

# THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

## 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

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### CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August

<b>Parish Church</b>	Sunday morning Mass	10.00am
	Sunday morning Mass	12.00noon
	Friday evening Mass	07.30pm
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00pm
	Sacrament of Reconciliation after 6pm Saturday Mass.	

**Deaths and anniversaries:** Please remember in your prayers this weekend: **Sean Stafford**, Galway and formerly Ladywell, who died recently in Galway; **Ann Cassin**, Boher (Months Mind Mass 6pm); **Catherine Minogue**, Jerpoint West. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

### Mass Intentions Next Weekend:

**First Communion** will follow shortly after Confirmation, for last year's second class, over two days, with two Masses each day. On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September the boys of Mrs. Moore's class of last year will have Mass at 10am, with the girls following at 12pm. Ms. Tyrrell's class of last year will follow on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

To help with preparation for this wonderful event in our parish, the children, and all the rest of us too, are invited to look at three videos which are available on the diocesan website. The first video has to do with the Sacrament of Forgiveness, followed by a video on the different parts of the Mass. The third video reflects on how to prepare and practice for receiving Holy Communion for the first time.

**Congratulations** to the girls and boys who came forward to confirm the decision their parents made when they brought them to Church for the first time, and so to receive the third of the Sacraments of Initiation, namely the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thanks to the families of the young people. Continue to support them on their faith journey. Thanks to our National School teachers, whose training was aborted when the corona virus shut our School in March.

**The Roadmap for reopening Society and Business:** The Government introduced a number of measures on 18<sup>th</sup> August to stop the spread of Covid-19. Regarding Religious Services in places of worship (including funerals), things remain unchanged (i.e. pods of up to 50 with social distancing, etc., except for Counties Laois, Offaly and Kildare where the number is 25 at present. The limit of 6 is for indoor settings in homes and applies to funeral related events in private homes (eg. wakes, etc) Church leaders all over the island recommend and encourage the use of face coverings at all services of worship. In Church our stewards seek to keep things right, so please accept their directions. 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 Corona virus infection, or have been in contact with someone who has had the virus, should stay at home and, if possible, participate, as now, via webcam, social media, television or radio.

Let's all commit – in the obvious practical ways - to make sure that our Schools are safe places for our young people, so that formal education will play a big part in their future.

**ALONE** manage 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 seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

**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.

**Charity Tax Forms:** We would appreciate it if the completed Form could be returned as soon as possible if not already returned.

**Season of Creation:** The Season of Creation this year is 01<sup>st</sup> September to 04<sup>th</sup> October, and its motto is 'Cultivating Hope'. Christians around the world unite to renew our love for each other and the home we share. We celebrate the riches of the Christian faith, expressed by our efforts to protect our common home. Creation is a gift of God for humankind, and for all living beings. It is our responsibility to protect it as good and reliable stewards, and as faithful servants of God. The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development. This year's theme for Season of Creation is "Cultivating Hope" as we focus on building a better future for all humanity and for our common home.

Resources for parish groups who would like to take action locally and globally during the Season of Creation can be found at the following links; <https://www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes/laudato-si> and <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2020/07/15/season-of-creation-2020/>

**Family Carers Ireland** are now accepting nominations for the 2020 Netwatch Carer of the Year. If you know of someone who is looking after a loved one at home and would like to recognise them for everything that they do, you can nominate online at [www.familycarers.ie](http://www.familycarers.ie) or contact the local office on 0567721424 for a form. Nominations are also being accepted for Young Carer of the Year. Now more than ever it is time to recognise the valuable contribution that family carers bring to society.

**Interested in studying Theology in 2020?** The one year, part-time Higher Diploma in Theological Studies at St Patrick's College, Maynooth is now offered as a "Blended Learning" programme. Suitable for those with an undergraduate degree in any discipline (or equivalent), the course will run from 25 September to May, with online lectures taking place on Wednesday evenings, complimented with self-directed study. There will also be 6 residential weekends over the course of the year. In certain cases, the programme can serve as a pathway into programmes which require a background in Theology, such as the Higher Diploma in Healthcare Chaplaincy or Masters in Theology. The course also meets the Teaching Council's requirements for the teaching of Religion in Secondary Schools. Closing date for applications extended to Friday 18th September 2020. For more information, please contact Barbara Mahon, Admissions & Marketing Officer, at [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) or see [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)

**National Grandparents Pilgrimage 2020.** Broadcast live on Sunday 13 September at 3pm from Knock Basilica. This year due to covid-19 restrictions, capacity will be very limited in the Basilica. The Grandparents Pilgrimage will be streamed online. We invite grandparents and their families everywhere to join us online at [www.knockshrine.ie/watch](http://www.knockshrine.ie/watch)

**The Priory Institute:** We are taking registrations now for our autumn online theology courses. The courses are up to degree level and are heavily subsidised by the Irish Dominicans. They could be just the thing as the nights draw in and we look to an uncertain winter. Tel: +353 (0)86 8510769 (mobile) [www.prioryinstitute.com](http://www.prioryinstitute.com) <https://prioryinstitute.com/>

This week **the Office** will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Continue to contact the Office, when unattended, by telephone – leave your name and number and we will get back to you – email, post, or leave a note into the Office letterbox.