

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

22nd November 2020

Parish Priest:

Fr. Dan Bollard

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 22nd November

Parish Church	Sunday morning Mass	10.00am
	Monday & Wednesday Mass	09.30am
	Friday evening Mass	07.00pm
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00pm

Deaths and anniversaries: **Maura Windrim**, Dublin and formerly Kiljames, who died recently; **Vincent Walsh**, Powerswood died a month ago (6pm Mass); **Patrick and Margaret Cullen**, Clogregg (6pm Mass); **Pat Stapleton**, Dangan Terrace (10am Mass). **Josie Butler**, Pleberstown, **Patrick Butler**, Clogregg; **Thomas Redmond**, Marshes Street. May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: **Josie and Joe Lannon**, Dangan Terrace (6pm); **Pat Higginbotham**, Castle Avenue (10am).

November as a Month of Prayer and Remembrance for the Dead and the Bereaved:

November Masses for the Dead: Next Friday we will be particularly conscious of all who died August, September, and October. Thanks for the photographs of your loved ones who have died. Come and see, and remember, at the Parish Church.

The List of the Names of the Dead: Each day of November while the Church is open a candle will be lit to show the prayers rising for your deceased relatives, friends and neighbours.

Evening Prayers will be held on our radio and webcam during November as the sun goes down and the evening draws in, at 5pm on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

The Plan for living with Covid-19 at Level 3. Places of Worship will have to remain closed to congregations for the moment, except for private prayer, weddings and funerals.

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 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.

Thank you for your contributions to the weekly collections and to the Clergy collections. The generosity of so many people, during these challenging times, is greatly appreciated. Contributions can be left into the Parish Office letterbox, or to the box in the Church, which is emptied daily.

The Ossory Times is available digitally, on our Diocesan website, www.ossory.ie Please do yourself a great favour – open the website, and have a good read of the Ossory Times. There are many other things there that you may find of interest. Specially take note of the variety of programmes available during **Advent**.

Advent: We talk about what we will do for Lent. What will you do for Advent?? Advent starts next weekend, 30th November. Commercial interests highlight shopping and partying, and that's understandable. What about the coming of the Saviour? Mark that too.

What about an **Advent wreath**? Place 3 candles of one colour on a tray or wreath almost making a circle and then put one candle of a different colour to complete the circle. Traditionally these are 3 purple and one rose but work with what you have. Put a white candle in the centre for Christ's light to be lit on Christmas Day. Light the candles, an extra one each week, during a time for prayer. On each Sunday at the Parish Mass we can all light our candles. So even if we can't all be in the church together, we can join in our homes in this special way and have a blessed Advent as we prepare for Christ's coming.

The Priory Institute in Tallaght are taking registrations now for an **Advent Retreat**. It's a series of filmed reflections on the Sunday gospel readings of Advent. The cost of the retreat is €40, and registration closes on Friday week, November 27. Maybe it's a sign of the times but it seems people are interested in looking at the 'big' questions especially coming up to this very unusual Christmas. The link is <https://prioryinstitute.com/events/2020-advent-retreat>

Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG has suspended face-to-face marriage preparation programmes for the moment and instead Accord facilitators will offer the interactive adapted programme. Kilkenny Accord will provide Marriage Preparation programmes on Saturday 16th January and Saturday 20th February for limited numbers of participants. See www.accord.ie

When the gloss has worn off the memories of the wedding day and couples experience challenges in their relationship, **Accord** provides a **Relationship Support line** at 01-5313331 and 01 9059555, or check www.accord.ie

Safeguarding Concerns

If you have a child safeguarding concern or wish to raise a matter from the past you may contact any of the following:

Diocesan Designated Persons

Mr. Cathal Cullen 087 100 0232 or

Ms. Rose Brophy 087 331 4330

Garda National Protective Services

01 6663430/35

Civil Authorities

Tusla Child & Family Agency Carlow

Kilkenny area 052 617 7302

Safeguarding Reps. for this Parish are:

Brigid Cassin Begley and Ray O'Carroll.

Contact them through the Parish Office.

Counselling Services**Towards Healing Confidential Helpline**

1800 313 316

www.towardshealing.ie

Towards Peace Spiritual Support Service

01 505 3028

www.towardspeace.ie

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe is a term it is hard to get your head around. Jesus announced and lived a new social order. He called it the Reign or Kingdom of God. It became the guiding image of his entire ministry. The Kingdom is really a metaphor for a state of consciousness; it is not a place you go to, but a place you come from. It is a new way of looking at the world, a new awareness that literally turns this world into a different place. The world has suffered from the various forms of Christian colonialism. Yet the Reign of God is an alternative to domination systems and all 'isms'. Jesus teaches that right relationship is the ultimate and daily criterion. If a social order allows and encourages strong connectedness between people and creation, people and each other, people and God, then you have a sacred future: the Reign of God. It is not a world without pain or mystery, but simply a world where we are connected and in communion with all things.