



PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

Monday 08th February to Sunday 14th February 2021.

Monday, 08th February. - . St Jerome. St. Josephine Bakhita

8.00am: Eileen O Shea née Trappe. (A)

10.00am: Michael Brady and daughters Lorraine and Ann Brady.

Tuesday, 09th February.

8.00am: Addolorata Vocella. (A).

10.00am: Jack & Mary Bridget Coughlan. (A).

Wednesday, 10th February. - St. Scholastica.

8.00am: Maureen Maloney & Michael Joe Sheehan (Both sick)

10.00am: Annie Conway (50thA) and deceased family members.

Thursday, 11th February. Our Lady of Lourdes

8.00am: Micéal Kelly (1st A)

10.00am: John & Sharon Reilly. (A).

Friday, 12th February

8.00am: Camilla Mc Intyre. (A).

10.00am: Peter, Mary K. Clyne & sons-in-law Tom Boyce & Pee Hanly.

Saturday, 13th February.

8.00am: Deceased members of the Hegerty & Stakelum families.

10.00am: Bernadette Nevin. (A).

Sunday, 14th February. 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

6.00pm (Vigil): Brian Greene. (A).

7.30pm (Vigil): Micéal Kelly & Patrick Farrelly. (A).

8.00am: Eileen & Michael Salinger. (A).

10.00am: Colman & James Kelly. (A).

11.30am: Shared. Thomas, Eileen & Noel Bradley. (A).

Michael (Mickey Joe) Devine (A).

1.00pm: Mai, Tommy and Cathal Brady (A)

6.00pm: Paula Ganly (Months Mind).

✠**REST IN PEACE:** Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the souls of Colin Brady, Teffia Park who will be laid to rest in Ballymacormack Cemetery after the 1pm Mass on Sunday and for Elizabeth Comer, Coventry and formerly of 3 Annaly Park. Her ashes will be interred in Ballymacormack cemetery on Thursday at 2pm. The funeral cortege will pass by the family home via Richmond Street at 1.45pm. May they rest in peace.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank you for your contribution to the Offertory Collection for the last week that amounted to € 2,945.00. 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**

HOLY HOUR: On Saturday evening from 8.15pm-9.15pm we will have a Holy Hour in the Cathedral. The Holy Hour will be weekly until the end of the current restrictions.

EVENING PRAYER and NIGHT PRAYER will be prayed each evening at 7.30pm.

COMMITMENT CEREMONY: It is proposed to have a virtual Commitment Ceremony for all those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Parish this year. This ceremony will be live-streamed from the Cathedral on Sunday evening 21st February at 6pm. 6th class pupils can join us on www.longfordparish.com

ENROLMENT CEREMONY FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will take place on Saturday 21st February at 6pm Vigil Mass. We invite all who are preparing for First Eucharist and First Penance with their families to join us on-line for that ceremony and we look forward to welcoming them to the Table of The Lord soon.

ASH WEDNESDAY (17th Feb): Like many other ceremonies celebrated over the past 12 months, Ash Wednesday will not be celebrated in the traditional way. We will not be able to distribute ashes on the day. We will have a pack available that will contain, a card with Stations of the cross, a postcard that can be sent to someone in a Nursing home or isolated in their own home, a sheet with prayer suggestions to be used through Lent and a card with prayers for children preparing for the Sacraments in the Parish this year.

World day of prayer for the sick (11th February): Thursday next is the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes and a special day of prayer for the sick. Additional prayers, especially for all who are sick, will be offered at the 8am & 10 Masses on Thursday.

GOSPEL FOR THE 5th WEEK in ORDINARY TIME Mark. 1:29-39.

He cast out devils and cured many who were suffering from disease

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

World Day of the Sick 11th February 2021.

The past year has been an extraordinary one. As a deadly and disruptive virus circled the world, we became more acutely aware of the importance of healthcare provision and the contribution of those working on the frontline. Pope Francis, in his message, states that the World Day of the Sick provides an "opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities".

The Pope reminds us that, as Christians, we should always practice what we preach and reach out in a tangible way to those who are sick and suffering, particularly the marginalised and the poor. Thankfully, so many people, through both secular and religious groups, are doing so by reaching out to those who most need help in their local communities. Such outreach has provided a beacon of hope and positivity in an otherwise challenging time.

Pope Francis emphasises that sickness makes us very aware of our own vulnerability, our need for the care and assistance of others and our dependence on God. Illness is experienced at more than just a physical level. It can also be accompanied by fear and bewilderment, particularly, when we are faced with our own powerlessness. Sickness normally raises questions about the meaning of life which we bring in faith before God.

The Pope also draws attention to how the current pandemic has highlighted and aggravated the "inequalities in healthcare systems and exposed inefficiencies in the care of the sick".

This has come about because of many different factors: political decisions, the unequal distribution of resources and a lack of commitment to equal healthcare for all. Health is essential for the common good, therefore, care and assistance for the sick should always be a priority.

At the heart of the Pope's message is an insistence that for therapy to be effective it must have a "relational aspect" which can enable a more holistic approach to the patient. There must be a relationship of trust between healthcare professionals and those who receive their care and expertise. Pope Francis describes it as a relationship based on "mutual trust and respect, openness and availability". He points to the example of Jesus in the gospel who "heals not by magic but as the result of an encounter, an interpersonal relationship".

The Pope concludes his message by stating that a society is truly human when it cares effectively for the sick and suffering in a spirit of communal love. We must all strive to make sure "that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned".

Pope Francis entrusts the sick, healthcare workers, and all those who assist the suffering to the care of Our Lady. In the midst of the health crisis caused by Covid-19, I encourage all the faithful to pray for those who are sick, for all who work in the medical profession, and for an end to the pandemic.

Letter from Bishop Michael Router in response to Pope Francis' letter for World Day of the Sick (11th Feb).