

PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.



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PARISH NEWSLETTER

3rd Sunday of Advent, Monday 14th to Sunday 20th December 2020.

Monday, 14th December. St. John of the Cross.

8.00am: Mary Fitzsimons (1st A) and her husband John.

10.00am: Special Intention.

Tuesday, 15th December.

8.00am: Maria Perkova and Jan Perko (Both died recently).

10.00am: Margaret and Tom Connolly (Deceased).

Wednesday, 16th December.

8.00am: Catherine Farrell (A).

10.00am: Kathleen and Paddy Coffey (A).

Thursday, 17th December.

8.00am: Frank and Elizabeth Airlie (A).

10.00am: Tom Reilly, his sons John and Charlie and grandson Martin (A).

Friday, 18th December. St. Flannan.

8.00am: Brigid Ledwith (A).

10.00am: Belle Hannifin (A).

7.30pm: Patrick and Kathleen McDonagh (A).

Saturday, 19th December.

8.00am: Deceased relatives and friends (A).

10.00am: Rose and James McCrann (A).

Sunday, 20th December. 4th Sunday in Advent

6.00pm: *(Vigil) Deceased relatives and friends.*

7.30pm: *(Vigil) Johnnie and Gertie Farrell also Seamus Doherty (A).*

8.00am: Annie Connolly and deceased family members (A).

10.00am: Joe Finnegan (A).

11.30am: *Shared.* James, Kate and Liam Donohoe (A).

Joe and Margaret Reid (A).

1.00pm: Loretta Clarke (1st A).

6.00pm: Mary Lizzie McCoppin (A).

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank you for your contribution to last Sunday's Offertory Collection that amounted to €4,635.00. People may drop their envelopes 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**

CEREMONIES DURING THE COMING WEEK: As well at the morning Masses at 8am and 10am, we will celebrate evening Mass during Advent on the Friday evenings only 7.30pm. Evening Prayer of the Church will be prayed Monday to Thursday at 7.30pm. This will be streamed live on the webcam.

✠**REST IN PEACE:** Your prayers are requested for Jim Dolan, Abbeycartron and formerly of Castlerea and also Clara O'Beirne, Ard Aoibhinn and formerly Kilconnell whose funerals took place during the week. May their souls and the souls of all the faithfully departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

RECENTLY BAPTISED: We welcomed Dotti Marion Duignan into the Christian Community last weekend.

BAPTISM: The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism has now resumed. If you are seeking to have your child Baptised in the immediate future please contact the Presbytery to arrange a date.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL: Due to Covid-19 restrictions we currently cannot hold collections in person. To assist us in the many appeals that are made to us for urgent assistance, you can still donate by using the St Vincent de Paul envelope which is available in the Cathedral. The envelopes can be dropped into the Presbytery or into the letterbox at Ozanam House, behind the Cathedral. The funds raised will be spent in this community helping those who are in need of it for education, food, fuel and heating during the winter and beyond.

SISTERS FROM ST. ELISABETH'S CONVENT (Minsk, Belarus) are unable to participate in the annual **Christmas Markets** in their region due to travel restrictions. Nevertheless they have found a great way to spread the Christmas joy, love and deeds of mercy. They are launching their very first Online Christmas Market this year, so that people from all over the world can purchase Christmas presents and souvenirs made with love and continuous prayer. Please visit their website <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/christmas-market>

PARISH REGISTRATION: We are currently updating our census in the Parish office. We would like to have every household registered and to ensure that each home receives their box of envelopes. If you are not registered or unsure, please contact the Parish office at 043-3346465 or email: stmelscathedral@gmail.com

SHOP LOCAL IN LONGFORD: Now more than ever, it's time to support your local businesses. Support your community, support your town, and support each other. So this Christmas why not stay local, support local and Keep Longford in Business.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TICKETS: Tickets will be issued for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses and will be available from next Friday 18th December in the parish office.

Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

“There stands among you the one coming after me”

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.’ Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Gospel reflection:

The figure of John the Baptist once more takes centre stage in our Gospel reading, though this time the account comes from John 1:6-8,19-28, rather than Mark’s gospel. While he may be centre stage, John is once more pointing firmly to Christ as our saviour. In this passage he highlights an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus’ presence in our midst and to follow the example of John the Baptist by pointing others to the good news of Jesus. How am I in my words and actions spreading the Advent message of hope in Jesus? What acts of kindness, patience and generosity can I share with others as I prepare for Christmas? Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

ADVENT: This Sunday, 13th December, is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, a time to reflect and prepare for the coming of Christ. The Advent Wreath is a reminder that we are preparing to celebrate the coming of Jesus - the light of the world in darkest winter.

Third Sunday of Advent:

A prayer at bedtime.

All make the Sign of the Cross +

A member of the family lights the 1st, 2nd and 3rd candle

Loving God, on this Advent night we turn to you in prayer. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son, we ask your blessing on each of us. Open our hearts to the good news that you bring to us and help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of joy in the Lord. May we see that our deepest joy comes from knowing you. May this joy fill our hearts, our minds and our home. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Together we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**



We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. **Amen.**

Together we say: *Come Lord Jesus.*

All make the Sign of the Cross +

Advent Safeguarding Message 2020

The last nine months have been very difficult for many people with the continuing threat to health, lives and livelihood. As we prepare for Christmas during this season of Advent we remember that Jesus Christ was born into a family and there he grew up. Although Church activities have been restricted for most of this year our commitment to safeguarding children continues. I thank Parish Safeguarding Representatives and our priests for their thorough and vigilant work in ensuring the safety of children and adults at risk in our Church related activities. I encourage anyone with concerns regarding the safety of children or anyone who suffered in the past to contact our Designated Liaison Person, Sean Leydon (087 743 1649) or our Deputy Designated Liaison Person, Róisín O’Doherty (087-705 7516).

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