

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

24th January 2021

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| 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 24th January 2021

| Parish Church | Service | Time |
|---------------|--|---------|
| | Sunday 24 th January Mass | 10.00am |
| | Monday 25 th January | 09.30am |
| | Wednesday 27 th January | 09.30am |
| | Friday 29 th January Mass | 07.00pm |
| | Saturday 30 th January Vigil Mass | 06.00pm |

Deaths and anniversaries this weekend: – **Tom Grace**, Newtown Terrace (6pm Mass); **David Power**, Cloghabrody Heights (6pm Mass); **Martina Galway**, Knockard (6pm Mass); **Brigid and JP Monaghan**, Dangan Terrace (10am Mass); **Julie Stapleton**, Dangan Terrace (10am Mass); **Francis O’Neill and grandson Mark** (10am Mass), **Gerard Prentice** Dublin; **Minnie Brennan**, Cloghabrody. May they, and the souls of all the departed, rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: **Fr. Leonard and Pat Forristal**, Ballyconway (6pm Mass); **Angela Walsh**, Jerpoint Hill (10am Mass); **Finbar Phelan**, Newtown Terrace, and **Richard and Kathleen Phelan**, The Quay (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.

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.

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.

Please take care, for your own sake and for everybody else’s sake as well.

Every month, for the next nine months beginning this weekend, **the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland** will place a short video on an aspect of a Theology of Safeguarding on its website. In month ten, October, the Board will host its National Conference, titled Towards a Theology of Safeguarding at which the questions posed by the video contributors will be addressed. The first presentation, by Fr. Hans Zollner, can be accessed at <https://www.safeguarding.ie/national-conference-2021>. You can find more about the Conference and speakers at <https://www.safeguarding.ie/national-conference-2021>.

Catholic Schools Week 2021 is celebrated from Sunday 24 January to Sunday 31 January 2021 on the theme ‘Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience’. As we live through an unprecedented time of challenge and uncertainty, our faith and our resilience can be tested. We can ask questions like ‘Will things ever be the same again?’, ‘When can we get back to normality?’, ‘Where is God in all of this?’ In response to this, we reflect upon how Catholic schools are communities of faith and resilience. In Catholic schools, we are called to support each other and to have faith in the promise of the Good News. Catholic schools are inspired by the belief that God has created each one of us with a capacity to give love and receive love. This love is bound in faith and is more resilient than any virus. While each Catholic school is such a community, every Catholic school fosters the holistic development of its students, promotes their wellbeing and offers them cultivation of a deeper, loving relationship with God. Jesus teaches us to love one another as he has loved us. During Catholic Schools Week we celebrate the gifts and talents we have in following Jesus’ teaching. This year we celebrate how we are called to be communities of faith and resilience, through our thoughts, words, and actions. In doing so, we live out the meaning of the beautiful hymn ‘Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est’ – ‘Where charity and love are, God is there.’

Accord The pressures caused by Covid-19 and the restrictions which people have experienced in their lives since last March, have resulted in a great many individuals, couples and families experiencing ongoing and very high levels of tension and stress. As counselling has been classified as an essential service under the Government Plan for Living with Covid-19, visit the accord.ie website to check for a convenient location and arrange a face to face appointment”. Additional to its counselling service, Accord provides a couples and relationships support line on 01 531 3331 which is staffed by counsellors from Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 8.00pm, and is available to anyone wanting to talk through a relationship difficulty they are experiencing (calls charged at local rates).

Jesus had more trouble with good people than with sinners. Why? The hardest people of all to convert are the good, because they don’t see any need of conversion. It’s hard enough to get those who are ill to go to the doctor but try getting those who are convinced they are well to go! To answer the call to repentance one must feel a dissatisfaction with oneself and have a longing for something better. The conversion experience begins with the realisation that we are not what we could and should be. This realisation is the first stage of a process, the first step of a journey.