

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

03rd January 2021

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
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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 03rd January 2021

Parish Church		
	Sunday 03 rd January Mass	10.00am
	An Evening Prayer	05.00pm
	Monday 04 th January Mass	09.30am
	Tuesday 05 th January Vigil Mass Feast of the Epiphany	07.00pm
	Wednesday 06 th January Feast of the Epiphany Mass	09.30am
	Friday 08 th January Mass	07.00pm
	Saturday 09 th January Vigil Mass	06.00pm

Deaths and anniversaries this weekend. Kathleen Stafford, Pipe Street, and Johanna O'Brien, Legan, who died recently; Breda Burke, Dublin & Newtown (6pm Mass); Trevor & Gerry Minogue, Newtown Terrace; & Bridie Minogue, Cloughabrody (6pm Mass); Nellie Grace, Graignamanagh; Dick Moore, Colmcille (Mass on Tuesday, 7pm). May they, and all the departed, rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: Eileen O'Neill, Dangan Terrace (6pm Mass); Frances and Patrick Lannon, Station Road (6pm Mass); Noel Dempsey, Bawnskeha (10am Mass)

Bishop Farrell is appointed Archbishop of Dublin

Bishop Dermot Farrell has been appointed Archbishop of Dublin by Pope Francis. He will take over the pastoral guidance of the Archdiocese on the 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation. He continues in the capacity of the Administrator of the Diocese of Ossory.

Bishop Farrell was appointed Bishop of Ossory on the 3rd January 2018. A native of Castletown-Geoghegan he worked in his native diocese of Meath as curate in Mullingar and Tullamore before moving to Maynooth in 1990. He was President of Maynooth from 1996 until 2007 when he was appointed Parish Priest of Dunboyne. Following the announcement of his appointment to Ossory in 2018 he was ordained bishop on 11 March. He chose as his episcopal motto "*Adiutorium nostrum in nomine Domini*" from Psalm 124: – "Our help is in the name of the Lord".

In informing the priests of the diocese on Tuesday Bishop Farrell wrote: "I did not seek out this new pastoral assignment, but allowed myself to be called, and accompanied". He continued: "For the last three years I have been Bishop of Ossory, and I have been exceedingly happy and fulfilled among you and among our people. I came as a 'stranger' among you, and I remember the warmth of your welcome and that of the people. The anxieties I had about moving from Meath quickly melted away...I thank you and through you I thank the people. In consequence, I will leave a part of my heart in Ossory whose pastoral care was entrusted to me".

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 and will remain open over the Christmas period.

St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks you for your generous support coming up to Christmas. The telephone number of the Thomastown St. Vincent de Paul Society is **086 2664669** for anyone who wishes to contact the Society.

A **Donate Button** is now in operation on Parish website on the Home Page. We appreciate, and need, your financial support and this is a good way to do it.

Joe Dunphy's new book is in the local shops by now in Reddy's; O'Neill's Daybreak; Dunphy's Centra and the Credit Union. Costing €10, all profits will be donated to Charity.

Happy New Year!! In 1980 'What's another year', sung by Johnny Logan, won the Eurovision Song Contest for Ireland. 2020 has been a memorable year too, for all kinds of reasons. If anyone had told you this time last year how the year would work out, you'd think they were crazy. And it has been a crazy year. We've had so much of Brexit and Covid-19. Throw in a General Election, and the fun and games getting a President of the US for the next four years. It's been a strange year Church-wise, when we've been asking people not to come to Church. Meanwhile, we've all had our own personal and family issues unfolding with that backdrop. Please God 2020 has brought its blessings too, and like the sports people who suffer losses, we come back stronger in 2021. Let's keep hope and good will and good humour alive among us. I take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to all our readers and parishioners. In a remarkable year thank you for being good neighbours. Thank you for showing the resilience and discipline needed, and still needed, because of Covid-19. Thank you to the people who have been on the front lines – in our hospitals and shops. Thanks to all who see to essential services- the Gardai, our postal deliverers, our bin collectors, the people working on our streets and roads, those who see the electricity comes on and the water flows through our taps, our undertakers and grave digger Billy Davis, and many more. One of the things becoming apparent is that we really depend on one another, and the most needed often provide what some would regard as menial services. The human family stands or falls together.

I think of the various Church groups the Parish Council, with Bernie Dempsey as Chairperson, and of the Parish Finance Committee, whose Chairperson is Fionnula Taylor. I think too of the Vincent de Paul Society. Thanks too to the staff and Board of Management of our Parish School. Thanks to all who serve in our Churches – sacristans, choirs, musicians, servers, collectors, readers, Eucharistic ministers, children's liturgy leaders, 'do this in memory' leaders, co-ordinators of Adoration, cleaners, florists, and many more. Thanks to envelope distributors and money counters. Unfortunately, many of those tasks have been suspended for the moment. The St. Colmcille's Pastoral Area Council, with Richard Moore as Chairperson, has had a quiet time, and welcomes Fr. Frank Purcell back to the area. Thanks to Sister Anna, Nancy Stapleton and Janet Sahaffi for leading Evening Prayers. Thanks to our Church stewards. While congregations have been able to gather for Mass, they ensure that our gatherings are carried out properly. A Thanks to the Community Scheme workers at the Church grounds and Cemetery and to Paddy Daly who looks after the shrubs at the Church. Thanks to Anne and Deirdre at the Parish Office. You all make a difference. Thank you!! Each year we invite new people to actively lend a hand.

And I assure you of a place in my prayers and am very happy each week to offer Mass for all the people of the Parish – one of the responsibilities of the Parish Priest. Fr. Dan Bollard.