

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

29th August 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, Friday 10 – 13.00 hours

Email: thomastown@ossory.ie

Facebook: Thomastown Parish

CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 29th August 2021.

Parish Church	Sunday 29 th August Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 29 th August Mass	11.30 hours
	Monday 30 th August Mass	09.30 hours
	Monday 30 th Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	15/17 hours
	Wednesday 01 st September Mass	09.30 hours
	Friday 03 rd September Mass	09.30 hours
	Friday 03 rd September Wedding Mass	13.00 hours
	Saturday 04 th September Vigil Mass	18.00 hours

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

Deaths and anniversaries: Peter Meegan, Cloughabrody Heights (Months Mind Mass 6pm); **Joan & Michael Kavanagh**, Jerpoint Church (6pm Mass); **Elizabeth (Betty) Kiely**, Ballydonnell; **Michael & Catherine Minogue**, Jerpoint West. May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: Maureen Forristal (6pm Mass)

Cead Mile Failte: Welcome to Tom Philip Brennan, Dangan Terrace, baptised into the family of God last weekend.

The First Friday of each month is associated in parishes with bringing Holy Communion to those who are unable to come to Church to receive the Sacrament. During the shut-down of the country it became apparent that many people missed the opportunity to receive Holy Communion regularly. It means a lot to so many. Fr. Dan and Sister Anna will bring Communion this week to the people on the 'regular' list. If we haven't been calling to you and you, a family member, or neighbour would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Dan at 0876644858, or the Office on Tuesday or Wednesday- 7793191.

Re-opening Ireland: Thank you for your efforts to play your part in re-opening Ireland.

We remember that we still need to observe social distancing inside and outside our Churches. Facemasks must be worn at all Masses and ceremonies. Please use the hand sanitizer as you enter the Church. For Communion in the Parish Church, please continue to observe the one-way system – up the centre aisle and down the sides, beginning with those in the centre aisle. Communion is given in the hand only. And please take your copy of the Mass leaflet home. School is indeed open, and Fr. Dan is greeted each school morning by eager students, coming through the Church grounds and looking forward to meeting up with their friends, and in the meantime learning lots. Thanks to the wonderful parents who have them all shining and smiling and raring to go.

The National School Day begins at 9.10am this year, rather than 9.30am, and we ask all to take good care entering and departing Church grounds.

Anne / Marian: The Book of Ecclesiastes, sometimes known as the Book of Qoheleth, tells us that 'to everything there is a season', and this weekend we mark the retirement of Anne Walton. Anne has been our parish secretary since 2007. We are very grateful for her conscientious and gracious service at the Parish Office during that time and wish her the very best as she opens a new season in her life story. Thank you Anne.

We're very lucky that, as the baton is passed, Marian Fennelly is willing to pick it up, so Marian begins in the Parish Office this week, September 2021. Marian will be looking after things on Fridays, and Deirdre will continue to work at the Office on Tuesdays.

Congratulations to Margaret McDonald, formerly Margaret Moore, from Ballydonnell. Margaret lives in England and celebrates her hundredth birthday on Monday 30th August.

The Annual General Meeting of Thomastown Men's Shed will take place at 14.30 hours on Wednesday 1 September 2021 in the Thomastown Men's Shed Building, Marshes Street. AGENDA: Chairman's welcome. Reading of previous AGM minutes. Chairman's report. Treasurer's Report. Membership Officer's Report. Election of Management Committee. Chairman's closing address.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People: ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

The Cathedral Draw has been intermittent during the past year, with the country shutdown for several months and draws postponed. The last Draw of the current cycle concluded in this August, and Breda Murray of Castle Avenue came out of the hat, winning €200. Congratulations Breda. We'll mention next week the new cycle of Draws, with the first draw on the last Wednesday of September.

See '**Sharing the Good News**', the July/August 2021 Newsletter of the Irish Bishops Conference, on www.catholicbishops.ie

Season of Creation 2021: Restoring our Common Home takes place this year from 1st September to 4th October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. During this season we are asked to join together to celebrate creation and protect our common home through prayer, reflection and action. The global Christian family is called to awaken to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and with each other and to encourage our parish communities to do the same, "for we know that things can change!" (Laudato Si', 13). The elderly can be wonderful role models for the young. As our world continues to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic as well as a devastating climate and biodiversity crisis, we are looking forward to two UN Conferences in the Autumn, COP15 (on Biodiversity, due to take place in China) and COP24 (on climate change, to be held in Glasgow) in the hope that world leaders take the urgent action that is needed to restore our common home. Meanwhile, there's much you and I can do. Resources for the Season of Creation are available on www.catholicbishops.ie

Today pollution has become a big issue, and rightly so. People want clean water, clean air, and clean food. But we should be even more concerned about the most dangerous pollution of all namely evil. 'Pride, anger, hate, lust, greed, envy... all these are dangerous pollutants. So what must we do? We must purify the source; the heart is the source. It is the well-spring from which all our thoughts, words, and deeds flow. If the heart is clean, all that flows from it will be clean. Blessed are the clean of heart: they shall see God.