

# THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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## CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October

<b>Parish Church</b>	Sunday morning Mass	10.00am
	Monday & Wednesday Mass	09.30am
	Friday evening Mass	07.30pm
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00pm

**Deaths and anniversaries:** **Jim Kelly**, Butlerstown, Co. Waterford, and formerly Grennan; **Elizabeth Walsh**, Kilmurry (6pm Mass); **Mary Barron**, Ballyconway, **Thomas Barron & Margaret Barron** (6pm Mass); **Kathleen Stapleton**, Legan (10am Mass); **Dixie Doyle**, Carrickmourne (10am Mass). May they and all our dead rest in peace.

## Mass Intentions next weekend: Mick Conlon, Legan (6pm 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 for Mass on Radio 108fm or Webcam by going to [www.thomastownparish.ie](http://www.thomastownparish.ie) and you will find the link there. 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](mailto:thomastown@ossory.ie) if you are interested. Otherwise you can find it on the website.

**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.

## World Mission Sunday is held this year on 18<sup>th</sup> October, this Sunday.

Pope Francis released his annual Message for World Mission Sunday 2020 on Pentecost Sunday. Its theme is taken from Isaiah: "Here am I, send me" (6:8). Even in the disorientation and fear provoked by the current international crisis, Pope Francis says the Lord continues to ask "Whom shall I send?" Even as we touch our frailty in the pain and death we are experiencing, we are also reminded "of our deep desire for life and liberation from evil". This is where the call to mission emerges as an "invitation to step out of ourselves for love of God and neighbour" through "service and intercessory prayer", he writes.

Just as Jesus completely accomplished His mission by dying on the cross, "we find ourselves precisely when we give ourselves to others", Pope Francis continues. Our mission, our call, our willingness to be sent originate in His own vocation as "the Father's Missionary". "Our personal vocation" is rooted in "the fact that we are sons and daughters of God in the Church".

Pope Francis explains that it is specifically the Church that "continues the mission of Jesus in history". Thus, the baptized members of the Church are sent forth in her name. Through our witness and proclamation of the Gospel, God continues "to manifest His love". This is how He can "touch and transform hearts, minds, bodies, societies and cultures in every place and time."

"Mission is a free and conscious response to God's call", the Pope reminds us. A call to mission can only be discerned "when we have a personal relationship of love with Jesus present in his Church". That leads to the question of our preparedness to welcome the Holy Spirit's presence and action in our lives. That call comes to married couples, consecrated persons and ordained ministers in life's everyday events. Another question the Pope says we should ask ourselves is if we are willing "to be sent forth at any time or place to witness to our faith" and relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit., And the last question is if we are willing to respond as Mary did always "ready to be completely at the service of God's will?"

The challenge for the Church's mission right now is that of "Understanding what God is saying to us at this time of pandemic", Pope Francis acknowledges. As people die alone or are abandoned, as others have lost their jobs, with the necessity of social distancing or staying at home, the Pope says that we are invited "to rediscover that we need social relationships as well as our communal relationship with God". This situation can increase our awareness of the need to relate to others, he says. God will touch our hearts through prayer which will always open us to understand others' needs. Those of us who have not been able to participate in the Church's liturgical life now understand "the experience of the many Christian communities that cannot celebrate Mass every Sunday", the Pope said.

God's question expressed by the Prophet Isaiah "is addressed once more to us and awaits a generous and convincing response: 'Here am I, send me!' (*Is* 6:8). Pope Francis says at the conclusion of his message. World Mission Sunday will be a day on which we will be able to reaffirm through prayer, reflection and material help our active participation in Jesus's mission in His Church. Pope Francis specifies that the collection taken up on 18 October will support "the missionary work carried out in my name by the Pontifical Mission Societies, in order to meet the spiritual and material needs of peoples and Churches throughout the world, for the salvation of all."