

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

17th January 2021

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 17th January 2021

Parish Church	Service	Time
	Sunday 17 th January Mass	10.00am
	Monday 18 th January Mass	09.30am
	Wednesday 20 th January Mass	09.30am
	Friday 22 nd January Mass	07.00pm
	Saturday 23 rd January Vigil Mass	06.00pm

Deaths and anniversaries this weekend: Kitty Begley, Castle Avenue, and **Bernadette Fanning**, Essex, who died this week; **Noreen Walsh and the deceased members of the Walsh Family** (6pm Mass); **Mary Dunne**, Cherrymount (10am Mass); **Walter Walsh**, Grennan House (10am Mass); **Michael and Marie Kearney**, Oldtown; **Jim Delaney**, Newtown Terrace; **Nancy Piert**, Ladywell; **Patrick 'Pa' Kelly**, Newtown. May they rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend – Tom Grace, Newtown Terrace (6pm Mass); **David Power**, Cloghabrody Heights (6pm Mass); **Brigid and JP Monaghan**, Dangan Terrace (10am Mass); **Julie Stapleton**, Dangan Terrace (10am Mass); **Francis O'Neill and grandson Mark** (10am Mass).

The Parish Office is staffed currently on Tuesdays, 10am to 1pm. Probably the surest way to make contact is by email – thomastown@ossory.ie - or by phone call – 056-7793191. Fr. Dan will check the messages daily. In case of emergency, please call Fr. Dan on 087-6644858. If he is unable to take the call, please leave your name and number and he will get back to you.

Ordinary Time – We enter the time after the Christmas season and before Lent begins on 17th February. We thank those who looked after the Church decorations for Christmas – Sacristan Breda saw things were right liturgically. Tom Walsh and Kevin Kelly erected and decorated the Christmas tree. Seamus Quigley looked after the Crib, in a new position this year so that people would see it on webcam. Linda and Sister Anna took care of the Advent Wreath, and indeed Linda looks after Church flowers throughout the year. Thanks to you all.

Envelopes for Parish Collections are part of Ordinary Time too. We appreciate – and need – your financial support and appreciate too that this may be a difficult time for you financially. If it is, then when better times come we know we can rely on you. Our envelope distributors have very readily been prepared to put envelopes into letter boxes, and thanks to all of them. If you are not on our mailing list for envelopes, please contact us and we will be very happy to facilitate you. We draw your attention to the DONATE button on the parish website.

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. Thank You.

Bishop Farrell's words re the report into the Mother and Baby Homes:

I welcome the publication of the report into the Mother and Baby Homes. This report, and those like it, which explore our painful past make for extremely disturbing reading. They reveal deep wounds and bring to light the profound injustices perpetrated against the vulnerable in our society over a long period of time – against women and children whose lives were regarded as less important than the lives of others. The silence which surrounded this shameful time in the history of our land had long needed to be shattered. The pain of those who were hidden away must be heard; those once largely without a voice now can speak clearly to our world, and we need to listen, even when what we hear pierces to the heart.

I welcome, therefore, the actions of our Government and of the Commission that has made this possible. These voices must be heard, but hearing, while important, is not enough. The grievous failures of our past have been laid bare. A genuine response is required: ours – as a Church and a society – can only be a full apology, without any reservation. There should never have been a time for avoidance and facile solutions. This country, the Church, our communities and families are better places when the light of truth and healing are welcomed.

May the Lord's compassion be the touchstone of our response. May the light of Christ bring healing to all.

The Sacrament of Confirmation was scheduled for this parish on Friday February 26th. Due to Covid-19 and the continuing difficulty of bringing people together, Bishop Farrell has asked that no Confirmations take place in the Diocese until after Easter at least. Bishop Farrell will have taken up his new duties in Dublin by then, so we may have a new Diocesan Administrator and he may propose a way of having the Sacrament in our parishes. .

Church Unity becomes the focus of our prayer and neighbourliness each year from 18th to 25th January, and as we have difficulty being physically apart Covid-19 highlights in some way the irony of division of the Christian family. We keep in mind that we have far more that brings us together than what separates us. Let's build on that.

Regulations while living with level 5 restrictions during Covid-19

No visitors are permitted in private homes or gardens except for essential family reasons such as providing care to children, elderly or vulnerable people, or [as part of a support bubble](#).

Up to 6 guests are permitted at weddings.

Masses and other Church services will be held online.

Our Parish Church remains open for private prayer.

Up to 10 mourners can attend funeral Masses.

Priory Institute Online Open Day 23 January, 11.30–13.30

Take the opportunity to visit and learn about what it would be like to study with us during our online Open Day this January. Come and meet with teaching staff and students, see how our online learning platform works and sit in on a lecture on theology. We will be available to answer all your questions about student life here and to talk theology over a zoom call. This will be an enjoyable day for anyone interested in theology - whatever you decide to do. We would be delighted if you could spread the word to your friends and anyone else you think may be interested. Register your interest now. Please call or email us with any questions.

For information or registration, contact 01-4048124; [Email: enquiries@prioryinstitute.com](mailto:enquiries@prioryinstitute.com)