

# THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

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## CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 02<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

<b>Parish Church</b>	Sunday 02 <sup>nd</sup> May Mass	10.00am
	Monday 03 <sup>rd</sup> May Mass	10.00am
	Wednesday 05 <sup>th</sup> May Mass	09.30am
	Friday 07 <sup>th</sup> May Mass	07.00pm
	Saturday 08 <sup>th</sup> May Vigil Mass	06.00pm

**Deaths and anniversaries.** **Brigid Bookle**, Bawnskeha (6pm Mass); **Delia Roche**, Grennan (6pm Mass); **Jim Kearney**, Oldtown (10am Mass); **Gerard McEvoy**, Jerpoint Church; **James and Bridget Brennan**, Powerswood; **Paddy Carroll**, Ladywell; **Bridget Kehoe**, Dunan; **Joe Maher**, Dublin and formerly Ladywell (7pm Mass, Friday). May they and all our dead rest in peace.

**Anniversary Masses Next weekend:** **Johnnie Kelly**, Maudlin Street (6pm); **Pat Roche**, Logan Street (6pm).

## Covid 19 National Programme – The Path Ahead:

The Taoiseach announced on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April that from May 10<sup>th</sup>: the recommencement of in person religious services.

It is advised that First Communions and Confirmations should not take place at this time.

Funerals: 50 people can gather in Church.

Weddings: 50 people can gather in Church. For receptions afterwards 6 guests can gather at indoor receptions and 15 at outdoor receptions.

From June 7<sup>th</sup> Maximum guests at receptions increases to 25.

Following public health guidance and sticking to all of the safe behaviours – inside or outside – is now more important than ever. If we all stick to the guidance it will help us to progress through our recovery plan and control the spread of the virus. At the end of May the Government will assess whether the reopening should continue in June. We are advised to avoid ‘anticipatory behaviour’.

At time of printing, we’re not sure about numbers permitted at the Masses and other Services. We’ll have more clarification next weekend, as the recommencement begins on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Thank you to everyone who is playing an active part in keeping us all safe by adhering to what Government has been asking of us since March 2020, and especially since we went into Level 5 restrictions after Christmas. Reading the ‘National Picture’ on the Covid Tracker each day, Kilkenny manages to maintain low numbers of cases. That success is due to your care and consideration. Thank you.

**Adoration:** during the current restrictions we’ve held Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday afternoon. As restrictions are relaxed – please God – we will transfer the Exposition to Monday afternoon, beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Sunday may be a time when families get the opportunity to meet and spend time together, an important element of the Lord’s Day.

**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.

**Chy3 forms:** We’d be glad if any outstanding forms for 2020 are returned to the Parish Office asap. In turn, they will be forwarded to the Diocesan Office soon.

**Trocaire:** Thank you for the Trocaire contributions. If you haven’t got around to returning them, either to the Parish Office or directly to Trocaire, please do so this week.

**The Synodal Pathway:** Please check this out on [www.catholicbishops.ie/synod](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/synod) Until Pentecost, 25<sup>th</sup> May, you are invited to make submissions on ‘What would be your preferred option for engagement in a conversation process about the Synod? Basically the Bishops are looking for the best way to embark on and engage you and I in a conversation about the Church in Ireland and the way forward. For the present, how might this be best done.’

**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”.

**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.

**Kilkenny Bereavement Support** 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](mailto:director@kilkennybereavementsupport.com).

“Family Carers Ireland in partnership with An Garda Síochána, the National Ambulance Service Community First Responder Schemes, The Irish Red Cross and The Order of Malta has developed an **Emergency Card Scheme** for family carers. When a family carer has an unplanned hospital admission there is a risk that the person who needs their care and support could be left at home alone and uncared for. The **Emergency Card Scheme** is intended to give peace of mind to family carers as well as ensuring that the person they care for remains safe in such emergencies. For more details on the scheme, visit our website on [www.familycarers.ie](http://www.familycarers.ie) or call our Freephone Careline 1800 24 07 24.”

**Our Sunday Mass Readings:** *When Paul went to Jerusalem after his conversion, he was greeted with suspicion by his old associates and new. Barnabas introduced him to the followers of the Way. He had to be got out of the city.*

*The Gospel presents us with the image of the vine and the branches. Jesus stresses the unity between him and his disciples. Vine and branch need each other. If you’re a gardener, or even observe nature, you’ll know what he had in mind. The branches need to be pruned too. Where do you feel the pruning hand of God in your life these days?*

*The second reading, from St. John, tells us what we have to do in order to be at rights with God. We have to believe in his Son, Jesus, and love one another. Active love is what makes the true Christian stand out.*