

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER
12th December 2021

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 12th

Parish Church	Sunday 12 th Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 12 th Mass	11.30 hours
	Sunday 12 th Evening Prayer	17.00 hours
	Monday 13 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Monday 13 th Adoration	15.00-17 hours
	Wednesday 15 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Friday 17 th Mass	19.00 hours
	Friday Sacrament of Reconciliation	19.30 hours
	Saturday 18 th Sacrament of Reconciliation	17.15 – 17.50 hours
	Saturday 18 th Vigil Mass	18.00 hours

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

Chapel Hill	Thursday 16 th Mass	19.00 hours
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Deaths and anniversaries: Dick Forristal, Colmcille (6pm Mass); **Kathleen Reddy**, Dangan Month's Mind (10am Mass); **Ben Hennessy**, Low St (11.30am Mass); **Ned Follis**, Jerpoint West; **Elizabeth Fanning**, Grennan; **Mary Walshe**, Grennan; **Ned Ryan**, Friars Hill; **Geraldine Cullinane**, Clonakilty; **Sean Ryan**, Bonnybrook; **Marie Challoner**, Grennan; **Frances Prendergast**, Kilkenny; **Tommy & Petra McGuinness**, Knocktopher; **Nancy Walsh**, Jerpoint Abbey: May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: Maggie Morrissey, Cloughsgregg (Friday 7pm Mass); **Bernie Stapleton**, Maudlin St (6pm Mass); **Catherine Walsh**, Chapel Lane (6pm Mass); **May Delaney**, Pipe St (10am Mass); **Niall Hogan**, Ruppá (11.30am mass); **Nora & Jackie Dunphy**, Dangan (11.30am Mass).

Advent in Thomastown: an evening prayer will be held each Sunday at 5pm.

A triduum in preparation for Christmas will be held 20/21/22nd December.

To facilitate people who would wish to talk with a priest in the context of the Sacrament the Sacrament will be available Saturday at 17.15 hours. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at other times by request.

St. Vincent de Paul Collection takes place this weekend: The local contact telephone number is **086-2664669** for anyone who wishes to contact the Society.

Thomastown Parish Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday at 7.30pm.

Charity 3 Forms: As we approach the end of 2021, we would be grateful if you could return your signed Chy3 form. If you do not qualify, please sign the slip at the end of your letter and you will not receive the chy3 form again. Thank you for your ongoing support every year.

Christmas Mass Cards – offering a remembrance at three Christmas Masses are available at the Sacristy or the Parish Office.

St. Joseph's Young Priest's Society will hold Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday from 7pm to 8pm for Vocations to Priesthood and religious life: All welcome.

Masses at Christmas: Christmas Eve: Mass at 17.00 hours and 20.00 hours.

Christmas Day: Mass at 10.00 and 11.30 hours.

St. Stephen's Day: Mass at 10.00 and 11.30 hours.

As we have discovered over nearly two years, all arrangements are provisional, depending on advice in these Covid times. We ask people who have covid symptoms or underlying health issues to join us on webcam or 108fm. Government advises that for Masses and other Church services half the numbers be admitted. The stewards will advise that if numbers exceed half the Church capacity, then join us outside, or in your cars on webcam or radio. Communion will be administered at the Church steps for those who cannot join us in Church.

Please continue to play your part to keep **COVID-19** at a distance. 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.

First Communion / Confirmation in Thomastown in 2022: As for 2020 and 2021, it is difficult to plan for anything. However, we propose that First Communions will be held in this parish Saturday May 14th, and Confirmation will be held on June 17th.

The Cathedral Draw takes place on this Wednesday, 15th December. It is never too late to join. Contact the Parish Office on Tuesday. Currently work is beginning on the Sanctuary area of the Cathedral and is to be completed by the end of March 2022.

Reflection for Young People

What are the big questions for you? Who creates a space for you to explore your questions? Do you expect them to have all the answers? Are you comfortable with uncertainty & living with the big questions? If the above questions strike a chord with you & you would like to explore them further why not join the vocations team for a series of zoom meetings on Saturday 4th, 11th, 18th December from 10 am - 11 am. Simply drop an email with your name and parish to vocations@ossory.ie and we will send you the link On Saturday 18th December the topic will be...'Living with the Questions 'See our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Vocations-Ossory-109568687936204> or follow us on twitter @vocossory.

So, it is Advent and the Advent question, the question the people asked John the Baptist still stands: What should I do? What should I, must I, so to be authentic, to live the life God has called me to live.

An old man was sharing his wisdom with his grandson. He told him we have two wolves inside us who struggle with each other: one is the wolf of peace, love and kindness. The other is the wolf of fear, greed and hatred. 'Which wolf will win Grandfather' asked the youngster. The wise man gave a John the Baptist answer: 'whichever one we feed'.