

**St. Colmcille Pastoral Area
comprising Thomstown and Inistioge
THOMASTOWN PARISH NEWSLETTER**

26th January 2025

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THOMASTOWN CHURCH SERVICES beginning Sunday 26th.

Parish Church	Sunday 26 th Mass	10.30am
	Monday 27 th Mass	09.20am
	Wednesday 29 th Mass	09.20am
	Wednesday Adoration	10-11am
	Friday 31 st Mass	09.20am
	Saturday Vigil Mass	06.00pm
St. Columba's	Tuesday 28 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: Eddie O'Hanrahan & Nancy Stapleton recently deceased; **Fr. Leonard Forristal**, Ballyconway (10.30am Mass); **Pat Forristal**, Ballyconway (10.30am Mass); **Jimmy Farrell**, The Rectory (10.30am Mass); **Francis O'Neill**, Chapel Lane & his grandson **Mark O'Neill**; **Brigid McDermott**, Donegal; **Paula O'Shea**, Cloghabrody Heights; **Emily Kelly**, London; **Thomas (Kehr) Kelly**, Jerpont; **Barnes Tilney**, USA; **William Walsh Snr**, Cappagh; **Lawrence Walsh Snr**, Cappagh; **Eddie Walsh**, Cappagh & London; **David Power**, Cloghabrody Heights; **Margaret Doolan**, Newtown; **John & Stella O'Reilly**, Newhouse: may they and all our dead rest in peace.

Anniversary Masses next weekend: Joseph Kelly, Station Road Month's Mind (10.30am Mass) **Tom Grace**, Newtown Tce (6pm Mass);

"Bishop Niall will celebrate the Eucharist with religious, people and priests, on Wednesday, 29th January 2025, in St Fiacre's Church, Loughboy, Kilkenny, at 1.00 p.m., as the Diocese gathers to celebrate the **World Day for Consecrated Life 2025** Our gathering will provide an opportunity for bishop, priests and people, to express our appreciation for the wonderful contribution Religious women and men have made, continue to make, and indeed, will make in our Diocese in the years ahead. All are welcome to come and join in our appreciation."

"Opening the Bible": A free six-part video introduction to the Bible for those interested in Scripture, and those unsure where to begin. Available from January 26th at: www.tarsusscriptureschool.ie

Brigid of Kildare is a patroness of those who have a care for the earth, for justice and equality, for peace and reconciliation. She is a model for a contemplative life. **Brigid's Crosses** are traditionally made on her Feast day. These are three- or four-armed crosses woven from rushes. They are hung over doors and windows for protection against fire, lightning, illness and evil spirits. As a fundraiser for Lourdes, St. Brigid's Crosses will be available at Masses next weekend, when we remember her.

Sunday of the Word of God: Saint Luke tells us that, just before his Ascension, the Risen Lord appeared to the apostles, and broke bread with them. 'He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures' (24:45). Pope Francis says 'The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is essentially true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: 'Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ'.

GLORY AND PRAISE TO OUR GOD

Glory and praise to our God, Who alone gives light to our days.
Many are the blessings he bears To those who trust in his ways.

We, the daughters and sons of Him, who built the valleys and plains,
praise the wonders our God has done, In every heart that sings.

In his wisdom, He strengthens us, Like gold that's tested in fire.
Though the power of sin prevails, Our God is there to save.

In bread we bring you, Lord, our bodies' labour. In wine we offer you our spirits' grief.
We do not ask you, Lord, who is my neighbour? But stand united now, one in belief.
Oh we have gladly heard your Word, your holy Word, **and** now in answer, Lord, our gifts we bring.
Our selfish hearts make true, our failing faith renew. Our lives belong to you, our Lord and King.

The bread we offer you is blessed and broken, and it becomes for us our spirits' food.
Over the cup we bring your Word is spoken; make it your gift to us, your healing blood.
Take all that daily toil, plants in our heart's poor soil, take all we start and spoil, each hopeful dream,
the chances we have missed, the graces we resist, Lord in thy Eucharist, take and redeem.

Make me a channel of your peace, Where there is hatred, let me bring your love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord, And where there's doubt, true faith in you

Make me a channel of your peace, Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light, And where there's sadness ever joy

Oh, master grant that I may never seek, so much to be consoled as to console
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive, And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

Longing for light, we wait in darkness, Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.