

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

14th February 2021

Parish Priest: Fr. Dan Bollard Mobile 087 6644858 Email: bollardddan@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 14th February 2021

Parish Church	Sunday 14 th February Mass	10.00am
	Monday 15 th February Mass	09.30am
	Wednesday 17 th February Mass	09.30am
	Friday 19 th February Mass	07.00pm
	Saturday 20 th February Vigil Mass	06.00pm

Deaths and anniversaries: **Brigid (Bebe) Hogan**, Newtown Terrace, and **Lilian Lee**, The Belfry, who died recently, and **Andrew and Kathleen Barron**, Ballyconway (6pm Mass); **Kitty Begley**, Castle Avenue (Months Mind Mass 10am); **Patrick and Kathleen Delahunty**, Mill Street, and **John Delahunty**, Newtown Terrace (10am Mass); **William Savage**, Friars Hill (10am Mass); **Herman Wagner**, Nuremberg, Germany (10am Mass); **Elizabeth Challoner**, Newtown Terrace; **Daisy and Paddy Murphy**, Logan Street; **Cora Geoghegan**, Chapel Hill; **Elizabeth Geoghegan**, Chapel Hill. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses Next weekend: **Nellie Delaney**, Pipe Street (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.

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. This is the time for the **Lenten Dues** – one of the six collections which go to the income of the priest of each parish. If you are unable to get to Church or to the Parish Office to leave in your envelope, you can make your contribution by using the Donate Button.

Lent begins this year on 17th February. Traditionally people come to Mass and receive blessed ashes. This year, the **blessed ashes** are available in envelopes in Church. Take home an envelope, and hold a ceremony in your home, with your family, or with the people in your bubble.

Light a candle, a sign of the Lord's presence and of your welcome for him. The head of the household might say this prayer:

O God, you are moved by acts of humility, and respond with forgiveness to works of penance. Lend your merciful ear to our prayers and in your kindness pour out the grace of your blessing on your servants who are marked with these ashes. We will follow the Lenten observances of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. May we come with minds made pure to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then place the ashes on the forehead of each person present, saying:

'Repent and believe the Gospel',

or *'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'.*

You might conclude your family service with The Lord's Prayer.

Some offerings for Lent On **Sundays** we will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the big chapel, to ensure physical distancing, from 4pm to 6pm. If you can't call to the Church, for a few minutes even, join us on webcam. This will be a time of quiet prayer, sitting with the Lord.

On **Tuesdays** we will have prayer at 5.30pm.

On **Thursdays** we will have prayer at 5.30pm, drawing on the inspirations of the Stations of the Cross, and compiled by a group of young people from West Cork.

Often people have a **Prayer Request** – something weighing on you and seeking a prayer. Call **087 4310053**, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

For the Thursdays of Lent Knock Shrine is offering online discussions on the topic of **'Living Christian Faith'**. This will be streamed online each Thursday of Lent at 8.30pm. See www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live On next Thursday Patrick and Linda Treacy, who run 'Integritas' at Ennisnag, will speak about the joys and challenges of living Christian Faith as a family today.

www.ossory.ie will give details, not available to us at the time of printing the Newsletter, of a variety of offerings which you might like to avail of during Lent.

Trocaire boxes are available at the Parish Church. Please call and take a packet. Trocaire seeks to help, with your help, families affected by war. In the packet you will get details of where your contribution will be used for this year, and a Lent Calendar. You may make your contributions directly to Trocaire, or to the Parish during Holy Week.

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.

Two quotes to conclude: *Along with vaccines, fraternity and hope are, as it were, the medicines we need in today's world.* (Pope Francis)

'When the forms of an old culture are dying, the new culture is created by a few people who are not afraid to be insecure'. (Rudolf Bahro)