

## THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

22<sup>nd</sup> May 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 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 22<sup>nd</sup>

<b>Parish Church</b>	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mass	10.00 hours
	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mass	11.30 hours
	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mass	09.20 hours
	Monday Adoration	15.00-17.00 hours
	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> Mass	09.20 hours
	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> Mass	09.20 hours
	Saturday Baptisms	16.00 hours
	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> Vigil Mass	18.00 hours

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available after Saturday evening Mass or any other time on request.

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

**Deaths and anniversaries:** Con O'Neill, Kilkenny & Grennan recently deceased; **Kathleen Grace**, Newtown Tce Month's Mind (6pm Mass); **Joe Murray**, Castle Ave (6pm Mass); **Jack Lanigan**, Badger Rock (6pm Mass); **Siobhán Stapleton**, Kilfane (6pm Mass); **Josie & Jimmy Long**, Jerpoint West (10am Mass); **Ellen Roche**, Jerpoint Church (11.30am Mass); **Rose, John & Sean Donohue** (11.30am Mass); **Billy Keating**, Ballydonnell Monday (9.20am Mass); **Maureen Hennessy**, London & Ballyduff: May they and all our dead rest in peace.

**Anniversaries next weekend:** Michael Dunne, Cherrymount (11.30am Mass).

**Thomastown Parish Pastoral Council** invites everyone to a celebration for Fr Dan Bollard's Golden Jubilee. All are most welcome to attend and share in this special occasion for Fr. Dan, his family, friends, and the parish of Thomastown. Bishop Denis Nulty, our Apostolic Administrator, and his fellow priests will concelebrate Mass at 7pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June in the Parish Church. Refreshments will be served afterwards in St. Mary's National School. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you. Fr Dan would very much like your presence rather than presents on this occasion. However, if you wish to make a donation to charity Fr Dan has nominated The Friends of St. Columba's Hospital. A collection box will be available.

**Thomastown Scout Group** are having a Coffee Morning and Bric-a-Brac Sale in the Scout Den on Saturday June 04, 2022, from 11am to 3 pm. All are welcome. This event is to raise money to send a Scout Team (14- and 15-years olds) to the National Scouting Skills Competition in Limerick in August.

**Report of the Parish of Thomastown Finance 2021:** The Report is available at the back of the Church. A big 'Thank You' for your financial support during difficult times. You have been very generous. A word of thanks to the collectors in Church, envelope distributors, counters, Parish secretaries and members of the Parish Finance Committee. That the Report comes out at this time each year is because the Diocesan accountant checks the parish finances, and we must await clearance from the Diocese. The financial year ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December and contributions made after that date are entered in the new year, so Christmas offerings etc that come in after that date will be recorded in the new year. If you have any enquiries, please contact one of the members of the Committee.

Killoughternane Drama Group will perform a two-act comedy, '**Run for your wife**', for one night only, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm at the Community Hall, beginning at 8pm. Admission is €10, to be paid at the door.

**Kilkenny Bereavement Support** is a voluntary organisation offering a free listening service to the bereaved since 1989. Work has greatly increased since the lifting of Covid restrictions with the result that they now need to train a new group of volunteers. A training skills programme will be offered in September/October. For an application form or to know more about our work, please phone 056 7756538 or visit [www.kilkennybereavementsupport.com](http://www.kilkennybereavementsupport.com).

In a letter written to the faithful of the Catholic Church in China, in May 2007, Pope Benedict XVI expressed the hope that today, the memorial of Our Lady Help of Christians who is venerated with such devotion at the Marian shrine of Sheshanin Shanghai, would become a day of prayer for the church in China.

May 24<sup>th</sup>: Day of Prayer for the Church in China

Our Lady of Sheshan, sustain all those in China,

Who, amid their daily trials continue to believe, to hope, to love.

May they never be afraid to speak of Jesus to the world

And of the world to Jesus.

In the statue overlooking the Shrine You lift your Son on high,

Offering Him to the world with open arms in a gesture of love.

Help Catholics always to be credible witnesses to this love,

Ever clinging to the rock of Peter on which the Church is built.

Mother of China and all Asia, pray for us now and forever. Amen.

**Reflection:** *The idea that we are loved unconditionally is difficult to take onboard. Paul Tillich in his book 'The Courage to be' said Faith is the courage to accept acceptance. Our experiences tell us we are not always accepted. Rejection and alienation can often define us. Yet God's Love is unconditional and total. That is why Tillich uses the word 'courage'. We must make the leap of faith from our doubt to accept acceptance. When we do, we enter a world where we are loved, accepted and understand how much we are loved. The words of God in Isaiah are addressed to us... 'You are precious in My eyes and honoured and I love you. (Isa 43:4).*