

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER 24th October 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
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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 24th October 2021.

Parish Church	Sunday 24 th October Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 24 th October Mass	11.30 hours
	Monday 25 th October Mass	10.00 hours
	Wednesday 27 th October Mass	09.20 hours
	Friday 29 th October Mass	19.00 hours
	Saturday 30 th October Baptism	16.00 hours
	Saturday 30 th October Vigil Mass	18.00 hours

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

Deaths and anniversaries: Billy & Mary Hogan, Newtown Tce & Wales (6pm Mass); **Peter Fitzsimons**, 6 Newtown Tce. (6pm Mass) **Mick Conlan**, Legan (11.30am Mass); **Charles, Stephen & Phyllis Behan** (11.30am Mass); May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: Martin Langton (Month's Mind 6pm Mass); Rita Teesdale, Jerpoint Church (7pm Friday Mass).

November Masses for those who died since last November and for all the dead: we will 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.

World Mission Sunday is the Holy Father's annual appeal for spiritual and financial support so that the life-giving work of overseas mission and missionaries can continue. It always falls on the second last Sunday in October, meaning this year it will be celebrated on Sunday 24 October. This year's theme '*We Cannot Remain Silent – We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard (Acts 4:20)*' is twofold. It is a message of hope – Jesus Christ is risen and we cannot keep his love, compassion, and mercy to ourselves. It also challenges us to stand up and speak out on behalf of those who are weaker. All too often, the voices that need to be heard are not the loudest. For them, we cannot remain silent.

'Lord help us to know what we see and not merely to see what we know'
(Maria Harris)

A **Letter box** has been inserted in the sacristy door for those who wish to leave envelopes or notices for the Newsletter. It is deemed more secure to do it this way because the collection box could be emptied when the Church is quiet.

Government advises that **COVID-19** infection rates are once again increasing along with hospitalisation and ICU admissions. However, thanks to the hard work and exceptional support of the Irish people for the Vaccination Programme, we can continue our careful and gradual approach to re-opening. We will need to continue to monitor the ongoing risk from the disease and, including through testing and contact tracing as appropriate. We will all need to take steps individually and collectively in our everyday lives to keep this risk under control, in particular by - acting fast, isolating and getting tested if we have symptoms;
- wearing our face coverings where appropriate;
- making sure that indoor spaces are well ventilated;
- maintaining adequate social distancing whenever appropriate; and
- covering our coughs and sneezes and keeping our hands clean by using sanitizers. .
From October 22 Religious services and weddings can proceed without capacity limits but with all other protective measures remaining in place. The directions seem confusing, so for the moment, until there is more clarity, we will uphold the current social distancing in 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.

Safeguarding Concerns

If you have a child safeguarding concern or wish to raise a matter from the past you may contact any of the following:

Diocesan Designated Persons

Ms. Kathleen Sherry 085 8021633

safeguarding@ossory.ie

Mr. Cathal Cullen 087 100 0232 or

Ms. Rose Brophy 087 331 4330

Garda National Protective Services

01 6663430/35

Civil Authorities

Tusla Child & Family Agency Carlow

Kilkenny area 052 617 7302

Safeguarding Reps. for this Parish are:

Brigid Cassin Begley and Ray O'Carroll. Contact them through the Parish Office.

A **youth trip to Taizé** in France organised by Ossory Youth will take place from Sunday 26th June to Sunday 3rd July 2022. A week in the Taizé Community is an opportunity for reflection and contemplation and a little step back from daily life. But bringing people together is also the essence of Taizé and it is a week of meeting young people from different countries and cultures where new friendships are made. Tens of thousands of young people from around the world, including 25 from Kilkenny, will make the trip to Taizé next year. The programme, which runs from December 2021 to July 2022 is open to Transition year, 5th year and Leaving Cert students. Closing date is Friday 19th November. For additional information, including cost and application forms, contact Patrick Bookle, Ossory Youth at (056) 7761200, (087) 2129006 or pbookle@ossoryyouth.com

Counselling Services

Towards Healing Confidential Helpline

1800 313 316

www.towardshealing.ie

Towards Peace Spiritual Support Service

01 505 3028

www.towardspeace.ie