

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

16th May 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 10 - 1pm Email: thomastown@ossory.ie Facebook: Thomastown Parish
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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 16th May 2021

Parish Church	Sunday 16 th May Mass	10.00 am
	Sunday 16 th May Mass	12.00 noon
	Monday 17 th May Mass	09.30 am
	Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament	03/05 pm
	Wednesday 19 th May Mass	09.30 am
	Friday 21 st May Mass	07.00 pm
	Saturday 22 nd May Vigil Mass	06.00pm

Deaths and anniversaries: **Jim Phelan**, The Quay (Month's Mind Mass, 6pm); **Joe Murray**, Castle Avenue (6pm Mass); **Tom and Breed Skehan**, Newtown (6pm Mass); **Jack Lanigan**, Badger Rock (6pm Mass); **Marie Woods**, Cloghabrody Heights (Midday Mass); **Danny McPherson** (10am Mass); **Billy Keating** (Mass Friday 21st at 7pm). May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses Next weekend:

The Rosary Marathon continues this coming week, Monday to Friday, at midday, in the Parish Church, on 108fm, and the webcam.

Trocaire: A big thank you to all who forwarded contributions to the Parish for the Trocaire Lenten Campaign. The total came to €3130.

Re-opening Ireland: the excitement was palpable on Monday morning as people gathered for Mass. The joy on your faces and the velocity to your prayer said it all. It was good to be back, and for Fr. Dan wonderful to be celebrating Mass with a congregation present physically. Well over 90% of the congregation had been vaccinated.

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.

Many business people face uncertainty as business re-opens. **Please support local**, because if we don't **shop locally**, businesses will close, and we will bemoan more closed premises, more unemployment. If we want local shops and offices to open, and stay open, we must support them.

Bishop Nulty wrote to the Parishes of the Diocese: '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.'

Baptisms are being celebrated, 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.

St. Joseph 's Young Priests Society will hold Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the main Church on Thursday May 20th from 7pm to 8pm ending with rosary at 8pm for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious life. All welcome. Annual subscription now due.

Safeguarding Ossory: Ms. Kathleen Sherry has been appointed as the Diocesan Director of Safeguarding and becomes the Designated Liaison Person. She will also be Director of Safeguarding in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. This role has to do with safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Her telephone number is 085 8021633, and her email address is safeguarding@ossory.ie

Diocesan Nurse (Part time / 20 hours per week) This role is working with clergy in the Ossory Diocese covering most of Kilkenny, six parishes in Laois and one parish in Offaly, providing an advocacy and support service to priests of the Diocese. This will be an opportunity to work within a growing, community client focused organisation. The ideal candidate must be a Registered General Nurse (ideally with community experience), can co-ordinate care planning in the community, be self-motivated and can work on own initiative, possess excellent communication and time management skills. Please contact Colette Ryan at cryan@carebright.ie to apply. The closing date is 28th May 2021.

To mark those days when Ossory would be on the Lourdes Pilgrimage, May 22-27, Bishop Denis Nulty will celebrate a Lourdes themed Mass on Saturday May 22 @ 6.00 pm in St. Senan's Parish Church Kilmacow. The mass will be live streamed and can be accessed through the parish of Kilmacow website www.Kilmacowparish.com

Marian Pilgrimages have released their pilgrimage schedule for 2021 & 2022 to Lourdes, Medjugorje, Fatima, Italy & Holy Land. For more information or to register your interest please visit www.marian.ie or ring Marian Pilgrimages on (01) 878 8159.

The Priory Institute Online will hold an Open Day 12th June. People attending our online Open Day here in Tallaght in June can meet with current students and staff over Zoom, attend a short introductory lecture on theology and find out if studying theology with us is the right thing to do. www.prioryinstitute.com

2021 World Communications Day: Pope Francis has chosen as his theme for this Day 'Come and See': Communicating by encountering people as they are. He gives us a prayer: *Lord, teach us to move beyond ourselves, and to set out in search of truth. Teach us to go out and see, teach us to listen, not to entertain prejudices or draw hasty conclusions. Teach us to go where no one else will go, to take the time needed to understand, to pay attention to the essentials, not to be distracted by the superfluous, to distinguish deceptive appearances from the truth. Grant us the grace to recognise your dwelling places in our world and the honesty needed to tell others what we have seen.*