

## THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

6<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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### CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December

<b>Parish Church</b>	Sunday morning Mass	10.00am
	Sunday midday Mass	12.00noon
	Monday Vigil Mass <b>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</b>	07.00pm
	Tuesday Mass <b>Feast of The Immaculate Conception</b>	09.30am
	Wednesday morning Mass	09.30am
	Friday evening Mass	07.00pm
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00pm

**Deaths and anniversaries:** **Dick Forristal**, Colmcille (6pm Mass); **Eileen O'Mahony**, Carrickmourne (6pm Mass); **John Whelan**, Jerpoint Church (6pm Mass); **Hanna Dunne**, Cherrymount (Months Mind Mass 10am); **Sean O'Sullivan**, Burrell's Park (10am Mass); **Maura Collins**, Knocknaboola (10am Mass); **Deceased members of the Behan Family** (Midday Mass); **Paddy Conroy**, Mountmellick (Midday Mass); **William Mackey**, Logan Street; **Billy McMahon**, Newtown. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

**The Plan for living with Covid-19: Religious Services** – It is great to have people in Church for Masses and other services. Government invites Places of Worship to reopen for religious services at Level 3. This will be reviewed in January. This allows for up to 50 worshippers to attend Services. We resume with protective measures. It is very important to adhere to social distancing, (members of the same family can sit/stand together), face coverings, hand sanitation, one-way traffic in venue, and stewards will assist. Up to 25 mourners can attend Funeral Masses, up to 25 people can attend a wedding ceremony and reception. There is to be no congregation of people outside Churches before or after Services.

We love to have you at Mass again. However, if your health makes you vulnerable to Covid-19, if you have the virus, or are in close contact with someone who has the virus, then please stay at home and join us on radio or on webcam. In the past fourteen days 5 electoral areas in Donegal were among the ten areas with the highest incidence rates. Piltown electoral areas was number 9, and Callan-Thomastown was number ten. So we all need to be vigilant.

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 appreciate your understanding of the regulations that Government has put in place. They are for the good of all of us. Let's continue to be observant, specially during these days leading up to and after Christmas.

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

**Parish 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.

All the best to the **Kilkenny Camogie team** who take on Galway in the All Ireland final next weekend.

**Thomastown Parish Senior Citizens Association:** For the safety of our members the shop will remain closed for the month of December and reopen in the New Year. Donations can be arranged to be dropped off by calling 0868237526. Stay safe and we miss you.

**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.

**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). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

**CHY3 Forms:** If you have not already done so, would you please be good enough to return the completed CHY3 forms as soon as possible before year end. Thank You.

**Admissions notice to parents of Junior Infants 2021/'22** If you wish to enrol your child for 2021/'22 application forms are now available on the school website: [www.stmaryttown.com](http://www.stmaryttown.com) or parents can request a form by contacting the school: 056-7724290. Closing date for applications: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Parents will be contacted 3 weeks from this date to confirm your child's place.

**Advent:** Ossory Faith Development Group has some offerings for Advent. Access them through [www.ossory.ie](http://www.ossory.ie) Resolve to pick up on at least one of these offerings.

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

**Lectio Divina:** Pray and reflect on a scripture passage each week, beginning Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Sean, on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

What about an **Advent wreath**? Did you organise it yet? It's not too late. Light the candles, an extra one each week, during a time for prayer. On each Sunday at the Parish Mass if joining us from home 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.

*John the Baptist* gets the spotlight this Advent weekend. He was an interesting individual. He dressed strangely and spent a lot of time in the desert, 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness'. He had a huge following – the people were oppressed and waiting for someone who would liberate them. John was a dynamic speaker in whom people found hope and inspiration. He points to someone who is greater than he, to Jesus.

In his recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis writes about the dark clouds hanging over our world and he asks everyone to embrace a spirit of friendship, kindness, compassion and solidarity as we move forward. We need messengers, like John who bring good news, hope and vision for the future, a new way forward.

Let's use this advent time as we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives and world, to reflect on what type of world can be born out of the wilderness we find ourselves in. Who are the visionaries for you? What are you prepared to do to build a better world?