PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.



The Presbytery, Longford Tel: 043 3346465 Website: www.longfordparish.com Email: stmelscathedral@gmail.com PARISH NEWSLETTER

Monday 3rd May – Sunday 9th May 2021

<i>Monday,</i> 8.00am: 10.00am:	3 rd May. Holy Souls Des and Maure	<i>SS. Philip and James.</i> en Shirren. (A).
Tuesday, 8.00am: 10.00am:	<i>4th May.</i> Special Intentic Tom Palmer.	St. Conleth. on (A)
<i>Wednesday,</i> 8.00am: 10.00am:	5 th May. Oliver Farrell. Eugene Mc Geo	(A).
<i>Thursday,</i> 8.00am: Special 10.00am:	6 th May. I Intention. Paddy Cassidy.	(A)
<i>Friday,</i> 8.00am: 10.00am: 7.30pm:	7 th May. No Intention. Shiela Gillespie Ann Kane	e (died recently in New York). (Birthday remembrance)
<i>Saturday,</i> 8.00am:No Inte 10.00am:		<i>Blessed John Sullivan</i> y Mc Manus.(A)
7.30pm (Vigil) 8.00am: 10.00am:	ed: 1. Rose Mona Michael Mc G	on, son Stephen & daughter Aisling.

REST IN PEACE: We pray at this time for the happy repose of the soul of Michael (Mick) Monaghan, Ardnacassa, Dublin Road, who was laid to rest during the week. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank you for your contribution to the Offertory Collection for the last week that amounted to $\notin 1925.00$. You may drop your envelope through the Presbytery letterbox. Or you may prefer to offer financial support electronically, the following are our banking details: St Mels Cathedral Account. Permanent TSB. BIC: IPBSIE2D; IBAN: IE48IPBS99073152096969

EASTER DUES: Sincere thanks for your continued support of the priests of the parish. The amount received for the Easter Dues was $\in 15,000$

TRÓCAIRE: The amount received for the Trócaire Lenten Campaign was €11,296.

LENTEN ALMS: The amount received for the Lenten Alms Collection which supports Diocesan services was $\in 3,375$.

RESUMPTION OF MASS: We welcome the Government announcement that public worship will resume from the 10th May. Due to the restricted numbers allowed to attend mass, we are issuing tickets for each of the weekend masses. They will be available for collection from Monday 3rd May at the Presbytery. Tickets cannot be booked over the phone and last year's tickets are no longer valid.

WEDDINGS, FUNERALS, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION: From 10th May, Weddings may have up to 50 guests and Funerals up to 50 mourners. In view of Government advice 'that other religious ceremonies such as Communions and Confirmations should not take place at this time' it has been decided that all Confirmations be deferred until after 12th June, at the earliest and subject to Government advice. First Holy Communions are deferred until September.

BAPTISMS: From 10^{th} May we will be resuming the celebration of baptisms. In order to book a baptism, parents need to come to the presbytery with a copy of the child's birth cert. Numbers attending any baptism will be limited to 4 adults. At this extraordinary time we will facilitate baptisms on any day of the week.

MEETINGS: To prepare for the resumption of public worship there will be a meeting of Ministers of Holy Communion on Tuesday at 8pm and for Ushers on Thursday at 8pm. Both meetings will take place in the Cathedral.

FIRST FRIDAY: Unfortunately the priests of the Parish will not be able to make First Friday calls this month, but all going well we will be making the calls in June. A priest is available at all times for the Sacrament of the Sick

WEDDING: Owing to a wedding in the Cathedral on Wednesday, the Cathedral will be closed from 1.30pm to 3pm.

Gospel for 5th Sunday of Easter: John 15:1-8.

I am the vine, you are the branches

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine. you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'



Bound together

Have you ever visited a vineyard, with its rows of vines, heavy with clusters of ripe grapes? If you're not familiar with vines, think of an apple tree laden with apples, or a fruit bush ripe for picking. In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine to describe his relationship with his disciples. He tells them that he is the vine, and they are the branches. The life of Jesus flows into us and sustains us, and this is the reason our lives can bear fruit in love, in kindness, patience, compassion and welcome.

The symbolism of the vine works on many levels. If a branch is separated from the vine, it cannot flourish on its own. It must be connected to the vine from which it gets its nourishment. Each of us must be firmly rooted in Jesus and nourish that relationship. He invites us to 'remain' in him - to rest in him, to be part of him. And if you look at a vine plant, often its branches are so entangled, it can be hard to know where one ends and another begins. We note that Jesus is addressing the disciples as a group rather than as individuals: 'you are the branches'. We are a community, and we grow together, bound together by the love of God.

Today, we reflect on what it means to be so intimately connected with Jesus, the true vine. We bring to mind the many gifts he has given us, and the ways in which his love bears fruit in our lives.

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