

**St. Colmcille Pastoral Area**  
**comprising Thomstown and Inistioge**  
**THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER**  
**05<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

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**THOMASTOWN CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 5th**

<b>Parish Church</b>	Sunday 05 <sup>th</sup> Mass	10.30 am
	Monday 06 <sup>th</sup> Mass	10.00 am
	Wednesday 08 <sup>th</sup> Mass	09.20 am
	Wednesday Adoration	10-11 am
	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Mass	09.20 am
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00 pm.

**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.

**Parish of Inistioge**

Fr. Francis Purcell is the Parish Priest of Inistioge.

WEEKEND MASSES Vigil: The Rower 7.30 p.m.

Sunday: Clodiagh 9.30 a.m.; Inistioge 11.00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES (weekday Masses may occasionally change due to circumstances)

The Rower: Tuesday & Thursday 9.30 a.m. Inistioge: Wed & Friday 9.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses may be altered due to circumstances.

**Deaths and anniversaries:** Eileen Coffey (nee Ianigan), Jerpoint Church & Dublin recently deceased; Beebee & Neddy Hogan, Newtown Tce (6pm Mass); Joe Minogue, Newtown Tce (6pm Mass); Leonard Teesdale, Belmore, Jerpoint Church (6pm Mass); Brohna Woods & deceased Members of the Woods Family (6pm Mass); Fr. Leonard Forristal & Pat Forristal Ballyconway (6pm Mass); Finbarr Phelan, Newtown Tce (6pm Mass); Michael & Barbara Barcoe, England & Thomastown (6pm Mass); Kieran Wemyss, Noreview Crescent: Month's Mind (10.30am Mass); Kathleen Delahunty, Mill St & John Delahunty, 35 Newtown Tce (10.30am Mass); Angela Walsh, Jerpoint Hill; Mary McMahan, Newtown; Richard Gaule, Colmcille: May they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: Cáit Doyle, Smithstown (6pm Mass); Maura Roche Minogue, Newtown Tce (6pm Mass); Harry Beck, Dangan Tce & Anne McFadden (nee Beck) Singapore (10.30am Mass); Tom Lannon, Dangan Tce (10.30am Mass); Andrew & Kathleen Barron, Ballyconway (10.30am Mass); Carmel & Eileen Ryan, Newtown Tce (10.30am Mass).

**Grennan College** are holding a clothing re-use scheme to raise funds for sports and activities and would really appreciate your support. Please return clean clothing, and paired shoes, handbags, belts, curtains, and bed linen in binbags to Grennan College before Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Next Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, we hold our next **Do this in Memory Mass** with the children preparing for First Communion and their families.

Take note of the new format for our Newsletter. This is to remind us that the Diocese, a few years ago, formed Pastoral Areas, within which the people of the parishes may be better served, and we all benefit from sharing with our neighbours. Thomastown has been joined with Inistioge. The agreed name for the new reality is '**St Colmcille Pastoral Area**'. This has been chosen because the Parish Church in Inistioge is called after St. Colmcille, and we have our townland called after St. Colmcille. We include the Mass times in the parish of Inistioge.

Incidentally, Tullaherin, Gowran and Clara form another Pastoral Area. Ballyhale, Aghavillar, and Mullinavat form a third Pastoral Area. With our 42 parishes, 13 Pastoral Areas have been formed. A challenge ahead is to make realistic exploration of how we can do things better when we do them together.

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and is designated **World Day of the Sick**. Pope Francis invites us: 'Let us turn our thoughts to the Shrine of Lourdes, a prophetic lesson entrusted to the Church for our modern times. It is not only what functions well or those who are productive that matter. Sick people, in fact, are at the centre of God's people, and the Church advances together with them as a sign of a humanity in which everyone is precious, and no one should be discarded or left behind'. You are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Sick at Mass on this Sunday morning or after Mass on next Saturday.

**St. Joseph's Young Priests Society** will hold Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious life on Wednesday from 7.30pm -8.30pm in the Mercy Chapel. All welcome.

**School of Prayer:** We have numerous 'School' here in Thomastown – school of food, equestrian school, to say nothing of National and Community Schools. Watch out for a three Tuesday School of Prayer during Lent!!

***Who celebrates?** The entire Body of Christ, animated by the Holy Spirit, celebrates the liturgy. The celebrating assembly is the community of the baptised. Liturgy is not a matter of private prayer, but a public act of worship by the faithful gathered by the power of the Spirit under the authority of the bishop, their teacher and shepherd. 'Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy, and to which the Christian people... have a right and an obligation by reason of their Baptism' (Canon no. 1141).*

*The faithful are called to come to the liturgy consciously prepared to make their thoughts agree with what they say and hear and to cooperate with divine grace. Within the assembly, the ordained have a unique function of service. 'These servants are chosen and consecrated by the sacrament of Holy Orders, by which the Holy Spirit enables them to act in the person of Christ the head, for the service of all the members of the Church' (Canon 1142). Thus, for example, priests preside at the Eucharist, in which the elements of bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. Priests act in the person of Christ, the Head of the Church, and in the name of the Church when presenting to God the prayers and self-offering of the people and when offering the Eucharistic sacrifice, above all as they proclaim the Eucharistic Prayer. (Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults, Irish Episcopal Conference, Veritas, 2014, page 190)*