

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

24th July 2022

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 24th July

Parish Church	Sunday 24 th Mass	10.00 hours
	Monday 25 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Monday Adoration	15.00-17.00 hours
	Wednesday 27 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Thursday 28 th Wedding Mass	12.30 hours
	Friday 29 th Cemetery Mass	20.00 hours
	Saturday 30 th Wedding Mass	13.00 hours
	Saturday 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: Bill, Kathleen & Eamon Barron, Baunskeha (6pm Mass); Edward & Catherine Cotterell, Brownsbarn & their granddaughter Catherine Quinn Kanneberg who died recently (6pm Mass); Margaret Doyle, Newtown Tce; Michael O'Keeffe, Smithstown; William Butler, Clossgregg (Monday: 9.20am Mass): May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversaries next weekend: Peter Meegan, Cloghabrody Heights 1st Anniversary (6pm Mass); Anne Cassin, Boher (6pm Mass).

St Mary's Cemetery Mass will be held on Friday 29th at 8pm. Thank you for taking good care of your graves. During this week when many people will be preparing for the Mass, please take away glass, broken mementos, old plants, etc. If one near you is unattended, you might in your kindness rid it of weeds, etc.

Congratulations to Limerick on winning the All-Ireland last weekend. Even bigger congratulations to Kilkenny. We almost made it this time. Next year maybe.....

"Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him." - St. Augustine

"Do not make prayer a monologue...make it a conversation." - Author Unknown

So, the Day for Grandparents and Elderly People, 24th July, has arrived. Read a bit more of what Pope Francis says on this day:

- ❖ Many people are afraid of old age. They consider it a sort of disease with which any contact is best avoided. The elderly, they think, are none of their concern and should be set apart, perhaps in homes or places where they can be cared for, lest we must deal with their problems. This is the mindset of the "throw-away culture", which leads us to think that we are somehow different from the poor and vulnerable in our midst, untouched by their frailties and separated from "them" and their troubles. The Scriptures see things differently. A long life – so the Bible teaches – is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance. Blessed is the house where an older person lives! Blessed is the family that honours the elderly.
- ❖ Our world is passing through a time of trial and testing, beginning with the sudden, violent outbreak of the pandemic, and then by a war that is harming peace and development on a global scale. Nor is it a coincidence that war is returning to Europe at a time when the generation that experienced it in the last century is dying out. These great crises risk anaesthetizing us to the reality of other "epidemics" and other widespread forms of violence that menace the human family and our common home. We grandparents and elderly people have a great responsibility: to teach the women and men of our time to regard others with the same understanding and loving gaze with which we regard our own grandchildren. We ourselves have grown in humanity by caring for others, and now we can be teachers of a way of life that is peaceful and attentive to those in greatest need. This attitude may be mistaken for weakness or resignation, yet it will be the meek, not the aggressive and the abusive, who will inherit the earth (cf. Mt 5:5).
- ❖ The World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to proclaim once more, with joy, that the Church wants to celebrate together with all those whom the Lord – in the words of the Bible – has "filled with days". Let us celebrate it together! I ask you to make this Day known in your parishes and communities; to seek out those elderly persons who feel most alone, at home or in residences where they live. Let us make sure that no one feels alone on this day. Expecting a visit can transform those days when we think we have nothing to look forward to; from an initial encounter, a new friendship can emerge. Visiting the elderly who live alone is a work of mercy in our time!
- ❖ So, this week if you are one of the people the Pope is writing about, take to heart what he is saying. He appreciates the contribution that you – and he – make to life. If you're too young to fit into that category, affirm your Grandparents or another elderly person in some way this week.

"Prayer is the song of the heart. It reaches the ear of God even if it is mingled with the cry and tumult of thousands." - Kahlil Gibran