

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

11th October 2020

Parish Priest: Fr. Dan Bolland Mobile 087 6644858 Email: bollarddan@gmail.com Website www.thomastownparish.ie Radio: fm108 Diocese of Ossory Reg. Charity No. 20015831.	Parish Office: Tel No 056 7793191 Opening Tuesday, Wed and Friday 10 - 1pm Email: thomastown@ossory.ie Facebook: Thomastown Parish
---	---

CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 11th October

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	10.00am
	Sunday morning Mass	12.00noon
	Monday & Wednesday Mass	09.30am
	Friday evening Mass	07.30pm
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00pm

Deaths and anniversaries: Please remember in your prayers this weekend: **Joe Challoner**, Banbridge, Co. Down, and formerly Thomastown; **Maura Byrne**, Carrickmourne (6pm Mass); **Kathleen Denieffe** (10am Mass); **Josie Beck**, 28, Dangan Terrace (12 noon Mass); **Michael Dunne**, 25, Castle Avenue (12 noon Mass); **Lynn Roche**, Jerpoint Church (12noon Mass); **Brian Burke & Deceased Members of Burke Family**, Ladywell; **Bishop Larry Forristal**. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: **Elizabeth Walsh**, Kilmurry (6pm Mass); **Kathleen Stapleton**, Legan (10am Mass); **Dixie Doyle**, Carrickmourne (10am Mass)

The Plan for living with Covid-19 at Level 3. Places of Worship will have to remain closed for at least a three-week period except for private prayer, weddings and funerals.

For Religious Services in places of worship (including weddings and funerals), up to 25 can be admitted, with social distancing, etc. Face coverings are requested. The limit of 6 is for indoor settings in homes and applies to funeral related events in private homes (e.g. wakes, etc). Much as we would want to return to Mass, we should stay at home and participate, as now, via webcam, social media, television or radio. Join us on 108fm – the radio was down for a few days but with repairs completed it is working once more. Otherwise join us for Mass, go to the www.thomastownparish.ie You will find the link there. Next weekend, as this weekend, we will have empty Churches for Masses, and as numbers aren't an issue we will not hold the Sunday Midday Mass until our Churches reopen for Masses with congregations.

Each Sunday morning, at 9.30am, a live Mass is celebrated on KCLR96fm and broadcast to the people of Kilkenny and Carlow.

Family Rosary Crusade: Archbishop Eamonn Martin is asking families to pray the Rosary together for the month of October. So, each day at midday, Monday to Friday, we will have Rosary on the Webcam and 108fm. You might like to join us, specially if you are praying the Rosary alone.

St. Vincent de Paul Society The telephone number of the Thomastown St. Vincent de Paul Society is **086 2664669** for anyone who wishes to contact the Society.

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. Otherwise you can find it on the website.

A message from the Irish Bishops Conference, from their General meeting via video link

Do not lose heart – a message in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic the people of Ireland have endured testing times with courage, resilience, and compassion. Individuals and communities have made great sacrifices for the protection of life, health and the Common Good. Like many others, the Church has endeavoured to support the people of Ireland, north and south, in the face of considerable uncertainty and disruption. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our priests and to the many volunteers whose continued dedication has ensured that our churches have remained very safe places to gather for Mass and the Sacraments. We have also been blessed in the commitment of our school communities who have been supporting our young people in very demanding circumstances, including assisting with their preparation for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Now that more restrictive measures are being put in place, we encourage people to persevere and not to lose heart. Faith and prayer, in the home and in church can be a huge support in difficult times. While we fully support the guidance of the public health authorities, we will continue to engage constructively in the coming days with the civil authorities to ensure that our people have continued access to the support of Mass and the Sacraments and essential spiritual nourishment for these challenging times. The communal celebration of Mass and the Sacraments – even with restricted numbers - is at the very heart of what it means for us to be a Christian community. These are not simply 'gatherings' of people, but profound expressions of who we are as a Church. For parishes, and individual Catholics, the loss of these spiritual supports can be a source of great anxiety, and fear, and can have a detrimental impact on their overall health and well-being.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People: 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). 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.

Thomastown Parish Seniors Citizens Shop: Under level 3 restrictions the shop will be closed while restrictions in place. Stay safe and hopefully not too long until we be together again.

Slimming World Thomastown: Running under level 3 restrictions as weigh and go pre-booked spot. Call 089 4137300 to book a place.

Care at the End of Life *Samaritanus Bonus* (The Good Samaritan) was published on 22 September by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. This document discusses end of life care, and its key message is that euthanasia is incompatible with care at the end of life.

- *Human dignity is inherent in every person from the first moment of his or her existence. Even under the most challenging circumstances, we never lose that inherent dignity, which brings a unique quality and meaning to everything we do and are.*

- *In the challenging context of terminal illness, the dignity of the person is affirmed in Hospice Care. From simple beginnings at Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, Dublin, in 1879, and with huge public support, the provision of hospice care has spread to every corner of Ireland. It is based on the principle that "Life is affirmed and dying is regarded as a normal process. Death is neither hastened nor postponed. Pain and other distressing symptoms are relieved."*

- *These principles have inspired people of every religious tradition in providing a unique kind of care at the end of life, which is not just about pain management, but about presence and communication and, most of all, about remaining close to people for whom further medical treatment is futile.*