

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER
13th December 2020

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| Parish Priest: Fr. Dan Bolland 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 |
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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 13th December

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| Parish Church | Sunday morning Mass | 10.00am |
| | Sunday midday Mass | 12.00noon |
| | Monday & Wednesday morning Mass | 09.30am |
| | Friday evening Mass | 07.00pm |
| | Saturday Vigil Mass | 06.00pm |
| Chapel Hill | Thursday Mass | 07.00pm |

Deaths and anniversaries. **Ben Hennessy**, Low Street & **Geraldine Cullinane**, Clonakilty, died recently; **Niall Hogan**, Ruppá, (12 noon Mass); **Bernie Stapleton**, Maudlin Street; **James Lawrence**, **Frances Prendergast**, Killarney; **Nancy Walsh**, Jerpoint Abbey; **Ned Ryan**, Friars Hill. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Mass Intentions next weekend: **May Delaney**, Pipe Street (6pm Mass); **Catherine Rafferty**, Chapel Lane & **Deceased Members of the Stapleton Family**, Maudlin Street (10am Mass); **Sean Ryan**, Bonnybrook (12 noon)

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

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 or parents can request a form by contacting the school: 056-7724290. Closing date for applications: 31st January 2021. Parents will be contacted 3 weeks from this date to confirm your child's place.

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.

Christmas Masses will be celebrated this year, like everything else, under the strangest of circumstances. The PPC have racked their brains, and hearts, and here's what we're offering for Christmas, hoping that circumstances won't change and bring about further restrictions.

***Think Christmas Masses** over four days. On Thursday 24th we'll have Masses at 5pm and 7.30pm. On Christmas Day Masses will be at 10am and Midday. On Saturday 26th, St. Stephen's Day, we'll have Mass at 10am and 6pm. On Sunday 27th we'll have Masses at 10am and Midday.

***Think space.** We can only have 50 in Church. If you're not in that 50, stand outside, socially distanced. Or, sit in your car, and join us on radio, or on your phone through webcam.

Communion will be available at the usual times, with Ministers available outside Church. This would be a great way for families to join us for one of our 5pm Christmas Eve Mass.

***Think alphabet.** Looking at the surnames on the Parish computer and trying to spread the availability of spaces in Church for Masses over the four days, we'd ask people with surnames beginning **A** and **B** to come to 5pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

We'd ask people with surnames **C** and **D** to come to 7.30pm Mass.

E, F and G come to 10am Mass on Christmas Day.

H, I, J, K and L come to Midday Mass on Christmas Day.

M and N come on Saturday morning.

O, P and Q come to Saturday evening Mass.

R, S and T come to 10am Mass on Sunday.

V, W, Y and Z come to midday Mass on Sunday. Allow for the fact that there may be more than 50 with the same letter as yours in Church before you, and you may have to stay outside. Our Stewards will ask you to co-operate re. numbers and distancing. And wear masks, please. We think of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Come another time too, when numbers are smaller.

***Think safety.** If you have health issues, join us on radio or webcam. If you have Covid-19 or have been in touch recently with someone who has the virus, join us on radio or webcam.

Basically, if your health may be endangered, or you may endanger the health of someone else, stay at home, please, for everyone's sake.

***Think generosity.** You may greatly desire to join in Christmas Masses, and if you are there regularly, this may be a time to be generous and afford someone else the opportunity to do so.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation Pope Francis recently said 'If you don't find a priest to go to Confession, speak to God. He's your Father. Tell him the truth. "Lord, I did this and this and this. Pardon me." Ask his forgiveness with all your heart, with an act of contrition, and promise him, if necessary, "Afterward I will go to Confession." You will return to God's grace immediately.' At this time of crisis, the Pope said the Catechism clearly teaches that one can draw near to God's forgiveness, even without a priest at hand.

Don't be alone this Christmas Day. The fourth **annual Christmas Day Dinner** will take place once again this year under strict Covid-19 guidelines. This year will be challenging. The meal will take place in the main auditorium of the concert hall. All who attend will sit at their own table, with table service only, unless from the same household. The dinner is mainly for people living on their own who would otherwise spend the day alone. It is very important that you let us know beforehand that you are attending. Donations welcome to help towards providing this event. Thomastown Community Centre 'For You For Everyone'. All enquiries to Seamus at 087 7728170.