

St. Colmcille Pastoral Area
comprising Thomstown and Inistioge
THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER
04th FEBRUARY 2024

Parish Priest:	Parish Office:
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Diocese of Ossory Reg. Charity No. 20015831.	

THOMASTOWN CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 04th.

Parish Church	Sunday 04 th Mass	10.30 am
	Monday 05 th Mass	10.00 am
	Wednesday 07 th Mass	09.20 am
	Wednesday Adoration	10-11 am
	Friday 09 th Mass	09.20 am
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00 pm.

St. Columba's Tuesday 06th Mass and Anointing 11.00am

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: **Joan Lynch** (nee Lanigan), Dublin & Jerpont Church recently deceased; **Beebee & Neddy Hogan**, Newtown Tce (6pm Mass); **Fr. Leonard Forristal**, Ballyconway (6pm Mass); **Pat Forristal**, Ballyconway (6pm Mass); **Brohna Woods**, Newtown Tce (10.30am Mass); **Mary McMahon**, Newtown; **Michael & Barbara Barcoe**, London; **John Morrissey**, Coolroemore; **Leonard Teesdale**, Belmore: may they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: **Maura Roche Minogue**, Newtown Tce & deceased members of the **Roche Family**, Clossgregg (6pm Mass); **Seán Finan**, Kilmurry (6pm Mass); **Tom Lannon**, Dangan Tce (10.30am Mass); **Kathleen Delahunty**, Mill St (10.30am Mass); **John Delahunty**, Newtown Tce (10.30am Mass); **Stephie Behan**, Cloghabrody & deceased members of the **Behan Family** (10.30am Mass); **Andrew Barron**, Ballyconway (10.30am Mass); **Anne McFadden (nee Beck) & Harry Beck**, Dangan Tce (10.30am Mass).

The Parish Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday at 7.30pm.

St. Columba's Hospital: Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday at 11am. **The Sacrament of Healing** will be given to those ill or elderly who wish to receive it.

The fifth and sixth episodes of Season Two of award-winning show **The Chosen** about the life of the disciples and Jesus will be shown on the big screen of Thomastown Community Centre this Sunday at 3.30pm. Free Admission and refreshments. All welcome.

Do this in Memory; Next Sunday we hold our parish Mass for the children preparing for First Communion.

Anam Cara Southeast will host its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Tuesday 13th February 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 or 085 2888 888 for any queries.

Preparing for Lent -, beginning on 14th February - Traditionally, Catholics spiritually prepare during Lent through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Do what you did last year? Try something different than last year? A lot of questions can swirl around in your mind before Lent as you try to figure out what to do! – **FASTING** - In addition to food items, fasting might include limiting or giving up for a time: cellphone, social media, news/entertainments, criticism of self/others. Or try early bedtime, drinking only water. **ALMSGIVING**- In addition to monetary contribution, almsgiving could include forgiving someone, giving the gift of a spiritual book, writing to old friends, making quality time for someone neglected, visit a nursing home, volunteering, smiling and making eye contact. **PRAYER**- Making a nightly appointment with Jesus, reading a spiritual book or through a book of the Bible, picking a saint to be your Lenten prayer partner/helper, praying a 40-day novena for someone in your life, incorporate a gratitude practice by thanking God morning and evening for the daily blessings.

There are two things you can do to figure out how to spend your Lent: Pray about it and discern where in your life you need to grow or change. Pray and ask God to enlighten your mind and heart to what you should do for Lent. Give yourself time to pray and listen. God may not answer you in one day or give you an obvious answer. He may quietly shine a light in an area of your life that He wants you to focus on. Trust in Him to guide you. Most importantly, whatever Lenten offering we choose, it must ALWAYS be done in union with Jesus' offering of Himself on the Cross, with His intention of manifesting for the whole world the divine splendour, love and beauty of God and of connecting each and every human being to that Love. Above all, to keep the intention of our sacrifice pure. Remember that even the smallest offering attains infinite value when united to the intention of our Jesus on the Cross."

GOD IS LOVE

God is love: his care, Tending each, everywhere.

God is love, all is there! Jesus came to show him, That mankind might know Him!

Refrain

Sing aloud, loud, loud! Sing aloud, loud, loud!

God is good! God is truth! God is beauty! Praise Him!

None can see God above; All have here man to love;

Thus may we Godward move, Finding Him in others, Holding all men brothers: *R*

COME TO ME LORD & LIVE ...

Come to me, Lord, and live within me. Fill my soul with your life and love.

Free from sin this day, Lord, preserve me, True to your word, give me your peace.

Bring quick relief to all who suffer, comfort and strength to all those who mourn,

You are the vine, and we are the branches, Though we are many, in you we are one.

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD,

Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices,

Who wondrous things hath done, In whom the world rejoices;

Who from our mother's arms Has blessed us on our way

With countless gifts of love, And still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God Through all our lives be near us,

With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us,

And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,

And free us from all ills In this world and the next.