

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

10th October 2021

Parish Priest:

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 10th October 2021.

Parish Church	Sunday 10 th October Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 10 th October Mass	11.30 hours
	Monday 11 th October Mass	09.30 hours
	Monday 11 th Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	15-17.00 hours
	Wednesday 13 th October Eucharistic Service	09.20 hours
	Friday 15 th October Mass	19.00 hours
	Saturday 16 th October Baptism	16.00 hours
	Saturday 16 th October Vigil Mass	18.00 hours

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

Deaths and anniversaries: Martin Langton, Kilcullen died recently; **Marian Doyle**, Newtown, (Month's Mind 6pm Mass); **Liam Burke**, Castle Ave (6pm Mass); **Johnny Byrne**, Newtown Tce (6pm Mass); **Maura Byrne**, Carrickmourne (10am Mass); **Kathleen Finan**, Kilmurray (11.30am Mass); **Lynn Roche**, Jerpont Church (11.30am Mass); **Kathleen Denieffe**, Newtown (11.30am Mass); **Nora Kelly**, Dunamaggin (9.30am Mass Monday); **Noel O'Reilly**, Kilkenny Road; **Michael Dunne**, Castle Ave; **Patrick Barron**, Jerpont Abbey: May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: Elizabeth Walsh, Kilmurray (6pm Mass); Kathleen Stapleton, Legan (10am Mass); **Josie Beck**, Dangan Tce (11.30am Mass);

Thomastown Parish Pastoral Council met on Wednesday 6th October. We spoke of November Masses for those who died since last November and propose to call them to mind at our four Friday Masses in November, three months at a time. Bernie Dempsey and Sister Bernadette will be looking for photographs which we will put up in Church, so it will help greatly if you have a photograph ready for them – or leave it into the Parish Office. If you've lost a loved one who is buried elsewhere, feel free to provide a photograph, and we will be very happy to remember them also.

October Stations: this is the time for the fourth of the six annual contributions to the upkeep of the priests in the parishes. Fr. Dan needs and appreciates your support.

Webcam: Apologies to all. The webcam in the Church hasn't been working for the past ten days or so, due to a technical glitch. It is – should be – up and working once more since Wednesday evening.

The Rosary on the Coast for Life and Faith takes place this Sunday, October 10th, in the Black Abbey, Kilkenny, at 2.30pm. This will be followed by the Divine Mercy at 3.00pm. A Rosary will also be said on Sunday in St Columcille's Church, Inistioge, at 4.00 pm.

Re-opening Ireland: Thank you for your efforts to play your part in re-opening Ireland. It is good news that 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.

Thank you to the families who joined us for First Communions and Confirmation over the past few weeks – with restricted numbers in Church. Thank you too for observing covid restrictions at home afterwards.

The Sacraments have been celebrated in different circumstances over the past two years. With numbers restricted and the ceremonies stripped down to the basics, there was a certain beauty and focus which might be lost otherwise. What do you think? Thinking forward to May/June 2022, Fr. Dan would love to hear your comments on the experience, and how you might like to see the celebration of these sacraments in the future. Let us know – email the Office or the School, or indeed a few words when meeting.

.... **And shutting.....** October 8th, 2021, ought to remind us that, as Karl Marx said, 'Money is a jealous god'. In banking circles, profits and shares seem to be the priority. Understandably, maybe, to some extent. Maybe, too, footfall in the Bank is reduced because we're all using online banking during the pandemic. However, when the Bank of Ireland in the heart of Thomastown shuts, what about social and community issues. The life of the heart of the town becomes impoverished. You and I need to give it the kiss of life – use the services and do that consciously. Hopefully in the future the Bank building will serve the social and community life of the area.

It would be inappropriate to finish this rant without acknowledging the kindness of staff members who have served us well over many years. We'll miss you and wish you well!

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.

*Jesus saw that the rich young man had great potential,
so he invited him to enter the world of sharing.
But he wasn't up to it – riches got in the way.
As he went away a sadness descended on him
The sadness that descends on us when we choose to live for ourselves.
Even though Jesus was sad to see him go, nevertheless, he let him go.
There's no point in forcing people to make sacrifices.
If you take things from people, they are impoverished;
but if you can get them to give the up, they are enriched.
People are essentially good,
but this goodness has to be awakened and called forth,
if they are to enter the kingdom of love. (Flor McCarthy)*