Senior Citizens Christmas Crackers Are you interested in acting, telling a story, singing, The Senior Citizens are putting a show together for Christmas. Come to The Community Hall Monday 5th November at 11am for more information.

Eucharistic Adoration will be held on Tuesday evening from 8.00 - 9.00 in St Columba’s Chapel. All welcome. Please bring a friend. A call for a 9 day Fast and rosary starting on November 6th to invoke God’s blessings on proposed abortion legislation. For details contact Human Life International at 094 9375993.

Kilkenny Alzheimer’s Day Care Centre, Carer’s Support Group, Tuesday 6th November 2018, 3.00-4.30pm at The Village Day Centre (behind the Village Inn Pub). Information and support for past/present carers of people with Alzheimer’s/Dementia. Everyone welcome. Drop in to group or for more information call 056-7771230.

St. Mary’s National School & Bags2School – Clothes Collection: St. Mary’s National School will hold a clothes collection including: Shoes, handbags, belts, hats and soft toys to support the Laura Lynn House. Please bring your unwanted items to the school from Monday, 5th November to Wednesday, 12th December. Bags2School will donate an additional 10% to Laura Lynn House

Thomastown Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Wednesday at 7.30pm.

Thomastown Text Alert AGM: Everyone is cordially invited to the AGM of the Thomastown & District Community Text Alert Scheme on Wednesday 7th November at 8.00pm in the Thomastown Community Centre. Refreshments will be available on the night. Local Gardai will also give a talk on “Safety in the Home Place.” Anyone wishing to join the scheme or renew their membership can do so on the night. For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact: Cllr Breda Gardner, Chair, 087 2025753 or Seamus Quigley, Treasurer, 087 7728170.

Come & See: Exploring Priesthood Retreat 23/24 November at Mount St. Anne’s, Killenard, Portarlington. The cost, €30, includes accommodation and meals. For information email info@vocations.ie, Fr. Dan or another priest.

Thomastown Community Centre: The Centre has successfully secured the maximum €200,000 under the Department of Rural & Community Development Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018. It further endorses the great work that has happened since 2013 with three Phases delivered in five years with a spend of €500,000. Phases four and five will see the Big Hall transformed into a modern building where the Library will relocate into part of it securing its future on Marshes Street for decades to come after so many other services relocated from the centre of the town in recent years. A local contribution of €65,000 will be needed as match funding. Enquiries 087 77728170

With fewer priests available for ministry throughout the Diocese, we will be embarking on a process of consultation on how best to plan for the future. One of the first steps is to gather accurate information. Each parish is asked to carry out a census of Mass attendance during the first three weekends of November. This will enable us to obtain an average weekend Mass attendance for each parish of the Diocese.

While recognising the urgency of the situation and the need for some concrete responses, Bishop Farrell writes that ‘what is being undertaken is a process of discernment, not just managerial re-organisation. This implies a context of prayerful seeking the will of God, rather than just an exchange of personal views.’ There is a broader and deeper issue of what kind of Church God is calling the priests and people of the diocese to be in the longer term – perhaps less self-referential and more a community of missionary disciples, less clerical and more synodal, to use the language and categories of Pope Francis.