

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

5th September 2021

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 5th September 2021.

Parish Church	Sunday 5 th September Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 5 th September Mass	11.30 hours
	Monday 6 th September Mass	09.30 hours
	Monday 6 th Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	15-17.00 hours
	Wednesday 8 th September Mass	09.30 hours
	Friday 10 th September Mass	09.30 hours
	Saturday 11 th September Communion Mass	12.00 hours
	Saturday 11 th September Baptism	16.00 hours
	Saturday 11 th September Vigil Mass	18.00 hours

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

Chapel Hill	Thursday 9 th September Mass	19.30 hours
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Deaths and anniversaries: Maureen Forristal, Jerpoint Church (6pm Mass); **Betty Kavanagh, Burrellspark; Ellen Walsh, Cappagh, Jane Walsh, Ashbourne & London...** May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend:

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

It is good news that as the country reopens further, from Monday 6th September the numbers permitted by the State to gather for Church Ceremonies is extended to 50% of venue capacity. Our stewards, to whom we're very grateful for their service, will continue to guide us in this regard.

Meanwhile, 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.

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.

First Communions / Confirmations: We plan to celebrate First Communions here in Thomastown on two days, 11th and 25th September at 12.00 noon. Confirmation will be held on Saturday 2nd October. Obviously, those dates can be changed if Covid-19 becomes a serious threat. It is good that the State is happy that families gathering to celebrate these Sacraments will be sensible in their family gatherings afterwards.

Thomastown Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Wednesday 8th September. The Parish Council consists of the Parish Priest together a representative group of Parishioners. The role of the Council is to promote the Church's mission to live and communicate the love, values and teaching of Christ in our world, addressing the issues which affect the lives of the people.

The Cathedral Draw In each Diocese the Cathedral is regarded as the Church at the heart of the Diocese, the Church where the Bishop presides over the life of the Diocese. Over the past few years work has been done to renovate the Cathedral, and this work is continuing. In that time €600,000 has been raised through a Restoration Fund Draw. The new Draw begins this month with the first draw on the last Wednesday of September and will continue for the year. Subscriptions cost €10 each month, with €500 in prizes each month. Please consider supporting the Draw. Make your subscription through the Parish Office, Murphy Victuallers or Liam Reddy.

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. Resources for the Season of Creation are available on www.catholicbishops.ie You'll see there that Trocaire has drawn up a list of 100 ways for parishes to implement Laudato Si. The Parish Council will be looking at this list. Meanwhile, a few suggestions that each of us could take up

- Walk to Mass if you live reasonably close. Otherwise, leave the car a distance away and walk the rest of the way. This will mean leaving home a little earlier, of course.
- Use washable, rather than disposable napkins, mugs, etc.
- Switch off lights when leaving a room.
- Don't leave electrical appliances on stand-by.

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 gift of hearing is a precious gift.
But it only with the heart that we can hear rightly.
The cry of a needy person may reach our ears,
but unless it reaches our heart
we will not feel the person's pain,
and it is unlikely that we will respond.
And the gift of speech is a precious gift.
But again, it is only with the heart that we can speak rightly.
For our words to ring true, they must come from the heart.
If they come only from the lips,
they will have a hollow sound and will have little effect.
They will be like a wind that ruffles the surface of the water
but leaves the depths untouched.
But words that come from the heart, enter the heart.*