

**PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.**

**The Presbytery, Longford Tel: 043 3346465**

Website: [www.longfordparish.com](http://www.longfordparish.com)

Email: [stmelscathedral@gmail.com](mailto:stmelscathedral@gmail.com) 

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

*31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020.*

**Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November. All Soul's Day.**

8.00am: Holy Souls. 10.00am: DM of the Cassells family (A).

7.30pm: Seamus Doyle (Month's Mind)

**Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November. St. Malachy.**

8.00am: Mel McNally (1<sup>st</sup> A). 10.00am: Liam and Annie Glennon (A).

7.30pm: Noel Farrell (A).

**Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November. St. Charles Borromeo.**

8.00am: Tony Martin and his wife (A).

10.00am: Sr Felicitas Gearty (100<sup>th</sup> Birthday).

7.30pm: Brigid Donnelly (A).

**Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November. St. Martin de Porres.**

8.00am: Fr Michael Conway (A).

10.00am: Mary Jane Meade (Month's Mind). 7.30pm: Noel Hanlon (A).

**Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November. All the Saints of Ireland. First Friday.**

8.00am: Fr Tom Murphy (A). 10.00am: Nicholas and Gretta Hennigan (A).

7.30pm: Tommy and Chrissie Devlin (A).

**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> November. St. Willibrord.**

8.00am: Patsy McQuaid. (A). 10.00am: Servant of God - Frank Duff.

**Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> November. 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

6.00pm: *(Vigil)* St Joseph's Bereavement Ceremony.

7.30pm: *(Vigil)* Rose O'Dowd (A).

8.00am: Joe and Mary Gray (A). 10.00am: Jim and Ann Reynolds (A).

11.30am: *Shared.* Pat McGowan (A). Elizabeth and Thomas Kelly (A).

1.00pm: Teresa Belton her parents John and Mary and DFM. (A).

6.00pm: Colman Tynan (A).

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** We thank you for your contribution to last Sunday's Offertory Collection that amounted to €2,170.00. Thanks to all parishioners who have opted to contribute to our collections electronically.

**NOVEMBER DUES COLLECTION** for the support of the Bishop and Priests of the Parish is due at this time.

**ANNIVERSARY MASS DIARY 2021:** Bookings for Masses will commence on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Anniversaries may be booked at 3346465.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the souls of John Donlon, Templemichael Glebe, whose funeral took place during the week and also Sam Dennigan, Clooneena, whose funeral takes place on Sunday at 1pm. May their soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** Next Friday is the first Friday of the month. Due to level 5 restrictions priests will not be able to bring Communion to the sick or housebound.

**INDULGENCES:** 1. From 12 noon on 1<sup>st</sup> November until midnight on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, all who have confessed and prayed for the pope's intentions (*one Our Father and Hail Mary, or any other prayer of one's choice*) can gain one plenary indulgence by visiting a church or oratory, and there reciting one Our Father and the Apostle's Creed. This indulgence is applicable only to the souls of the departed. 2. The faithful who visit a cemetery and pray for the dead may gain a plenary indulgence applicable only to the Holy Souls on the usual conditions once per day from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November. The conditions mentioned above apply also for this.

**PRAYING FOR THE DEAD AND THE BEREAVED:** Our Parish Remembrance Mass will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm and there will be a ceremony on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm to remember all who have died in St. Joseph's during the year. Ceremonies will be livestreamed on [www.longfordparish.com](http://www.longfordparish.com) and Cablecomm channel 84.

*Gospel Matthew 5:1-12a*

**How happy are the poor in spirit**

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

### **'Remember In November' – A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Francis Duffy**

November is a time to remember and pray for family members, colleagues, neighbours and friends who have died since this time last year. Those who have gone before us, those who were so much present with us, so central to our lives, have left us with a deep sense of loss. We look for peace, for healing of heartache, and for hope.

This year is particularly difficult for those who have been bereaved since March. Those profound feelings of loss have been heightened by not being able to be present at a time of death and by the absence of the familiar family and community supports.

#### **Familiar Faces**

The lockdown and restrictions have impacted on how we say goodbye to our loved ones. Some sadly died without familiar faces around them, some left this life with the caring presence of hospital and nursing home staff, we are grateful to them.

Familiar faces, consoling words and reminiscence are all important in our grieving process. Many have not had the traditional practices that help us: wakes, gatherings at home, reception of remains at the church and a funeral Mass with an unrestricted attendance. These experiences have added to the sense of loss.

#### **Sacraments**

We have been without the normal free flowing schedule of Masses and sacraments for over seven months now. Our priests and parishioners have made great efforts to keep our churches open and safe and welcoming, for this we are very thankful. Although we have moved online, and on television, for Mass, it is not the same. In his message for World Mission Day 2020, Pope Francis writes,

*'Being forced to observe social distancing and to stay at home invites us to rediscover that we need social relationships as well as our communal relationship with God.'*

We long so much to be back in church, with the support of a gathering, and the meaningful participation of being present with others, an expression of who we are and what we believe in.

#### **Uncertainty for young people and the economy**

Our remembrance this November takes place at a time of continuing uncertainty, isolation and economic hardship. We take reassurance from the good practices learned in all areas of life about how to keep ourselves and others safe. Every day we should reassure our young people of our love and support and help them to nurture their God-given gifts.

We take reassurance from the determination of our political leaders to bring us through this pandemic as safely and as socially and economically resilient as possible. We take reassurance from our belief in a caring God who encourages us to make wise decisions for the common good and to look out for each other. Jesus' call to 'love your neighbour as yourself' has taken on a new meaning in the current context of caring and of keeping safe.

#### **Hope based in Jesus ensures all will be well**

We have the reassurance of the Lord that all will be well and that He will strengthen our ability to lift ourselves and others with resolve and hope during this terrible time. Resolve to do our very best to ensure maximum safety. Hope based in Jesus' promise to be with us always 'until the end of time' (Matt 28: 20). In his extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* address of March 2020, Pope Francis said,

*'In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side'*

The risen Lord is with us.

#### **#Remember in November**

During the month of November parishes will continue with their remembrance practices in so far as the restrictions allow, November lists, remembrance trees, candles and other local traditions.

On Sunday 1 November at 3.00pm a special Remembrance Service will take place in Saint Mel's Cathedral, Longford, and will be broadcast by webcam on [www.longfordparish.com](http://www.longfordparish.com). I invite you to join us online as we remember, pray for those who have gone before us and for those who mourn. In a similar way on social media I encourage you to use the hashtag #RememberInNovember along with your prayerful messages to commemorate the souls of our loved ones. May our departed rest in peace and may the Lord bring consolation to those who grieve.

**+Francis Duffy, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois**