

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

18th July 2021

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 18th July 2021.

Parish Church	Sunday 18 th July Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 18 th July Mass	11.30 hours
	Monday 19 th July Mass	09.30 hours
	Monday 19 th July Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	15/17 hours
	Wednesday 21 st July Mass	09.30 hours
	Thursday 22 nd Wedding Mass	13.00 hours
	Saturday 24 th July Wedding Mass	13.00 hours
	Saturday 24 th July Baptism	16.00 hours
	Saturday 24 th July Vigil Mass	18.00 hours
Mong	Friday 23 rd Wedding Mass	13.30 hours

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

July and August we will not hold Friday evening Mass, due to holiday time. We will celebrate a Wedding Mass this week, and on other Fridays hold Mass at 9.30am.

Deaths and anniversaries: **Eamonn Byrne**, Dangan, laid to rest on Tuesday; **Catherine Walsh**, (11.30am Mass); **Jim Flynn**, Delvin, Co. Westmeath; **Bill & Mary Grace**, Grennan; **Peter Prendergast**, Killarney; **Maria Hoban**, Bawnskeha; **Joe Challoner**, 31, Cloughabrody. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: **Margaret & James Kelly & All Deceased Members of the Kelly Family** (6pm Mass); **Vanessa McGarry**, Jerpoint West (6pm Mass); **Reid Family James, Joe, Richard & Margaret**, Knockard (11.30am Mass); **Kathleen O'Brien** Months Mind Mass in Mong Thursday 29th July.

Cead Mile Failte: Welcome to Danny John O'Keeffe, Smithstown 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. 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, especially with the quick spreading Delta variant of the virus. Thanks to all who have worked under very challenging circumstances over the past 16 months. Let's remember our undertakers and grave digger, and all who take care of the Cemeteries in the Parish. They have had to work under the strangest of circumstances, and deal with our families at the difficult time of bereavements.

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

Our Church Bell..... You may have heard it ringing in the past week. If you thought you did, then you weren't imagining things. The Bell rings once more, calling us to pray. The Bell rings at midday and 6pm, inviting us to a moment of prayer at the Angelus times. It will be rung before Masses, to invite you to Church, and to invite those who aren't joining us physically to unite in spirit with the congregation.

For centuries, church bells have played a prominent role in the history of countries, communities, and places of worship throughout the world. Historically, church bells have served as timekeepers, used to mark the hour for work, prayer, and community gatherings. Our bell was cast by Grahams of Waterford in 1837 – that is stamped on the bell. Our current Parish Church was opened only in 1867, so the bell connects us to the people who prayed in the earlier parish Church, on the site of the old St. Mary's Cemetery. The only remaining feature of that Church is the Belfry, which houses the bell. Rung manually for over a century, literature in our sacristy indicates that in 1986 a Dublin firm called Quastor installed an automatic bell unit, inserting an electro-magnetic hammer to strike the bell. That striker unit was not working, so for several years we had no bell ringing.

Michael Lennon kindly stepped forward to repair the bell, a task which took far more effort than was realised at its beginning. To replace the unit Michael tracked down similar units, with the hope of replacing the electro-magnetic striker unit. The best replacement was in Maryland in the US. Other possibilities were the Netherlands and UK. Because of the cost of transport, he opted for one in Dublin, which he had to work on, and hence more time. A big thank you to Michael. In many places bells are named. Let's think of Michael calling us to pray when we hear the peals.

The Guild of Ringers at Salisbury Cathedral in England have a prayer:

Grant, O Lord, that these bells may sound your praises and the good news of your salvation; may they summon the faithful to worship and stir all who hear them to glorify your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prosper with your blessing, O Lord, the work to which you have called us in your church and strengthen the hands of all who serve you. Make our worship more worthy, our witness more effective, and inspire us with the fresh zeal in the furthering of your kingdom, for the honour and glory of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.