

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER  
27<sup>th</sup> March 2022

<b>Parish Priest:</b> <b>Fr. Dan Bollard</b> <b>Mobile 087 6644858</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:bollarddan@gmail.com">bollarddan@gmail.com</a></b> <b>Website <a href="http://www.thomastownparish.ie">www.thomastownparish.ie</a></b> <b>Radio: fm108</b> <b>Diocese of Ossory Reg. Charity No. 20015831.</b>	<b>Parish Office:</b> <b>Tel No 056 7793191</b> <b>Opening Tuesday, Wed and Friday 10 - 1pm</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:thomastown@ossory.ie">thomastown@ossory.ie</a></b> <b>Facebook: Thomastown Parish</b>
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**CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

<b>Parish Church</b>	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> Mass	11.30 hours
	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Mass	09.20 hours
	Monday Adoration	15.00-17.00 hours
	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Mass	09.20 hours
	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Weddings	11.30 hours and 13.30 hours
	Saturday Vigil Mass	18.00 hours

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

**Chapel Hill** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Mass 19.00 hours

**Deaths and anniversaries: Rene Kelly & Mikey Kelly**, Kilfane (6pm Mass); **Mary Byrne**, Carrickmourne (6pm Mass); **Mary Cody** Chapel Hill (29<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm); **Patrick O'Neill**, Smithstown; **Bridget O'Neill**, Smithstown; **Mary Doyle**, Carrickmourne: May they and all our dead rest in peace.

**Anniversary Masses next weekend: Hannah Lily Roche**, Jerpoint Church (6pm Mass).

**Thomastown Parish Finance Committee** will meet on Monday at 7.30pm.

**Mother's Day** occurs this Sunday. We thank God for all mothers, those still at the hearts of their families and those who have 'gone before us, marked with the sign of peace'.

This is **New Time** when our watches and clocks go forward. Up an hour earlier today!!

**The First Friday** Fr. Dan and Sister Anna will bring Communion this week to the people on the 'regular' list, though with two weddings on Friday Fr. Dan will contact some of the people and call another day this week. If we haven't been calling to you and you, a family member, or neighbour would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Dan at 0876644858, or the Office on Tuesday or Friday - 7793191.

Clothes Collection supporting **Friends of Calcutta** (CHY No: 13218) on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March. All items of clothing, footwear, curtains etc most welcome and can be left at any stage that day in the Church Car Park up to end of collection at 3pm. All enquiries to Michael Hopkins 087-9073074.

**Give peace a chance:** A socio-drama for Peace, Healing & Hope: Come and see this creative approach in action while helping to raise funds for Irish Red Cross Ukrainian Appeal on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> 2pm to 4.30pm at Thomastown Community Centre. Masks encouraged but not mandatory.

**St Mary's Cathedral Gift and Bookshop** is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30am-5pm. The shop has a wide range of books and gifts suitable for Confirmation and First Holy Communion children: bibles and rosaries, prayerbooks all suitable for young people.

**St. Mary's Cathedral's new altar and sanctuary area** will be consecrated this Sunday at the 5.30pm Mass. be sure to visit it next time you are in Kilkenny.

**Collection for Ukraine:** Bishop Nulty asks each parish to hold a collection for Ukraine this weekend. As people were very generous in supporting the 'Songs for Peace' event on 16<sup>th</sup> March, rather than asking people to contribute again we will donate to Ukraine the money contributed to the Offertory Collection on Patrick's Day. If you haven't had an opportunity to make a contribution and would like to, please place it in an envelope marked Ukraine and we will further it to the Diocesan Office for the Red Cross.

A clear theme runs through all three Readings: God's mercy to sinners. In the first Reading we have the beautiful words God spoke to his people: 'I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you'. The shame of sin and the darkness of slavery are behind them. The years of wandering in the desert are over; they have come home to the promised Land. A new Era was about to begin. They mark their homecoming by celebrating anew the Feast of Passover. This reminds us of the home-coming of the prodigal son (Gospel). His shame is also behind him. His years of wandering are over and he returns home to a warm welcome and a great feast. A new and bright future lies ahead of him. Jesus told the parable in response to the criticism of the Pharisees that he was too lenient towards sinners. They were meant to see themselves in the older son. For Luke the 'Pharisees' are righteous Christians for whom God's mercy to sinners is unfair and scandalous. The second Reading stresses how God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, not holding our faults against us. The task of the Church is to bring the benefits won by Christ to all people.

***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.***



The initial round of Synodal meetings are taking place in 14 centres throughout the Diocese during March, beginning each evening at **7.30pm**. You are welcome to attend any of the Centres, while the nearest to us in Thomastown are: **Thursday, 31 March 2022 in Kilkenny at St Patrick's Centre Loughboy.**