

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

14th August 2022

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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 14th

Parish Church	Sunday 14 th Mass	10.00 hours
	Monday 15 th Assumption Mass	10.00 hours
	Monday Adoration	15.00-17.00 hours
	Wednesday 17 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Friday 19 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Saturday Baptism	16.00 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: **Bobby & Annie Power**, Grennan View (6pm Mass); **Richard, Mena & John Lanigan**, Jerpoint Church (6pm Mass); **Michael Kennedy**, Brownsbarn (6pm Mass); **Phyllis Farrell**, Naas; **Declan Fennelly**, Oldtown; **Michael Piert**, Ladywell St; **The McEntee Family**, Mount Juliet; **Mary Doyle**, Kilfane: May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversaries next weekend: **Jonathan Hynes**, Newtown (6pm Mass); **Billy Daly**, Castle Ave (10am Mass).

St. Vincent de Paul Collection takes place next weekend: **Contact No: 086-2664669.**

The annual **St Moling's Well Pattern Mass** in Mullinakill, Tullogher takes place on Sunday 21st August at 2pm. The pattern mass could not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid pandemic but August 21st will see the continuation of the ancient tradition where countless generations of people from south Kilkenny, and indeed from other parts, come to honour St. Moling. The annual pattern mass is a yearly social event so come along to the beautiful tranquil surroundings of St Moling's Well on August 21st.

St Mary's Cathedral Gift and Bookshop The Chapter House Bookshop is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30 am-5pm. Situated beside the Cathedral the shop has a wide range of books and bibles, cards and prayer books. The shop has books for teenagers and Children, including comics and Lego Bibles, traditional picture Bibles, books about Irish and Celtic Saints and Heroes in bilingual versions. Activity and sticker books are also available for the younger age group.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on 15th August. Pondering Mary's unique role in the history of salvation and her perfect union with her Son, the early Church made the case for her Assumption in its faith that she ultimately shared in his glory. Scripture scholars through the centuries have also highlighted various themes in the Bible that support the Church's belief in the Assumption of Mary. Great works of Christian art depict the death or 'dormition' of Mary as well as portrayals of her being taken, body and soul, into Heaven, Mary's ultimate union with Christ.

Thomastown GAA and Camogie Club are holding a **Duck Race** on Sunday 21st August at 2pm as a fundraiser for the club. Each playing member will be given a card (from today and before the week is out) and asked to sell all 10 ducks. A duck is €5 each. A max of 2 cards per family. The organisers would be extremely grateful if a manager or coach could give the cards to their team and keep account of what card number goes to each player. Cards are to be returned by Wednesday 17th.

This week we call to memory the life of Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Raymond Kolbe was born in Poland in 1894, when it was still a part of the Russian Empire. His father was an ethnic German and his mother was Polish. They were both poor and in 1914 his father was executed by the Russians for fighting for an independent Poland. Both he and his brother left their home to join the Conventual Franciscan Seminary in Lwow. In 1910 he gained the religious name Maximilian, and he became a monk in 1914. He was ordained a priest in 1919 and returned to the newly independent Poland. He became ill with tuberculosis but through all his suffering he never once complained, seeing illness as an opportunity to "suffer for Mary". He spent some time in a monastery in Nagasaki, Japan in 1930 (which survived the atomic bombing of 1945). Maximilian was residing in the city of Niepokalanow, "City of Immaculata", at the start of the Second World War. He was arrested by the occupying Nazis in September but was released after three months. His monastery provided safety for Polish refugees and Jews. He fed and clothed around 3,000 Polish refugees (of which around 1,500 were Jews) and he published a newspaper called "The Knight of the Immaculate" in 1941 which offered strong criticism of the Nazis. It is believed this is what led to his internment in Auschwitz. There, Kolbe continued to help those in need. The overseer of Kolbe's work party took a particular dislike to him and beat him repeatedly. Kolbe, in his time in Auschwitz, maintained his beliefs and his dignity. In July, 1941, 10 prisoners were believed to have escaped. For this, 10 men were chosen at random for death by starvation. One man begged to be spared for he had a family. Seeing this, Kolbe volunteered to take his place. He died after two weeks from starvation and dehydration. Kolbe's story is one of inspiration. His relentless courage and passion saved the lives of many people. He made the ultimate sacrifice to help a man in need. For this, he was canonised in 1971. We can all learn from the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe. We must reject indifference, help those in need and stand up for the oppressed. "The most deadly poison of our times is indifference. And this happens, although the praise of God should know no limits. Let us strive, therefore, to praise Him to the greatest extent of our powers."