

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

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**CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 05<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Parish Church</b>	Sunday 05 <sup>th</sup> Mass	10.30am
	Monday 06 <sup>th</sup> Mass	9.20 am
	Wednesday 08 <sup>th</sup> Mass	9.20 am
	Wednesday Adoration	10-11am
	Thursday First Confessions	7pm
	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Mass	9.20 am
	Saturday Baptism	4pm
	Saturday Baptism Mong	2pm
	Saturday Vigil Mass	6 pm
<b>Chapel Hill</b>	Friday Mass	7pm

**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:** **Roley Collier** Friarshill (6pm Mass); **Alice Collier**, Friarshill (6pm Mass); **Josie Ryan**, Bonnybrook (7pm Mass Friday 10<sup>th</sup>: Chapel Hill); **Patty Ryan**, Friarshill; **Mary Roche**, Logan St & **her parents Bobby & Stasia Grace**; May they and all our dead rest in peace.

**Anniversary Masses next weekend:** **Jimmy Farrell**, The Rectory Month's Mind (6pm Mass); **Tony Kehoe**, Edinburgh (6pm Mass); **Toddy Cassin**, Boher (6pm Mass); **Ned Nevin**, Dangan Tce (6pm Mass); **Stephanie Behan**, Cloghabrody, Month's Mind (10.30am Mass); **Kit Behan & May Behan** (10.30am Mass); **Bridget Ryan**, Stoneyford (10.30am Mass).

**Do This in Memory:** The girls and boys, with their families, will join us for the 10.30am Mass next Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**Resources for Lent** are available on the Ossory website. Download them at [www.ossory.ie](http://www.ossory.ie) for use at home. Follow [@OssoryDiocese](https://twitter.com/OssoryDiocese) for a simple thought each day during Lent.

**School of Prayer:** Watch out for a three Tuesday School of Prayer during Lent, on Tuesdays, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March!!

**Kilquan Drama Group's Production for "One Final Night" of Comedy "Anyone Could Rob a Bank" by Thomas Coffey on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 in Coon Hall at 8.00 pm. Eircode R93 EC89. Admission €10. No Bookings Come Early.**

**Anam Cara South East** will host its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7:15pm in the Brandon House Hotel, New Ross. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please contact us on [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) or 085 2888 888 for any queries.

**Saint Kieran** was the first Bishop of Ossory, and his Feast is held on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Kieran's father belonged to the *kingdom of Ossory*. On a trip to the southwest of Ireland he met a woman called *Liadán*, Kieran was born of their marriage and, according to the *Lives*, was fostered on Cape Clear, where there are many monuments dedicated to him.

Kieran set out for Rome, where he was baptised and studied scripture. On his way back to Ireland it is said he met St Patrick, who told him exactly where to found his settlement, giving him a bell which would only ring when he found the place. This turned out to be *Saighir Chiaráin*, near the village of Clareen about four miles south-east of Birr, Co Offaly.

*Saighir Chiaráin* was the chief church of the *people of Ossory* for some time. There is a monastic site with sacred well and the saint's bush still very popular at the place near Clareen in Co Offaly. However, ecclesiastically Seir Kieran seems to have been superseded by the later monastic foundation of St Canice at nearby Aghaboe. And it was Canice who was to be the patron of the church established by the Normans in the city of Kilkenny.

After the penal times, in 1782, Bishop John Thomas Troy of Ossory (later Archbishop of Dublin) established a Catholic diocesan seminary, St Kieran's College, in Kilkenny. The motto he gave it was: *Hiems transiit*, a quotation from the Song of Songs applied to the passing of the winter of the Penal Laws in Ireland. When the Catholic cathedral was built in 1843, although it was called St Mary's, it also has Kieran as its secondary patron and Kieran is the patron saint of the Catholic diocese of Ossory.

**St. Patrick – how would he speak to a modern Ireland:** Fr. Billy Swan will address this topic at St. Kieran's College on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. It is easy to leave Saints confined to our past. It is hard to imagine them in our world today and yet our study of them and the Gospel messages they shared can surely provide much fruit for today.