

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

29th November 2020

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 29th 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: **Josie and Joe Lannon**, Dangan Terrace (6pm); **Pat Higginbotham**, Castle Avenue (10am); **Frances White**, Knocknaboola (10am Mass); **Unie Kelly**, Maudlin (10am Mass); **Peggy Murphy**, Jerpoint Church (10am); **Elizabeth Long**, The Mall; **Kathleen Walsh**, Jerpoint Abbey; **Sheila O'Hanrahan**, Kiljames House; **Peter O'Hanrahan**, Ashbourne, formerly Kiljames. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: **Dick Forristal**, Colmcille (6pm Mass); **Eileen O'Mahony**, Carrickmourne (6pm Mass); **Hanna Dunne**, **Cherrymount** (Months Mind Mass 10am)

The Plan for living with Covid-19: At the time of printing we don't have details of plans for the next few weeks. Those plans will be revealed by Government shortly, and we'll adapt accordingly. Meanwhile, thank you to our front-line workers, and thank you for respecting what has been asked of us so far in Church. We each play our part to keep Ireland safe. 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.

We will continue to hold An Evening Prayer on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5pm. Join us on 108fm, or on webcam.

Thank you to all the families who provided photographs of those who died during the past year. Whereas many couldn't be at the funeral, or call to the house, the photographs helped us to remember, to connect, and to pray for them, dealing with our grief, rather than forgetting it. You may like to collect the photographs on Tuesday, as we enter December. Some of you brought frames, and they will be in the Church for you also.

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.

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.

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.

Re Tommy Spillane Grave Fund: Thanks to all who donated so generously to the Tommy Spillane (Spellins) grave fund. Subscriptions well exceeded our expectations. However, we made sure that a top-class effort was produced and the comments from those who have seen the finished product have been heart-warming. The community can be justly proud of its efforts for one of our own.

With some of the excess funding we bought a fine cup and medals to organise a Juvenile Competition in the Parish for young players. The cup will be 'The Tommy Spillane Memorial Cup' and will be played for each year by underage hurlers. Thomastown Hurling Club have kindly agreed to run the games annually. Tommy, in his young days, was a rising star who even Ollie Walsh looked up to. His memory will be perpetuated in this way. The first games were due to be played some time ago but had to be postponed due to the second Covid 19 lockdown.

The remaining small Balance we directed to deserving Charities. All our actions were performed through a Credit Union A/C which will now be closed.

With renewed thanks for your big hearted response to our request, Tommy Hayes and Joe Dunphy.

'**Ramblings**', Joe Dunphy's new book, will be in the shops very soon. Some local shops will stock the books, as there won't be a Book Launch, due to Covid-19. More next week.

Advent: Ossory Faith Development Group has some offerings for Advent. Access them through www.ossory.ie **Resolve to pickup on at least one of these offerings.**

Virtual Retreat: Faith, Hope and Love, via Zoom, led by Fr. Billy Swan on next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 8pm to 9pm each evening.

The Word became Flesh: two evenings of reflection for Ministers of the Word, on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th December, 8-9pm.

Lectio Divina: Pray and reflect on a scripture passage each week, beginning Monday 30th November, at 7.30pm and led by Pauline Haughney.

Advent Lecture: Faith and Mental Health, an exploration of the impact of faith on mental health, by Fr. Billy Swan, on Wednesday 9th December, 8-9pm.

Advent Thought for the Day: Online and Twitter, or by text, providing some thoughts, reflections, prayers and ideas. Follow @ossorydiocese. For text submit your phone number to 085-8313100.

'**The Sleepless Ones**', Acoematae, were a group of monks founded by a holy man named Alexander, in the fifth century. He recruited 300 monks and divided them into six groups. Each group took turns keeping 'watch' for the Second Coming of Jesus. Day and night a group was always awake and praying, to be ready for the Second Coming of Jesus, the bridegroom and the final judge. During Advent you and I call to mind the first coming of Jesus, when he was born in Bethlehem. We open ourselves to the fact that he is with us, each day, and we are reminded that He will come again, in glory this time, at a time yet undisclosed. The story of 'The Sleepless Ones' invites us to consider how ready we would be if he were to come this day. It also reminds us to be open to his coming in the ordinary things of life. I quote : 'No one can say the Lord is not present this year when so many offer their lives in love, with tiredness, good humour and without fail'.