

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** Meetings every week in the Family Centre, behind the Cathedral on Tuesday at 1pm; Wednesday at 8pm; Thursday at 1pm; and Sunday at 11.30am

**GUIDED PILGRIMAGES ON THE LOUGH DERY PILGRIM PATH:** will be offered on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, with Mass outdoors, weather permitting. The full route is a 12km loop, with a shorter 8km option. Advance booking is essential. For further information email [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org)

**THE FAITH CAFÉ FOR GRANDPARENTS:** The Faith Café is an initiative of the Catholic Grandparents Association which was introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic as a social and spiritual space for grandparents to meet online once a month to chat, to offer prayers and intentions and to just be together in a spirit of faith. It has connected Grandparents across the world from Ireland to the USA, from UK to Australia. The next Faith Café will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September from 7.30pm-8.30pm and the speaker is Fr. Richard Gibbons, P.P and Rector of Knock Shrine. Register for the Faith Café can be made at: [info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com). Once you register for the Faith Café, you will receive the details of how to connect in for the gathering on Zoom.

### **Gospel for 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Mark: 7:31-37**



*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak'*  
Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, '*Ephphatha*', that is, '*Be opened*.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'



### ***The Season of Creation.***

***1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021.***

The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from 01<sup>st</sup> September to 04<sup>th</sup> October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) and celebrated the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. The theme for the Season of Creation 2021 is "Restoring Our Common Home". During this Season we are asked to join together to celebrate creation and protect our common home through prayer, reflection and action. The global Christian family is called to awaken to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and with each other and to encourage our parish communities to do the same, "*for we know that things can change!*" (Laudati Sí, 13)

### ***A Prayer for the Earth.***

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.

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

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



Mass Intentions for the week

<b>Monday,</b>	<b>06th September</b>	
8.00m:	Clement Mc Kenna.	(A)
10.00am:	Kate Mimmagh & DFM.	
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>07th September.</b>	
8.00am:	Paula Mc Nally	(A)
10.00am:	John & Angela Rogers, daughter Patricia, granddaughter Amanda	
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>08th September. The Nativity of BVM</b>	
8.00am:	Bridie Cullen.	(A)
10.00am:	Colette , Marian & Timothy Gleeson. (A)	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>09th September. St. Ciaran of Clonmacnois.</b>	
8.00am:	Sam Dennigan & John Thompson RIP	
10.00am:	Matt Brennan & DFM.	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10th September. St. Peter Claver</b>	
8.00am:	James Duignan.	(A)
10.00am:	Thomas Mc Donagh	(A)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11th September.</b>	
8.00am:	Birthday intention.	
10.00am:	Paddy Creevy	<b>(Months Mind)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12th September 24th Sunday of the Year.</b>	
6.00pm (Vigil):	No Intention.	
7.30pm (Vigil):	Mary Mc Kenna.	<b>(Months Mind)</b>
8.00am:	No Intention	
10.00am:	Michael Lynch.	(A)
11.30am: Shared:	Kevin Gray.	(A)
1.00pm:	Nicky Bennett	(A)
6.00pm:	Dec. members of the Coughlan family.	

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** We thank each one of you most sincerely for your continued generous contributions to our weekly collections. This money is used for the up-keep of the Cathedral and for daily supplies that are needed. The amount received in the Offertory Collection last week was € 3,635.00.



**BAPTISM:** With great joy, we recently welcomed: Lilly Marie Erin King; David Anthony Sean Perry; Fiadh Hope Keenan; Luke Jacob Shedwell; Liam Francis Gerard Shedwell; Samuel John Igoe and Harley Ray Guy; into the Christian Community.



**REST IN PEACE:** Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the soul of John Diffley, Fairgreen View. His funeral will be celebrated on Sunday at 3pm, followed by burial in Ballymacormack Cemetery.

**KNOCK:** Unfortunately due to continued Covid-19 restrictions we cannot celebrate our traditional Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock this year. However Bishop Francis will celebrate Mass in the Basilica on this Sunday afternoon 5th September at 3pm. We encourage all people to join with us for our virtual pilgrimage at: [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie)

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** will be administered in the Parish on the dates originally announced. On Saturday 11th September for the children of St. Michael's Boys N.S. at 11am and for the children of St Eimear's at 2pm.

**CONFIRMATION:** The dates for Confirmation are as follows: Tuesday 21st September @ 6pm - St Michael's. Wednesday 22nd @6pm —Stonepark Thursday 23rd @ 6pm Melview. Tuesday 28th September @ 6pm- Gaelscoil. Wednesday 29th @ 6pm-St Joseph's. On Tuesday 5th October @ 6pm St Eimear's. Each ceremony will be limited to the Confirmation candidate and 3 adults (i.e. parents and sponsor) only.

**MASS ATTENDANCE:** With the easing of restrictions from Monday, the capacity for people attending Mass in St Mel's will increase to about 460 people. For that reason people attending Mass will no longer require tickets, but we do ask that all people attending religious ceremony in the Cathedral would wear a mask, sanitise their hands on entry and exit, sanitise the seats with the wipes provided, would maintain 2 metre social distance; would continue to receive Holy Communion on the hand and refrain from offering the sign of peace. Holy Water will not be available in the font.