

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

23rd January 2022

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 23rd January 2022.

Parish Church	Sunday 23 rd Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 23 rd Mass	11.30 hours
	Monday 24 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Monday 24 th Adoration	15.00-17.00 hours
	Wednesday 26 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Friday 28 th Mass	19.00 hours
	Saturday 29 th Vigil Mass	18.00 hours
Masses celebrated at the Parish Church continue to be available on webcam and 108fm.		
Mong	Thursday 27 th Mass	19.00 hours

Deaths and anniversaries: **Edward Walsh**, Cappagh who died recently in London; **Julia O'Keeffe**, Smithstown, Month's Mind (6pm Mass); **Julia Stapleton**, Dangan Tce (6pm Mass); **Mary Stapleton**, Maudlin St (6pm Mass); **Teresa Doyle**, Nore View Crescent (10am Mass); **Francis O'Neill & Grandson Mark Moriarity** (11.30am Mass); **Brigid & J.P. Monahan**, Dangan Tce (11.30am Mass); **Paddy Reid**, Logan St (11.30am Mass); **Paddy Roche**, Clossgregg (7pm Mass Mong 27th); **Jim Delaney**, Newtown Tce; **David Power**, Cloghabrody; **Patrick (Pa) Kelly**, Newtown Tce; May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: Tom Grace, Newtown Tce (6pm Mass).

Thomastown Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Wednesday at 7.30pm at the Parish Office.

St. Mary's National School Junior Infants Enrolments. The closing date for Junior Infant enrolment is 31st January. Application forms are available from the school office – 056-7724290, email: reception@stmarystown.com or from the local creches.

We appreciate that **COVID-19** hasn't gone away. We all need to continue to take steps 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.

The Good News is that salvation is not achieved through our own merits, but through the goodness of God. This is the heart of the Good News. The only thing to be done is to open our hearts to the Saviour who has come to bring us salvation and joy. (Flor McCarthy)

Week of Prayer for Church Unity 18th – 25th January: The theme chosen for this week is 'We have seen His Star in the East'. The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is one very familiar to us. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that come to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might represent the unity of all the faith-traditions of Christianity gathering around the Lord.

For the Church of Ireland community these days mark a time of change. Bishop Burrows has been Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory since 2006. He has been chosen as Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe.

Canon James Mulhall, who has been priest in charge in this area, known as the Kells Union with Inistioge, for the past few years is soon to depart and serve as Dean of Cashel. The five churches of the Kells Group comprise the four churches in Kells Union: St Mary's Kells, St Matthew's Kilmoganny, St Peter's Ennisnag and Kilfane Church, together with the fifth church – St Mary's Inistioge. We wish them both well in their new ministries and thank them for their time among us.

While change occurs in the Church of Ireland hierarchy, we still await the appointment of a new Bishop. Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, continues to be the Administrator of the Diocese. While he oversees the day to day running of things, the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Okolo, manages the work of selecting three candidates whose names will be sent to Rome, where one will be chosen. Bishop Nulty has written to the Parishes of the Diocese to tell us that the National Safeguarding Committee will carry out an audit of Safeguarding practices in the Diocese. This will take place late February or early March.

Catholic Schools Week 2022 is celebrated from Sunday 23 January – 30 January, on the theme 'Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full'. During this week families, parishes and schools are invited to participate in a week of celebration of Catholic schools reflecting on their contribution to society. Considering the challenges and uncertainty we have collectively faced over the past year, this year we are presented with the opportunity to reflect on how our faith sustains us and how we as a community support and care for each other.

Study Theology Online, is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before 8 February for Spring 2022. Find out more on our website: prioryinstitute.com

"Human beings are frail and foolish.

We have been told that grace is to be found in the universe.

But in our human foolishness and short-sightedness

We imagine divine grace to be finite and for this reason we tremble.

But the moment comes when our eyes are opened,

And we see that grace is infinite.

Grace demands nothing from us

But that we await it with confidence

And acknowledge it with gratitude.

Grace makes no conditions and singles out none of us in particular.

Grace takes us all to its bosom

And proclaims a general amnesty". (Isaac Dinesen)

For the webpage:

In September 2019 Pope Francis instituted **‘The Sunday of the Word of God’**. The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time is to be ‘a Sunday given entirely to the Word of God, to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people.’ This would be a fitting time to ‘strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity’. We are reminded that just before his Ascension the Risen Lord appeared to the apostles and broke bread with them. ‘He then opened their minds to understand the Scriptures’ (Luke 24:45). The Pope, in his apostolic letter *Aperuit illis*, wrote ‘The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet, the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible’.