

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

31th May 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES THESE WEEKS, beginning Sunday 31th 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: **Paul Forristal**, Maudlin Court (6pm Mass); **Niall Walsh**, Station Road (10am Mass); **Michael Dunne**, Cherrymount, Stoneyford; **The McEntee Family**, Mount Juliet; **John and Martha Darcy**, Waterford. May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: **Joe Maher**, Castleknock, Dublin and formerly Ladywell (10am Mass); **Ellen O'Rourke and Mary O'Rourke**, Newtown (10am Mass).

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.

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). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024. Hours may be extended to meet the demand.

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.

June Offerings are the contributions for the priest's upkeep. Your contributions, when convenient to you, will be greatly appreciated, especially during these challenging times. See how you're fixed. Please leave your contributions into the Parish Office.

The Roadmap for reopening Society and Business indicates that community worship will resume July 20th. If things progress satisfactorily throughout the country, that date may be brought forward. While we are conscious of big sporting events, the weekend Masses bring about a huge movement of people. 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 after lighting a candle.

The Sacrament of Baptism with reduced congregation, can be celebrated, as can the Sacrament of Marriage.

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, thanks to everyone, young and old, for the remarkable ways the coronavirus is being managed. Keep up the good work! All in healthcare, thank you. Keep up the good work too and know that your work is appreciated. 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.

At **Pentecost** we think of the Spirit of God, his gifts to us, and when we live inspired by the Spirit, we experience what we refer to as the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is named by St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians, chapter 5, verses 22-23. made up of the following nine qualities or gifts: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The fruit of the Spirit is the fruit of God's work in our lives when we respond to the promptings of the Spirit. not the fruit of our strength.

Joy has its home in God. From him it comes down into the world to take possession of each person, spirit, mind and heart. When this joy has taken hold it expands, carries each one along and causes closed doors to spring open. Joy has different forms. There is joy that has not been tested by the heart's pain, distress or anxiety. It has no stability; it stuns and excites only for a short time. God's gift of joy came through the poverty of the crib and the anguish of the Cross. This joy can't be silenced or conquered. It does not deny the reality of struggle but has learned to find joy in the midst of that struggle. It does not deny the reality of sin but has learned how to meet forgiveness there. It looks death in the eye and finds life there. True joy is the joy that has prevailed through many difficult circumstances. This is the only kind of joy that is credible. It is joy that gives support, it is the only brand of joy that saves. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer.)