

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

9th May 2021

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 9th May 2021

Parish Church		
	Sunday 09 th May Mass	10.00am
	Monday 10 th May Mass	09.30am
	Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament	03/06pm
	Wednesday 12 th May Mass	09.30am
	Thursday 13 th May Mass	07.00pm
	Friday 14 th May Wedding Mass	12.30pm
	Saturday 14 th May Vigil Mass	06.00pm

Deaths and anniversaries: James Walsh, Allen, Co. Kildare died Thursday; **Johnnie Kelly**, Maudlin Street (6pm); **Pat Roche**, Logan Street (6pm). **Paddy Kennedy and the deceased members of the Kennedy Family; Elizabeth Dempsey**, Newtown Terrace; **Margaret Byrne**, Ballinamona; **Deceased members of the Fennelly Family**, Jerpont Church; **Fr. David Gaffney**, and his parents **Michael and Mina Gaffney**, Dangan (Mass at 7pm Thursday); **Richard and Andrew Forristal**, Ballyconway; May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses Next weekend: Marie Woods, Clohabrody Heights (Midday Mass); **Danny McPherson** (10am Mass)

Covid 19 National Programme – The Path Ahead:

The Taoiseach announced on Thursday 29th April that

From May 10th: the recommencement of in person religious services, with up to 50 people in Church. It is advised by the Taoiseach 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 7th Maximum guests at receptions increases to 25.

Following public health guidance and sticking to all 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’.

Thanks to each and everyone who has made it possible that the Government, with the advice of NPHE, is happy to begin the re-opening of the country. There will still be issues, but, please God, we will be able to manage them well, both nationally and thanks to the good judgment of each of us.

Prayer is not meant to change the world. It is meant to change us so that we can change the world. Joan Chittister.

Subsequent to the Statement from the Taoiseach, Bishop Nulty wrote ‘Given the latest advice from the Government, I am now asking that parishes do not proceed with planning for **Confirmation** and **First Holy Communion** for June and do not set any dates until further clarity is offered. If you have already set dates, please inform parents that these are, for now, suspended. I will keep you informed if the situation changes in the coming weeks.’

From Monday 10th May Government allows the opening of our Churches to communal worship. We will resume the Midday Sunday Mass to facilitate the greater number of people being able to gather. We’d ask those who can, without too much inconvenience, wait for Midday Mass to do so, and facilitate people who may be going away for the day, specially to connect with family. When coming to the Church, please accept the guidance of the stewards, please wear masks, please avoid congregating outside. If you, or any member of your family, have health issues, please continue to join us on radio or webcam for the moment.

About the celebration of **Baptisms**, they are permissible, but always adhering to the guidelines – and for now celebrated only as a single-family celebration’. Please contact the Office or Fr. Dan. The Baptismal teams aren’t going out to families to prepare for the Sacrament currently.

Marathons are in vogue these times. Those 26 miles / 42 kilometres, like Pheidippides reporting back to Athens after the victory at the Battle of Marathon. You and I may not feel up to running, but Pope Francis offers a good challenge, with a **Rosary Marathon** during May. So, Midday, Monday to Friday, be ready to tune in to 108fm or the webcam for the Rosary.

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 would 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.

The Synodal Pathway: Please check this out on www.catholicbishops.ie/synod Until Pentecost, 25th May, 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 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.

We have not got to invent God, not to hold him. He holds us. We shall never be able to explain God, though we can apprehend him, more and more through the spiritual life. I want you to hold very clearly the otherness of God, and our littleness. If you don’t get that you can’t have adoration, and you cannot have religion without adoration.

Baron Friedrich von Hugel