

# THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

28<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Parish Priest:**

**Fr. Dan Bollard**

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**Radio: fm108**

**Parish Office:**

**Tel No 056 7793191**

**Opening Hours Tues. Wed. Thur. Fri. 10 - 1pm**

**Email: [thomastown@ossory.ie](mailto:thomastown@ossory.ie)**

**Facebook: Thomastown Parish**

**Masses this week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> June:**

At the Parish Church on **Sunday** we will have Mass at 10am on 108fm.

On **Monday, Wednesday and Thursday** we will have Mass at 9.30am. These Masses will also be available at 108fm.

As Masses resume, we will not continue to hold our 30 Minutes Prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the moment. Thanks to Sister Anna and Janet Sahafi for leading the prayers.

**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](http://www.stjohnskilkenny.com)

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

**Deaths and anniversaries: Mary Dunne (nee Byrne)**, Castlecumb, Knocktopher died recently;

**Bea McConville**, Low Street (6pm); **Mary Ryan**, Maudlin Street, (6pm); **Mick and Mai**

**Dunphy**, Ballyvoole (10am Mass), **Willie Walsh**, Cappagh, **Michael Walsh**, Cappagh;

**Nicholas Walsh**, Jerpoint Abbey; **Mary Ryan**, Kilfane; **Catherine and Liam Rice**, Carlow;

**Mary Travers; Ned Lawlor;**

May they rest in peace.

**Mass Intentions next weekend: Nancy Skehan**, Newtown Terrace (6pm Mass); **John Morrissey**,

Clogregg (10am); **Nina Cattigan**, Roscommon (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.

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.

**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.

**The Roadmap for reopening Society and Business:** At last our Churches will be opening for Masses with you, the People of God joining physically. It is wonderful that we will gather together in the 'Teach an Phobail' once more. There is an element of anxiety, like when shops and offices reopen, as we seek to make sure that all who gather are safe from the corona virus, and so we must put some guidelines in place.

- As we move forward take it for granted that things will change – our plans for this coming week may be very different from the plans we will put in place for the following week. We learn and adjust as we go on. Please be aware of this.

- 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).

- Church seating will be based on state regulations. Currently, only 50 can congregate for Mass. That figure will change. However, under current regulations, only 50 people will be admitted to the Church for Mass, and those coming will be asked for their names and telephone number, to help tracing if there should be an occurrence of the virus in the area. We will have stewards on hand to help in this regard. For that reason, please come to Church in good time.

- Once the number threshold is reached, others will be asked to remain outside – to join in the prayer in the Church grounds or listen to the car radio.

- Good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will be essential. Why not wear a mask! The PPC and stewards will see to regular cleaning and sanitising of shared spaces.

- At all times Eucharistic Ministers will give Communion in the hand. For distribution of Communion we will ask people to come up the sides, beginning with the sides, and return to their places down the Church centre.

- Collection plates won't be passed round. We ask you to make your contributions at the door as you enter the Church.

- The toilets at the Church will be locked, and opened at the times of Church services. Otherwise we are unable to maintain a proper level of sanitation.

- To protect physical distancing, we won't call on our wonderful servers for the moment.

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.

As life resumes these days **The Parish Finance Committee** will meet on Tuesday at 7.30pm. A **Report of the Parish Finances for 2019** is available these times and is available at the back of the Church. The Committee thanks you wholeheartedly for your support during the past year and depends on that support for the future.

**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](http://www.towardshealing.ie)

**"St Mary's Cathedral Book & Gift Shop** will reopen on Wednesday 1st July and will be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from 9.00am to 5.00pm each day. The Shop is stocked with rosaries, bibles, books etc and looking forward to meeting customers and friends."