

# THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

11<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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## CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021

<b>Parish Church</b>	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> April Mass	10.00am
	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April Mass	09.30am
	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April Mass	09.30am
	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> April Mass	07.00pm
	Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> April Vigil Mass	06.00pm

Deaths and anniversaries: **Johnny (Riordan) Kelly**, Maudlin Street recently deceased. **Jim Lannon**, Dangan Terrace (6pm Mass), **Catherine Heffernan**, Achill (10am Mass). **Kit Rafferty**, Chapel Lane; **John and Mary Challoner**, Newtown Terrace; **Terry Anderson**, Newtown. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

**Anniversary Masses Next weekend: Paddy Doyle**, Nore View Crescent (Month's Mind Mass 6pm).

**Trocaire:** Don't forget to return your contributions to Trocaire asap, please. We are happy to forward your contributions to the Diocesan Office. You may decide to forward them directly to Trocaire. We read so much about people around the world living in difficult circumstances – disasters in nature, and disasters caused by people's inability to live in harmony. A little help from you and I can go a long way.

**Easter Offerings:** Thanks to all who have made contributions to the Easter Offerings and to the Weekly collections. The Easter Offerings, taken up in the parishes of the Diocese, are to provide an income for the priests of the Diocese. The Weekly collections meet any capital expenses we incur. And we plan to update the lighting in the Parish Church soon, so you can help. And, of course, you appreciate that we are deprived these times of the traditional 'Offertory' collections at Mass. You may like to make your contributions via the **DONATE** button on the website, specially if you haven't got an envelope from the Office.

**The Donate Button** on the Parish website on the Home Page can also be used to make other financial contributions to the Parish. Check it out.

These can be **challenging times** for many people. We are happy to remind you of some services which may be of help.

**Accord:** Call the couples and relationships support line on 01 531 3331, staffed by counsellors Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 8.00pm, Counselling is also available to anyone wanting to talk through a relationship difficulty. Visit the [accord.ie](http://accord.ie) website to check for a convenient location and arrange a face to face appointment".

**Kilkenny Bereavement Support** offers a free listening service to bereaved people of all ages. Please phone 056-7756538 or email: [director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com](mailto:director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com).

**COVID-19 Support Line for Older People:** Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance, seven days a week, 8am - 8pm. Call 0818 222 024.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society** The telephone number of the Thomastown St. Vincent de Paul Society is **086 2664669** for anyone who wishes to contact the Society.

**MABS:** The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is a free, confidential and independent service funded through the Citizens Information Board. MABS assist people who have debt problems. For information contact MABS on: [www.mabs.ie](http://www.mabs.ie) or call MABS on 0761 072610.

**Schools reopen** for all primary and secondary school students this week, please God. And Covid-19 numbers are dropping. Please keep in mind that that doesn't mean that we can throw away all caution, as the rate of spread can be alarming. Thankfully vaccinations are being rolled out. People who are fully vaccinated may socialise indoors with others who are also fully vaccinated, 14 days after the final vaccination. Restrictions are eased from Monday. Two households can meet outside for social/recreational purposes. We can move within the county. Construction of housing and childcare facilities recommence. There are still stringent restrictions on people gathering in Church. On 26<sup>th</sup> April numbers in Church for funerals will rise to 25.

**First Communions and Confirmations 2021.** You will appreciate that it is very difficult to schedule First Penance, First Communions and Confirmation during the current pandemic as numbers gathered in Church are restricted. Currently the plan is to have First Communions on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June**, with two Masses each day so that numbers in Church are kept low.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is scheduled for **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June**, with four sessions that day. The teachers will organise the schedules for both Sacraments.

Whereas it is possible to control the numbers in the Church, a real concern is the gathering afterwards. Parents / guardians are reminded that there will be restrictions regarding people gathering in homes, so it will be vitally important to observe those restrictions also. A positive consideration is that we are forced to strip down the occasions to their essentials and will have to put aside some of the unnecessary trimmings that have become part of the day. Do please remember that the dates will depend on how we – you and I - are all doing to manage the virus. We may have to decide to change the dates if circumstances are unfavourable. So, says he with a smile, if Mums are going to buy clothes for these days, get the bigger size, just in case!!!

**The first Christians:** Emperor Hadrian reigned as Roman Emperor 117-138 AD. He was the one who built Hadrian's Wall to keep the barbarians out of southern England. He built the Pantheon in Rome also. Aristides, a non-Christian, said to Hadrian of the Christians: *'These Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows. They save orphans from those who would hurt them. If someone has something, they give freely to the one who has nothing. If they see a stranger, Christians take them into their homes and treat them as siblings. And if they hear that one of them is in jail, or persecuted for professing the name of their Redeemer, they give them what they need. If it is possible, they bail them out. If one of them is poor and there isn't enough food to go around, they fast several days to give the food they need. We are dealing with a new kind of person. There is something divine in them.'*