

THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER

15th January 2023

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 Thursday, Friday 10 - 1pm Email: thomastown@ossory.ie Facebook: Thomastown Parish
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CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 15th

Parish Church	Sunday 15 th Mass	10.30 hours
	Monday 16 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Wednesday 18 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Wednesday 18 th Apostolic Adoration	10-11 hours
	Friday 20 th Mass	09.20 hours
	Saturday Vigil Mass	18.00 hours
Chapel Hill	Thursday 19 th Mass	19.00 hours

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

Masses celebrated at the Parish Church are available on webcam and 108fm.

Deaths and anniversaries: **Kitty Begley**, Castle Ave (6pm Mass); **Frances & Patrick Lannon**, Station Rd (6pm Mass); **Noreen Walsh**, Dangan & **deceased members of the Walsh Family** (6pm Mass); **Walter Walsh**, Grennan House (6pm Mass); **Nancy Piert**, Ladywell (6pm Mass); **Mary Dunne**, Jerpoint Church (10.30am Mass); **Billy Walsh**, Graiguenamanagh (10.30am Mass); **Toddy & Eileen Davis**, Dangan; **Michael & Marie Kearney**, Oldtown; **Andrew & Josephine Hoban**, Bawnskeha ;**Noel Dempsey & Toby Cody** Bawnskeha (Thursday 19th 7pm Chapel Hill): May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: **Kathleen Cahill**, Smithstown Month's Mind (6pm Mass); **Julia Stapleton**, Dangan Tce (6pm Mass); **Francis O'Neill**, Chapel Lane (10.30am Mass); **J.P. & Brigid Monaghan**, Dangan Tce (10.30am Mass); **Teresa Doyle**, Noreview Crescent (10.30am Mass).

Thomastown Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday at 7.30pm.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society Adoration for Vocations to Priesthood & Religious life takes place in the Mercy Chapel on Wednesday from 7.30-8.30pm: All welcome.

Prayer Service for Bishop Elect Niall Coll: As we look forward to the ordination of Fr. Niall Coll as our new Bishop on Sunday, 22nd January you are invited to gather to pray for the Bishop in St. Mary's Cathedral on the previous Friday evening, 20th January at 7.30. During the prayer service the Pectoral Cross, the Episcopal Ring, the Mitre and the Crozier, which will be presented to the Bishop during the ordination ceremony, will be blessed. This will be an opportunity for all of us to express our prayerful support and welcome to Bishop Coll.

Do this in Memory: Next Sunday at our 10.30am Mass we will be joined by the girls and boys and their families as the youngsters prepare for First Communion. First Communion day will be Saturday 13th May.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society: To contact the Society call 086-2664669.

Thomastown Parish Senior Citizens Association holiday is to the Clonakilty Park Hotel, County Cork from 21st to 27th May 2023. Cost €700 per person sharing, (single supplement €200 extra) to include 6 nights B & B with dinner and entertainment nightly, and day trip every day. Breakfast on day of departure and dinner on return journey. To book your place a non-refundable deposit of 50 euro is required. For further details and to book your place please call to Senior Citizens shop, Community Hall Thursday, or Friday 10 am to 2 pm.

South Kilkenny Historical Society lecture: Family at War: The Hales Brothers and the Irish Revolution. Speaker: Liz Gillis. Thursday, January 26th. Time: 8pm. Venue: Mullinavat Parish Hall (opposite church).

Bishops of Ossory: from 1884 to 1981 we had only three Bishops of Ossory. Bishop Brownrigg, from Wexford, was Bishop from 1884 to 1928, 44 years. He even outlived his Co-adjutor, Bishop Downey, who was to succeed him but died before him. He was succeeded by Bishop Patrick Collier, a native of Camross in the Slieve Blooms. He was Bishop from 1928 until 1962. In turn, he was succeeded by Bishop Peter Birch, a native of Conahy. Bishop Birch attended the second Vatican Council. He died suddenly on 7th March 1981. Bishop Laurence Forristal, a native of this parish and an auxiliary Bishop in Dublin, became our Bishop to succeed Bishop Birch. Bishop Forristal served as Bishop until 2007. Upon his retirement Bishop Seamus Freeman became our Bishop. A native of Callan, he was a member of a religious congregation called Pallottines. Due to ill health, he retired in 2016. Bishop Dermot Farrell, from Westmeath and a priest of Meath diocese, became Bishop on 11th March 2018. He was appointed Archbishop of Dublin in December 2020. Since then Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of the neighbouring Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, has been the Apostolic Administrator, appointed by Pope Francis to 'keep and eye' on us until a new Bishop is ordained. That will happen on 22nd January when Bishop-elect Niall Coll, from the Diocese of Raphoe, a staunch Donegal man, is ordained as our new Bishop. And it all started with Saint Kieran, from Oilean Cleire, off the Cork coast, who came to the kingdom of Ossory and founded a Church at Seir Kieran. When you are in Kilkenny and have some time to spare, call to St. Mary's Cathedral and see the list of all the Catholic Bishops of Ossory. Bishop Elect Niall said, on the day of his appointment, 'I come to Ossory at a time of great challenge to faith, a time when Irish society is increasingly secular and individualistic. The four-century and more long dominance of the Tridentine pattern has left Catholics almost everywhere unfamiliar with and thus unskilled in discerning and negotiating possibilities for change in church life. But, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, discern and change we must, in line with Pope Francis' emphasis on the need for 'synodality'. I look forward to working with the priests, people and religious of the diocese of Ossory to enhance the work already underway here to develop a sustaining theological and pastoral vision, one able to invite, inform and enthuse a new generation of Christian witnesses'.