The Pastoral Area comprising Thomastown and Inistioge will take as its patron St. Colmcille. That is appropriate because of the local ties with the Saint – the parish Church in Inistioge is dedicated to him, and we have a townland called after him. Going into this new time there will be lessons to be learnt from his life.

Members of the two Parish Councils have formed a Pastoral Area Council. One of the first, and most difficult, tasks addressed at the meetings was the number of Masses in the area, based on the number of priests and the desire for a better quality of liturgy with fewer Masses. Bishop Farrell listed several principles to be considered.

- No priest ought to be celebrating three Masses on a Sunday and no priest should celebrate two vigils as his normal commitment.
- Every effort ought to be made to arrange Mass times to facilitate assistance between the priests of Thomastown and Inistioge. So, holidays and sick leave ought to be considered when planning Mass times.
- The starting times for Masses ought to be at least 90 minutes apart.
- Planning ought to look to the future – 2025 and thereafter – rather than short term.
- Applying those principles, new Mass schedules will apply throughout the Diocese at Advent.

Following those principles, both parishes will have a reduced Mass schedule beginning 1st Advent 2019, that is 1st December, as follows:

**Weekdays and Sunday Masses**
- Saturday Vigil Masses will be in Thomastown at 6pm, and in The Rower at 7.30pm. On Sunday Mass will be in Thomastown at 10am and in Inistioge at 11.30am.
- While there are two priests in the Area and both are available for Masses, there will be Mass in Clodiagh at 9.30am Sunday, and at St. Columba’s Hospital at 11.30am. Masses in Mong and Chapel Hill will be held midweek, at a time to be agreed with the local communities.

It was decided too that from Advent Sunday Funeral Masses won’t be held in the Area. These new arrangements have been agreed by the Parish Pastoral Council. It is appreciated that these changes will cause upset, sometimes anger, and a lot of getting used to. Please God we will all approach and embrace this new time with openness, courage and hope.

**Cemetery Masses** will be held at St. Mary’s Cemetery on Friday 2nd August at 8pm, and at the Cemetery at St. Columba’s Hospital on Thursday 8th August at 10am.

**Hospital visits:** Please let Fr. Dan know if someone in Hospital might like a visit. Hospital data protection regulations, personal preference, brevity of time in Hospital and lack of information make it more difficult nowadays to know if someone is in Hospital. If the time is short, he will be happy to call to the homes of former patients.

**Senior Citizens Day Trip:** Tuesday 30th July to Croke Park and Dinner. €15 per person (€5 extra for skyline tour) bus leaving at 8.45am. Names to the shop on Thursday or Fridays.

GROW Mental Health Support groups are free and confidential and open to all, no referral or booking needed. Meeting Times are: Tuesday @ 10am. Wednesday @ 8pm Friday @ 10.30am. Venue: Grow Office Barrack Street Kilkenny. (CEART grp: mental health effects of living with chronic pain/long term illness. Please contact Mary 087 2843424)

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**Safeguarding**

If you have a safeguarding concern contact the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person:

Mr Cathal Cullen
087 100 0232
dlp@ossory.ie

The Safeguarding Representatives in this parish are:

Brigid Begley and Ray O’Carroll

They can be contacted through the Parish Office.