

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER 16th January 2022

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 16th January.

Parish Church	Sunday 16 th Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 16 th Mass	11.30 hours
	Monday 17 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Monday 17 th Adoration	15.00 – 17.00 hours
	Wednesday 19 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Friday 21 st Mass	19.00 hours
	Saturday 22 nd Vigil Mass	18.00 hours

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

Chapel Hill	Thursday 20 th Mass	19.00 hours
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Deaths and anniversaries: Kitty Begley, Castle Avenue (6pm Mass); **Noreen Walsh**, Dangan, and **deceased members of the Walsh family (6pm Mass); Walter Walsh**, Grennan House (6pm Mass); **Michael Snr. And Ellen Fitzsimons**, Newtown Terrace (10 am Mass); **Billy Walsh**, Bennettsbridge and his son **Niall** (11.30 Mass); **Michael and Marie Kearney**, Oldtown; **Martina Galway**, Knockard; **Nancy Piert**, Ladywell. May they rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: Julia O’Keeffe, Cloghabrody (6pm Mass); **Julie Stapleton**, Dangan Terrace (6pm Mass); **Teresa Doyle**, Noreview Crescent (10am Mass); **Brigid and JP Monahan**, Dangan Terrace (11.30am Mass); **Francis O’Neill** and grandson **Mark Moriarty** (11.30 am Mass); **Paddy Reid**, Logan Street (11.30 am Mass).

KEEPING OUR CEMETERY TIDY Dear Parishioners, you are reminded that all items removed from graves should be brought away. Over the years certain parts of the cemetery have been used by some as a dumping ground. Not only is this unsightly, but it is also distressing for those families who have graves in the vicinity of these blackspots. Of late, much of this material has been removed. It would be nice if we could add to our list of New Year Resolutions an intention to keep our cemetery as a fitting place for our deceased relatives and friends.

Thomastown Parish Pastoral Council meeting is postponed for a week, due to Omicron. Kevin Kelly is current Chairperson of this group. As the title suggests, this group seeks to identify and address issues which have to do with the care of the people of the Parish. Early in 2022 we try to identify some matters to build up the kingdom of God among us. If you would like to bring matters to the attention of the PPC, please contact Kevin, Fr. Dan, or one of the other members.

After the Christmas Festival the decorations are removed from the Church. Thanks to Kevin Kelly and Tom Walsh for organising the Christmas Tree; thanks to Seamus Quigley and John Blanchfield for arranging the crib; thanks to Billy Davis who is always available to put up

banners, to Linda for looking after flowers, Richard Moore for the posters at the Church gates, and to Sister Anna for candles on the windows. The crib figures, as you will have noticed, are new. The old ones had become damaged over many years. A big word of thanks to two generous contributors who each donated to the parish and whose contributions paid for the new crib figures, costing almost €2000.

Parish Envelopes..... We are falling behind getting them out this year. Hopefully this will be remedied in the coming fortnight.

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.

Other Dates for 2022: Ash Wednesday is on 2nd March, and Easter Sunday 17th April. Ascension will be celebrated on 29th May, and Pentecost on 5th June. The August Bank Holiday falls on 1st August, so the Cemetery Mass will be held Friday 29th July. We have had to cancel it for the past two years, so please God we will hold it this year.

We appreciate that **COVID-19** hasn’t gone away and is particularly active with the Omicron strain. We must all continue to take steps individually and collectively in our everyday lives to keep this risk under control, 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.

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.

Prayer: *O Gold of abundant giving, the enormous amount of new wine is an indication of the multitude of your blessings.
O God of the wedding, you reach down to embrace us in intimate love. As you let your glory be seen and the disciples believed in you, may we never lack signs of your love, nor the eyes to see them. We pray for those who do not believe; that their eyes may be opened to see the signs of your presence and power in the world. May they be drawn into the embrace of your love.
Lord, as you showed your power and divinity at a wedding, we pray for all married couples. Strengthen the bonds of those who are drifting apart. Help all families to grow in the likeness of your love. Take the water of our human efforts and transform it into the wine of divine love.*

<p style="text-align: center;">Counselling Services Towards Healing Confidential Helpline 1800 313 316 www.towardshealing.ie</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Towards Peace Spiritual Support Service 01 505 3028 www.towardspeace.ie</p>
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