

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

04th July 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, Wednesday 10 - 1pm****Email: thomastown@ossory.ie****Facebook: Thomastown Parish****CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 04th July 2021.**

Parish Church	Sunday 04 th July	Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 04 th July	Mass	11.30 hours
		Baptism	13.00 hours
	Monday 05 th July	Mass	09.30 hours
	Monday 05 th July	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	15/17 hours
	Wednesday 07 th July	Mass	09.30 hours
	Friday 09 th July	Mass	19.00 hours
	Saturday 10 th July	Baptism	16.00 hours
	Saturday 11 th July	Vigil Mass	18.00 hours

Masses celebrated at the Parish Church continue to be available on webcam and 108fm.

Deaths and anniversaries: Nancy Skehan, Newtown Terrace (6pm Mass); Shiela Treacy, Ballynamona (11.30am Mass); **James & Mary Cassin & Deceased Members of the Cassin Family**, Coolroemore; **William & Michael Walsh**, Cappagh; **O'Leary Family**, Pleberstown. **Catherine & Liam Rice**, Carlow. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: **John Morrissey**, Clogregg (11.30am Mass); **Rita Kirwan**, San-Therese, Jerpoint Church (11.30am Mass)

Cead Mile Failte: Welcome to Mia Marie Connolly, The Meadows, baptised into the family of God last weekend.

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 are not going out to families to prepare for the Sacrament currently. Attendees at Baptisms are confined to parents, siblings, sponsors, and grandparents.

Re-opening Ireland: Keep up the good work! Thank you for your efforts to play your part in re-opening Ireland. We may be inclined to think that all is well, and caution can be abandoned. We get many reminders of the need to be careful, specially with the quick spreading Delta variant of the virus. Thanks to all who have worked under very challenging circumstances over the past 16 months. Like all the others, the people who staff our Hospitals and Nursing Homes deserve special credit. You have worked in very difficult circumstances, and you have been very conscious of the threat Covid-19 offers, both at work and at home. So, your families have carried some of the burden also. Thank you all!

As the country re-opens, don't forget to support local businesses!

Theology of the Arts. Does the Church Need Art? The Priory Institute offers a one-week online summer school motivated by a significant question posed by Pope John Paul II in his Letter to Artists: Does the Church Need Art? Six lectures will examine current theological debate on beauty and the arts, and consider some of the challenges posed by a contemporary culture of image and sound to the Church's traditional understanding of the function of sacred art. *The Summer School will run from 8-13 August and again from 22-27 August. The course includes six recorded presentations and is very flexible as it is delivered entirely online.* Find out more and register on prioryinstitute.com

Tuesday is the feast day of St. Maria Goretti, who died in 1902 and was once greatly revered for upholding the virtue of chastity. It is something we don't hear about too often nowadays, so just a few words..... maybe to start a conversation.....

Youcat is a book that seeks to put terms in ways that young people may understand.

It defines chastity as 'the virtue by which a person who is capable of passion deliberately and resolutely reserves his/her erotic desires for love and resists the temptation to find lewd images in the media or to use others as a means of achieving his/her own satisfaction'. (404)

The person is chaste who has consciously accepted his/her sexuality and integrated it well into his/her personality.

Someone lives chastely when he/she is free to be loving and is not the slave to his/her drives and emotions. (405)

Every Christian should be loving and chaste, whether he/she is young or old, lives alone or is married. (406)

A Scripture note for this weekend's Mass readings from Fr. Flor McCarthy SDB

A biblical prophet is someone who has received a divine call to speak God's word to his people, like Ezekiel. Even though the Word of God could be a hard word, it was a word of love because it meant that God had not abandoned his people. God's spokesman had to be prepared for opposition and rejection. It was so for the Old Testament prophets, and for Jesus himself.

At the close of his Galilean ministry Jesus is rejected by the people of his hometown, who can't bring themselves to believe in the greatness of someone who is one of themselves. Consequently, his power is ineffective there. Their rejection of his is an anticipation of his rejection by the Jewish nation as a whole.

Christians today should not grow discouraged by lack of belief. Paul's experience of weakness ('a thorn in the flesh') taught him humility and allowed him to experience God's power in a way that might not otherwise have been possible. The words 'My grace is sufficient for you', are spoken to us too, and should be a great consolation to us in our struggles.

Disturb us, O Lord,

When we are too well pleased with ourselves;

When our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little;

when we have arrived safely

Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Stir us, O Lord, to dare more boldly,

to venture more seas, where storms shall show your mastery,

where losing sight of land we shall find the stars.

In the name of him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes

and invited the brave to follow him. Amen.

(Author unknown)