

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER 21st November 2021

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 21st

Parish Church	Sunday 21 st Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 21 st Mass	11.30 hours
	Monday 22 nd Mass	09.20 hours
	Monday 22 nd Adoration	15.00-17.00 hours
	Wednesday 24 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Friday 26 th Mass	19.00 hours
	Saturday 27 th Baptism	16.00 hours
	Saturday 27 th Vigil Mass	18.00 hours

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

Deaths and anniversaries: **Pat Higginbotham**, Castle Ave (6pm Mass); **Joe & Josie Lannon** 34 Dangan Tce (6pm Mass); **Michael O'Carroll**, Jerpoint Church (10am Mass); **Michael Furlong**, 3 Cloghabrody Heights (11.30am Mass); **David Walsh**, Dysart; **Patrick Fanning**, Grennan; **Thomas Redmond**, Marshes St; **Elizabeth Long & Family**, The Mall; May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: **Willie Kavanagh**, Cloghabrody (6pm Mass); **Unie Kelly & Peggy Murphy** (6pm Mass); **Frances White Knocknaboola** (6pm Mass); **Cha & John Whelan**, Jerpoint Church.

November Masses for those who died since last November and for all the dead: The fourth of our November Friday Masses for the Dead will be held on Friday, when we remember specially those who died during August, September, October and November. Thanks for the photographs of the deceased, and thanks to Bernie Dempsey and Sister Bernadette for organising the collection and presentation of the photographs. The photographs will remain on display until the end of the month, so do call around to see them if you haven't done so already.

November offerings: Thank you to all who forwarded contributions to the November offerings. If you haven't got round to it yet, please don't forget.

Retired Priests' collection: Each year at this time we hold, throughout the Diocese, a collection to support funds for retired priests. This collection will be held next weekend.

St. Elizabeth Convent is situated in Minsk in the country of Belarus – next door to Russia, and featuring in the news these days.. The Russian Orthodox community there looks after two hundred children in an orphanage, and has a centre for people who have fallen on hard times. Next weekend the Sisters will visit Thomastown and will invite you to buy the icons, ceramics and decorations produced in their workshops. This will support the ongoing work of care for the least fortunate.

St. Vincent de Paul Society holds a collection this weekend. The telephone number of the Thomastown St. Vincent de Paul Society is **086 2664669** for anyone who wishes to contact the Society.

By the numbers we hear each day, we appreciate that **COVID-19** hasn't gone away. 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.

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.

For this year's **Carol Service** on 21st Dec, we have a very special choir participating which will be made up of local frontline workers. We already have the local fire service, An Garda Siochana and staff from St Columba's Hospital involved. If however you, or anybody you know who works in our frontline services in other capacities would like to join the choir on the night, please let us know by texting your name to Kevin on 087-2213717. You will be needed for a rehearsal during December and then of course for the Carol Service itself. For the year that's in it, it will be very symbolic to have our frontline workers involved.

Bluebird Care are currently hiring experienced Care Assistants for Thomastown and surrounding areas to work with clients in their own home. We offer flexible part/full time hours to work around your lifestyle including weekends only, mornings only, evenings only, and specific days. If you are interested in finding out more about our opportunities, please email your CV to ckw@bluebirdcare.ie or call 056 7789952.

The Kingdom of God is a space. It exists in every home where parents and children love each other. It exists in every region and country that cares for its weak and vulnerable. It exists in every parish that reaches out to the needy.

The Kingdom of God is a time. It happens whenever someone feeds a hungry person, or shelters a homeless person, or shows care to a neglected person. It happens whenever we overturn an unjust law, or correct an injustice, or avert a war. It happens whenever people join in the struggle to overcome poverty, to erase ignorance, to pass on the faith.

The Kingdom of God is in the past (in the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth); it is in the present (in the work of the Church and in the efforts of many others to create a world of goodness and justice); it is in the future (reaching its completion in the age to come).

The Kingdom of God is a condition. Its symptoms are love, justice, and peace. Jesus Christ is king! We pray today that God may "free all the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, to live in his love."