

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

20th February 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 20th February 2022.

Parish Church	Sunday 20 th Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 20 th Mass	11.30 hours
	Sunday 20 th Baptism	12.30 hours
	Monday 21 st Mass	09.20 hours
	Monday 21 st Adoration	15.00-17.00 hours
	Wednesday 23 rd Eucharistic Service	09.20 hours
	Friday 25 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Saturday 26 th Vigil Mass	18.00 hours

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

Chapel Hill	Thursday 24 th Mass	19.00 hours
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Deaths and anniversaries: Maura Roche Minogue, Newtown Terrace; **Jim & Rita Caulfield** (6pm Mass); **Jim ‘Dotty’ Power** (6pm Mass); **Padraig Kirwan**, Jerpoint Church (10am Mass); **Paddy Manning**, Upper Kilmurry (10am Mass); **William Savage**, Friarhill (11.30am Mass); **Sean Finan**, Kilmurry (11.30am Mass); **Doireann Murphy**, Brownsford; **Elizabeth Challoner**, Newtown Tce.; **John O’Rourke**, Newtown; **Thomas Hogan & Michael Hogan**, Coolroebeag; May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: Billy Woods, Cloghabrody (6pm Mass); **Patrick & Bridget Dunphy & Family**, 24 Newtown Tce & England (6pm Mass); **Catherine O’Byrne**, Jerpoint West (6pm Mass); **Margaret and Jamie Minogue**, Ballydonnell; **Nellie Delaney**, Pipe St (10am Mass); **Toddy Kelly**, Kilfane (10am Mass); **Joe O’Hara**, Kiljames (11.30am Mass).

St. Mary’s National School Clothes Collection There will be a used clothes collection in school on Friday 11th March. We will be accepting bags of clothes from **Monday, 28th February to Friday, 11th March**. All the following accepted: used clothes, shoes, handbags, belts, blankets, curtains, duvet covers not (duvets), pillowcases (but not pillows) and soft toys. The proceeds will help to purchase educational resources and equipment for the school. Bags can be left under the canopy at the front door of the school.

‘Hate cannot be driven out by hate; only love can do that’. Martin Luther King.

150th Anniversary of the Sisters of St. John of God A liturgical celebration is planned to mark the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. John of God and to enable us to give thanks for the service and ministry the Sisters and their collaborators have provided in the Diocese of Ossory. Throughout the years the Sisters have ministered in a number of parishes in our diocese and have provided all parishes and religious houses with Altar Breads. The celebration will take place at St. Fiace’s Church, Loughboy, Kilkenny (R95 DK88) at **5.30pm on Thursday, 10th March 2022** and will be followed by refreshments in the adjoining Parish Centre. All those who would like to recognise and give thanks for the work of the Sisters are invited to attend.

THE KISS OF CHRIST is a short hybrid course (online and at home/in parish) to introduce the way of lectio divina and to support those who would wish to practice it during Lent 2022 Further information and to register your interest online (€10/pp Registration) www.aspal.ie

The Dalai Lama tells a story about a monk from Tibet who had spent some 18 years in a prison in China. He managed to escape and eventually met his spiritual leader. At their meeting the Dalai Lama asked the monk what was the greatest threat he experienced during his time in prison. The monk surprised him in a joyful way when he said that what he feared most was that he would lose his compassion for the Chinese people. Without forgiveness for those who put him in jail and kept him there he would never be fully free. He would still be a prisoner and they would continue to have power over him. His compassion and forgiveness liberated him. He knew that he had found the keys; he was free. His story shows that where there is compassion in the heart even the ‘enemy’ can become a neighbour, someone for whom we have understanding and a forgiving heart.

We are reminded that **Covid** hasn’t gone away. Still, you and I must take care.

In the Parish Church we continue to occupy every second seat in the side aisles to facilitate people who may still have anxiety around physical distancing. Please continue to use facemasks and use the sanitizers. Bishop Nulty has advised that we not yet have a handshake as the Sign of Peace. Holy water is not restored yet to fonts for communal use at the entrance of Church buildings. If you wish to take home Holy Water, it is available to you near the Baptismal Font. The Bishop’s Conference will meet in March and will review the situation.

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus, are the first word of the Latin original meaning, “We stand before You, Holy Spirit.” As we are called to embrace this synodal path of the Synod 2021-2023, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.