

St. Colmcille Pastoral Area
comprising Thomstown and Inistioge
THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER
5th January 2025

Parish Priest: Fr. Dan Bollard Mobile 087 6644858 Email: bollarddan@gmail.com Website www.thomstownparish.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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THOMASTOWN CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 5th.

Parish Church	Sunday 5 th Mass	10.30am
	Monday 6 th Mass of the Epiphany	10.30 am and 7pm
	Wednesday 8 th Mass	09.20am
	Wednesday Adoration	10-11am
	Friday 10 th Mass	09.20am
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00pm
St. Columba's	Tuesday 07 th Mass	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: **Joe Kelly**, Station Road, **Michael Twomey**, Stoneyford, **Chrissie O'Mahony**, Jerpoint West, Month's Mind (6pm Mass), **Paddy Skehan**, Newtown Terrace, Month's Mind (6pm Mass); **Matthew Kearney** and **Micheál Kearney**, Ballydonnell (6pm Mass); **Eileen O'Neill**, Dangan Terrace, (6pm Mass); **Seamus Cullen**, Dangan Terrace, (6pm Mass); **Michael and Marie Kearney**, Oldtown; **Mgr. Paul Fitzgerald, Dick and Con Moore**, Colmcille (7pm Monday).

Anniversary Masses next weekend: **Breda Murray**, Castle Avenue (6pm Mass); **Patrick and Frances Lannon**, Station Road (6pm); **Billy Walsh**, Graignamanagh and **Niall Walsh**, (10.30am Mass).

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society can be contacted on 086 2664669.

The Parish Office re-opens on Tuesday. Note above the opening hours.

Kilkenny MABS Money Advice & Budgeting Service offers *Free, Independent and Confidential Money Management and Advice Service* assists people dealing with their existing debts, mortgage arrears and helping them manage their own resources. Tel: 0818 072610.

The Thomastown Cois Nore Outreach Cancer support service returns after Christmas on Thursday the 9th of January 2025, 10 to 12 noon. Call to The Community Hall for cancer support for you or your family or find out how to avail of the free services available at the Cois Nore Centre in Kilkenny City. All are welcome.

The Chosen – This Sunday 5th at 3pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

Safeguarding Concerns If you have a child safeguarding concern or wish to raise a matter from the past you may contact any of the following:

Diocesan Designated Persons
 Ms. Ailish Higgins 085 8021633
safeguarding@ossory.ie
 Mr. Cathal Cullen 087 100 0232 or
 Ms. Rose Brophy 087 331 4330
 Garda National Protective Services
 01 6663430/35

Civil Authorities: Tusla Child & Family Agency Carlow/Kilkenny area 052 617 7302
 Safeguarding Reps. for this Parish are Brigid Cassin Begley and Nellie Doherty.
 Contact them through the Parish Office.

Happy New Year!! I take this opportunity to greet you and wish you many blessings for the journey of 2025. God knows what it has in store for us, but please God we will have the resilience and spirit of hope to negotiate 2025 well.

I also want to say 'thank you' to all our readers and parishioners. I think of the various Church groups, such as the Parish Council, with Chairperson Kevin Kelly, and of the Parish Finance Committee, with Chairperson Fionnula Taylor. I really appreciate their wisdom and energy. I think too of the Vincent de Paul Society. Thanks also to the staff and Board of Management of our Parish School. Thanks to all who serve in our Churches – sacristans, choirs, musicians, servers, collectors, readers, Eucharistic ministers, Godly Play leaders, 'Do this in Memory' leaders, Baptismal teams co-ordinators of Adoration, cleaners, florists, and many more. Thanks to Sisters Anna and Bernadette and to Fr. Tom Norris. Thanks to envelope distributors – to be distributed soon - and money counters. Thanks to our Church stewards. A Thanks to the Community Scheme workers at the Church grounds and Cemetery. Thanks to Sandra and Marian at the Parish Office. You all make a difference. Thank you!! The richness of life in the Parish, and the level of cooperation was summed up for me with our Carol Service – maybe better to call it a Carol Concert because of the huge variety of carols. So many groups were involved, and so many came to support them. The occasion could be considered a Parable for life in the Parish. 2023 was memorable for sporting activities, and specially for our young men becoming All Ireland Intermediate champions and then Senior County hurling champions for 2024. A meteoric and timely ascent, after years of toil, and beautiful to behold. I'm convinced that what happened in 2024 is more than simply a flash in the pan!!

I assure you of a place in my prayers and am very happy each week to offer Mass for all the people of the Parish – one of the responsibilities of the Parish Priest. Fr. Dan Bollard.

20+B+M+C+25 – 'Benedicat Mansionem Christus', meaning 'May Christ bless the house'. In southern Germany on Epiphany homes are blessed, the occasion is marked in chalk on the front door along with the year and using the first letter of the names of the three kings, Balthasar, Melchior and Caspar.

Counselling Services
Towards Healing Confidential Helpline
 1800 313 316
www.towardshealing.ie

Towards Peace Spiritual Support Service
 01 505 3028
www.towardspeace.ie

the shepherds did, but they meet God in poverty. Perhaps they were expecting a powerful and prodigious Messiah, and they find a baby. And still, they do not think they made a mistake; they know how to recognize him. They welcome God's surprise and experience their encounter with him with amazement, adoring him—in his littleness, they recognize God's face. Humanly, we are all inclined to seek greatness, but it is a gift to know how to truly find it—to know how to find greatness in the littleness that God loves so much. For the Lord is encountered like this: in humility, in silence, in adoration, in the small and in the poor.

Pope Francis

For the website

The Magi give the gifts of gold, incense and myrrh. According to Pope Francis, what are the three gifts they received?

The first gift is the gift of the *call*. The Magi were not alerted because they had read the Scriptures or because they had seen a vision of angels, but they sensed it while they were studying the stars. ... God calls us through our aspirations and our greatest desires. The Magi allowed themselves to be amazed and inconvenienced by the novelty of the star, and they set out on a journey towards the unknown. Educated and wise, they were fascinated more by what they did not know than by what they already knew. ... We are called not to settle, to seek the Lord by stepping out of our comfort zone, journeying towards him with others. ... For God calls ... each one of us, every day. He calls us here and he calls us today, in our world.

But the Magi speak to us about a second gift: *discernment*. ...

Finally, the Magi speak to us about a third gift: *the surprise*. After a long journey, what do these high-ranking men in society find? A baby with his mother (cf. v. 11): certainly, a tender scene, but not astonishing! They do not see the angels like