

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

31st 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 31st 2021

Parish Church	Sunday 31 st January Mass	10.00am
	Monday 1 st February Funeral Mass	11.00am
	Wednesday 3 rd February	09.30am
	Friday 5 th February Mass	07.00pm
	Saturday 6 th February Vigil Mass	06.00pm

Deaths and anniversaries: **Paddy Reid**, Logan Street; **Teresa Doyle**, Nore View Crescent; **Paddy Roche**, Clossgregg, and **Kitty Begley**, Castle Avenue, **Margie Kehoe**, Nore View Crescent, all died recently; **Fr. Leonard and Pat Forristal**, Ballyconway (6pm Mass); **Margaret Lennon** nee Cullen (6pm Mass); **Angela Walsh**, Jerpoint Hill (10am Mass); **Finbar Phelan**, Newtown Terrace, and **Richard and Kathleen Phelan**, The Quay (10am Mass); **Mary Stapleton and her Son Joe**, Maudlin Street; (10am); **Catherine and Daniel Shanahan**, Pleberstown; **Gerry Meegan**, Ballyduff; **Statia Grace**, Logan Street; **Rose Fitzpatrick**, Ballyfermot, Dublin; **Brigdet McDermot**, Donegal; **Paula O'Shea**, Cloghabrody Heights, **Emily Kelly**, London; **Barnes Tilney**, Dublin; **Leonard Teesdale**, Belmore, Jerpoint Church (7pm Mass, Friday); **Jim Caulfield**, Monteen, (7pm Mass Friday); **Michael Fitzsimons Snr and Ellen Fitzsimons**, Newtown Terrace. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses Next weekend: **Brohna Woods**, Newtown Terrace, and the deceased members of the Woods family (6pm Mass); **Tom and Margaret Tyrrell**, Newtown (6pm Mass); **Melvin Power**, Norelands (6pm Mass); **Tom Lannon**, Dangan Terrace (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.

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).

Candlemas Day is the day Candles are blessed in Church for the coming year. Many families like to have a blessed candle in the home – perhaps to light it during the on-line Masses, as a sign of welcome for the Lord. At our 11am funeral Mass on Monday Fr. Dan will bless candles. Afterwards you may like to come and take one to your home. Welcome!!

Bishop Dermot Farrell is to become Archbishop of Dublin, and take up his new mission on Tuesday, 2nd February. We wish him well in the enormous challenge he takes on and thank him for his three years among us.

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.

Tigray is a province of Ethiopia and is in the news these days because of fierce fighting between government troops and Tigray rebels. Thomastown has a connection with Tigray – we get the incense for use in Church from Tigray, where there is a Boswellia Project established. Since 2012, the Boswellia Project is aimed to strengthen the ecological nature of the Boswellia tree and its positive economical outcomes for the Christian communities in the arid region of Tigray in Northern Ethiopia. The Boswellia Project is a unique initiative that combines respect for our ecology and quality products for liturgy. No other existing businesses or monasteries in the world propose environment-friendly, natural incenses, produced from sustainable sources. Read or learn about Tigray, and check out the Boswellia project on www.naturalincense.org

Lent begins this year on 17th February. Please allow this lent to be a time of formation. There are many valuable resources, such as www.ossory.ie is the Diocesan website. The website of the Catholic Bishops is www.catholicbishops.ie A wonderful website is Sacred Space, created by the Irish Jesuits. It is a school for prayer and very informative regarding the Scriptures read each day in Church – www.sacredspace.ie For the Thursdays of Lent Knock Shrine is offering online discussions on the topic of 'Living Christian Faith'. This will be steamed online each Thursday of Lent at 8.30pm. See www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live

Please continue to be vigilant about taking necessary precautions with regards to Covid -19. This is a danger to the health and wellbeing of the people of the nation and world. Someone proposed a good principle – presume either that you have the virus and may pass it on, or that the other person has it. Government has drawn up regulations with regard to prayer and worship in Church.

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.

In this Sunday's Gospel, those who listen to Jesus' teaching in the synagogue know there is something different and exciting about him. His teaching is in sharp contrast to the scribes they are used to hearing and makes a deep impression on them. The difference is his authority, and it leaves his listeners 'astonished'. He does not use his position the way we might use our authority to make ourselves look good. Instead he uses his authority to serve, to love, and to bring mercy and freedom.