an account transfer using the following information: Account name: Thomastown Church Parochial Current Account. BIC: BOFIE2D. IBAN: IE39 BOFI 9060 9911 7117 80. Please include 'Trocaire' under 'narrative' or 'reference'
- The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion. Visit Trocaire.org for more information.

Ascension: *This feast shows us the goal of our earthly journey.*

It is a goal that defies our imagination, and that gives us an eternal dimension to our lives.

However, we know nothing of the mystery of the beyond.

All we have are the words of Jesus: 'Where I am, you too will be.'

Lord, grant that the glitter of this world may not dim our hopes of eternal glory.

And by your unceasing care, guide our steps towards the life of glory.