

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

28th February 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 28th February 2021

Parish Church	Sunday 28 th February Mass	10.00am
	Sunday 28 th February Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	04/06pm
	Monday 01 st March Funeral Mass	11.00am
	Tuesday 02 nd March Evening Prayer	05.30pm
	Wednesday 03 rd March Mass	09.30am
	Thursday Stations of the Cross	05.30pm
	Friday 05 th March Mass	07.00pm
	Saturday 06 th March Vigil Mass	06.00pm

Deaths and anniversaries: **Jim Power**, Smithstown, **Mary (Moll) O'Brien**, Mong; **Albert Townsend**, Jerpoint; **Rita Caulfield**, Monteen; **John Drea**, Tullamore and formerly Oldtown; who died recently; **Margie Kehoe**, Noreview Crescent (Months Mind Mass 6pm); **Toddy Kelly**, Kilfane (6pm Mass); **Catherine O'Byrne**, Jerpoint West (6pm Mass); **Billy Woods**, Cloghabrody Heights (6pm Mass); **Margaret and Jamie Minogue**; Ballydonnell (6pm Mass); **Padraic Kirwan**, Jerpoint Church (6pm Mass); **Joe O'Hara**, Kiljames (10am Mass); **Paddy Reid**, Logan Street (Month's Mind); **Paddy Roche**, Mong (Month's Mind Mass 10am); **Margaret Fennelly**, Boher; **Michael Dempsey**, Newtown Terrace; **Chrissie Fields (nee Dempsey)** Kildare; **May O'Keeffe Shannon**, Epsom; **Thomas Hogan**, Coolroebe; **Michael Hogan**, Coolroebe. Michael Doyle, Legan. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Accord Many individuals, couples and families experience ongoing levels of tension and stress. Call the couples and relationships support line on 01 531 3331, staffed by counsellors Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 8.00pm, Counselling is available to anyone wanting to talk through a relationship difficulty. Visit accord.ie to check for a face to face appointment".

Kilkenny Bereavement Support is a voluntary organisation that offers a free listening service to bereaved people of all ages. Now, we support the bereaved by phone or by Zoom. People can discuss their preferred option with their bereavement support volunteer. Please phone 056-7756538 or email: director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People: ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns 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. Call 0818 222 024.

The Sacrament of Forgiveness will be available Sunday 4-5, during the Adoration, at the Mercy Chapel.

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.

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.

Please allow this **Lent** to be a time of formation. Check the Diocesan website. www.ossory.ie 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

Dying with Dignity? A Reflection Join our diocesan Adult Faith Development group for a virtual gathering to explore the Dying with Dignity Bill with Moral Theologian Rev. Dr Michael Shortall (Maynooth) who will lead us in a short reflection on this controversial bill facing the Irish people. To sign up email afd@ossory.ie for the link for this gathering which takes place on Monday, 1st March at 7.30pm.

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 a group of young Irish teachers explain how their religious faith is important to them and how it influences their work as teachers in the classroom.

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.

'A Clothes Collection supporting **Friends of Calcutta** (CHY No:13218) will be held on Thursday March 4th. Bags of clothes, footwear etc most welcome and can be left in the Church Car Park at any stage that day up to collection time at 4pm. All enquiries to Michael Hopkins 087 9073074'

Happy Campers – the Junior and Senior Infants, first and second class children, the young men and women in final year Leaving Certificate classes and those attending special schools who return to School on Monday 1st March. You and I can play our part in making things work by adhering to the Level 5 restrictions for the next few weeks, until Easter Monday.

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. We've had so many funerals recently, and the restrictions have created further difficulties for the bereaved. However, the alternative doesn't work, and we would have more funerals, and more people getting Covid-19. Thank you to the families of the deceased for your understanding and thank you too to all the good people who have played your part to keep everyone safer.

The story of Abraham and Isaac is a disturbing story. It teaches that God doesn't want human sacrifice. It teaches also that complete trust in God's love and goodness always requires some kind of sacrifice. When we hear this story, we sense that it does connect with our lives in difficult ways. Those who value quality family time sometimes find themselves sacrificing that promotion or salary increase, because they have put their family first. Those who are willing to speak the truth – even in love – find themselves sacrificing their desire to be well regarded by everyone. Those in school know that some necessary decisions will cause them to sacrifice a certain popularity.