

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

25th October 2020

Parish Priest:

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 25th October

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

Deaths and anniversaries: Vincent Walsh, Powerswood; and Kathleen Forristal, Bayside, Dublin & Jerpoint Church recently deceased. Mick Conlon, Legan (6pm Mass); Molly Lawlor, Maudlin Street & Hayes Family, England (9.30am Mass Wednesday); Kathleen Holohan, Oldtown, Stoneford; Peter Fitzsimons, Newtown Terrace. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: John Stapleton, Maudlin Street (6pm)

The Plan for living with Covid-19 at Level 5. Places of Worship will have to remain closed 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. 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 on Webcam by going to 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.

November as a Month of Prayer and Remembrance for the Dead and the Bereaved: The Bishops have asked that a Service be held in Parishes on Sunday 1st November at 3pm remember the Dead, especially those who died and were laid to rest without traditional funerals. Let's join together then to remember and pray, on 108fm or www.thomastownparish.ie

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.

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: The shop will be closed while restrictions in place. Stay safe and hopefully not too long until we be together again.

Community Focus – Free Postage to Nursing Homes and Care Facilities - Bring a little Joy!

Community is about reaching out with compassion, staying connected and sending love to each other. That's why at An Post, you can now send love to communities living in care facilities across Ireland with FREE postage.

An Post will ensure free delivery of all card and letter mail posted to and from residents of Nursing and Care facilities in the State until January 31st 2021.

By writing FREEPOST where the stamp would normally be affixed, An Post will carry cards, letters large envelopes and packets weighing up to 2KG without a postage stamp.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal: This year our [ChristmasShoeboxAppeal](https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal) is going to be run differently.

Due to the effects of Covid-19 restrictions, it is not possible to send gift-filled shoeboxes from Ireland this year, so we're asking schools, families, friends, communities and businesses to [#TeamUpForTeamHope](https://www.teamhope.ie) by donating gift-filled shoeboxes online. These donations will allow our network of local partners in Africa and Eastern Europe to purchase items for shoeboxes, which will then be delivered straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Often these shoeboxes are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they deliver is incredible.

<https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal>

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. See our Newsletter of two weeks ago for more input on Care at the end of Life.

- Care at the end of life has a lot to do with relationships. The support of family members, friends and trusted healthcare professionals, including chaplains who offer pastoral and sacramental care, can make an enormous difference. Together they form a community of compassion and care. For a Christian, death is not a hopeless adventure; it is the door of life that opens to eternity.

- Telling the truth with love is an important aspect of our respect for human dignity. Palliative care, as well as upholding absolute respect for human life, acknowledges and accepts the reality of approaching death. It is about helping people to live as fully as possible in the time that is left to them, until death comes naturally. Frequently, relationships are healed, unresolved personal issues are worked through and people often enter a deeper relationship with God. We note that many palliative care experts have expressed similar views.

- The use of pain relief, in order to maintain and enhance the quality of life is an important aspect of palliative care. Palliative care should not be confused with euthanasia or assisted suicide, which involves the specific intention to end a human life. This is always gravely sinful.

- Assisted suicide is often presented as something that would be rare and exceptional. Once assisted suicide is accepted in principle, it becomes very difficult to draw a line. Many countries, which began by legalising assisted suicide on a very limited basis, have moved on to widen significantly the scope of that legislation.

- We want to say very clearly that there is no such thing as a life without value. We hope to be a voice for those who, in a time of vulnerability, feel that they have no voice. We ask people to consider the way assisted suicide and euthanasia undermines the whole ethos of healthcare. Doctors and nurses are called to be advocates for life and should never be required to assist in any way in the deliberate ending of life. We invite you to join us in prayer for those who, at this time, are coming to terms with a diagnosis of terminal illness, that they may have the blessing of a community of compassion and care.