


PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.

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PARISH NEWSLETTER



Monday 19th July - Sunday 27th July 2021 – 16th Week in Ordinary Time.

Monday, 19th July.

8.00am: No intention.

10.00am: Mel, Philomena & Joe Farrell and DFM (A)

Tuesday, 20th July. St Apollinaris.

8.00am: No intention.

10.00am: Frank Airlie (A)

Wednesday, 21st July. St Lawrence of Brindisi.

8.00am: No intention.

10.00am: Brendan Stephenson. (A)

Thursday, 22nd July. St Mary Magdalene.

8.00am: No intention.

10.00am: Tom, Mary Ann, Michael & Eleanor Quinn.

Friday, 23rd July. St Bridget of Sweden.

8.00am: Kathleen Cassidy and daughter Marianne Lynch. (A)

10.00am: Holy Souls.

Saturday, 24th July. St Declan.

8.00am: No intention.

10.00am: Sr Carmel O'Reilly. (Month's mind)

Sunday, 25th July. 17th Sunday of the Year.

6.00pm (Vigil): Margaret (Peggy) McCaffrey. (A)

7.30pm (Vigil): John Murtagh. (A)

8.00am: No intention.

10.00am: Mickey Hubert Kearney.

11.30am: Shared: Joe and Rosemary Feeney. (A)

1.00pm: Mícheál McCreanor. (1st A)

6.00pm: No intention.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank you for your contribution to the Offertory Collection for the last week that amounted to €3,150.00.

BAPTISM: With great joy we recently welcomed Maebh Noonan and Cameron Killane into the Christian community.

WEDDINGS: Congratulations to Aldona Wielgopolanin and Robert Nastaga; Jade Nestor and Stephen Stokes; Haley McCoppin and Frank Kiernan, who were married recently in St Mel's Cathedral.

NEW PARISH BANK ACCOUNT: The Parish has changed its bank account. Our new banking details are as follows:

- **Bank :** Allied Irish Bank, 58 Main Street, Longford
- **Account Name:** St Mel's Cathedral
- **National Sort Code:** 93-21-40
- **Account No:** 02724370
- **IBAN:** IE49AIBK93214002724370
- **BIC:** AIBKIE2D

+ **REST IN PEACE:** Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the soul of Peter Clarke, Dublin Street whose funeral took place during the week. Frankie Duffy, Teffia Park whose funeral takes place on Sunday at 3pm in the Cathedral. Also Ann Balfe (née Phillips), Nottingham, England and formerly Lisduff who died recently.

JULY IS REEK MONTH - PILGRIMAGE ON CROAGH PATRICK: The annual Reek Sunday Pilgrimage on Croagh Patrick will be going ahead this year in a much extended format from Thursday 1st to Saturday 31st July. The Masses (Wednesday - Saturday) will be limited to the numbers permitted for outdoor gatherings at that particular time, which is 200 people. Details on www.westportparish.ie and on signage in the carpark at the start of the ascent. Pilgrims are asked to plan their trip to Croagh Patrick as early as possible and keep in mind that mid-week is traditionally a quieter time to climb.

SUNDAY WEDDINGS IN CHURCH: In our diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois we would like to help accommodate those who had to postpone their wedding because of the Pandemic, we are now allowed to have Sunday Weddings up to 31st December 2022. These marriages take place with the same guidelines as at present.

PROBLEM WITH ALCOHOL? Alcoholics Anonymous can help, we meet every Tuesday at 1pm, Wednesday at 8pm, Thursday at 1pm and Sunday at 11.30am in the Family Centre (back of the Cathedral).

GOSPEL FOR 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mark 6:30-34

‘They were like sheep without a shepherd.’



The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, *‘You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while’*; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them.

So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Here we see the humanity of Jesus and his disciples, they were tired. And they wanted to tell Jesus all that had happened to them on their journey. If you remember last Sunday we heard the story of Jesus sending out the apostles in pairs. But the crowds of people prevented them. They did not even have time for a meal. Jesus suggested that they should cross the lake by boat. They would then have some time to rest. To cross the lake by boat might take a long time. It might take more time than to run round to the other side. So the people arrived before Jesus and the disciples. I can only imagine how exhausted the disciples felt having rowed the boat across the lake only to realise that the crowd was there before them but Jesus, the Good Shepherd did not abandon them and he will never abandon us either. In his writings St Paul reassures us that nothing will ever come between us and the love of God.

Jesus who called himself the Good Shepherd referred to these people as sheep without a shepherd. The analogy of ‘Sheep without a Shepherd’ would mean something very different to those with Jesus than it would mean for us today. In first century Palestine the sheep have a relationship with their shepherd they recognised his voice and followed him rather than being driven as people who herd sheep do in Ireland today. Sheep without anyone to look after them soon wander away from the right path. These people did not have a leader to stop them wandering away from God. They needed someone to teach them the right way to live. The religious leaders were like those leaders that Ezekiel described. They were like bad shepherds who did not take care of their sheep But Jesus is the good shepherd who cares about his sheep. So Jesus had great pity for the crowd. They had stopped his plan for a rest. But he was willing to teach them.