

DATES FOR NOVEMBER: DAILY MASSES AT 8AM, 10AM AND 7.30PM (MON - FRI).

Nov 18th - 26th, Novena in honour of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. 7.00pm
Saturday 21st Nov, St. Josephs Bereavement ceremony 6pm in St Mel's
Thursday 25th Nov, Year of St. Joseph, "Joseph the Dreamer". 7.30pm
Sunday 28th Nov, 1st Sunday of Advent.

ENROLEMENT CEREMONIES FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN:

Sat 27th Nov, 6.00pm Mass - St Joseph's N.S.
Sat 27th Nov, 7.30pm Mass - Stonepark N.S.
Sun 28th Nov, 10.00am Mass - Melview N.S.
Sun 28th Nov, 11.30am Mass - St Eimear's N.S.
Sun 28th Nov, 1.00pm Mass - St Michael's N.S.
Sun 28th Nov, 6.00pm Mass - Gaelscoil Longfoirt.

ROSARY FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER: Rosary and prayers for the Holy Souls will be recited each Sunday in Ballymacormack cemetery at 3pm for the month of Nov.

NOVENA IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL: continues until Saturday 27th November with blessing of medals at the 10am Mass.

FUTURE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND: Talk by Sunday Times columnist and Iona Institute founder David Quinn and Senator Rónán Mullen in the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon next Tues 23rd Nov at 7.30pm "Ireland and the Church: Where we've come from, Where we're going" is organised by the Iona Institute. All are welcome. Admission free. Public health guidelines apply. To book your place, email info@ionainstitute.ie or phone 01 6619204.

Gospel John 18:33 - 37

Yes, I am a king

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'



ADVENT: Next Sunday 28th November is the 1st 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. We encourage families to make a wreath, place it on their table at home and light one of the candles each week. A pack of five Advent candles is available in the presbytery free of charge.

Making a Wreath:

The Circle - oasis or with wire - Like the Wedding ring, the circle is a sign of god's love, which includes all of us.

The Evergreens - These point to God's unchanging love, constant in every time and season and mood.

The Three Purple Candles - Purple is the advent colour for repentance and change of heart in preparation for the coming of Christ into our hearts and lives.

The Pink or 'Rose' Candle - On the third Sunday of Advent (Rejoicing Sunday), the joy of the forthcoming Christmas event is celebrated.

The White Candle - The white candle in the centre is the Christmas candle. This is lit on Christmas Eve to herald the birth of Jesus.

As you light the first candle on your Advent Wreath:

All make the Sign of the Cross ✙

Parent or other family member: Today we begin our preparation to celebrate, with hope-filled joy, the coming of our Lord at Christmas. Before we ask God to bless our family Advent wreath we take a moment to listen to God's Word.

Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 9:1-6.

The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; On those who live in a land of deep darkness A light has shone... For there is a child born for us, A son given to us. Authority rests upon his shoulders. And he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. *The Word of the Lord.*



Monday, 22nd November. St. Cecilia
8.00am: Souls in Purgatory 10.00am: Scaria Thomas (A)
7.30pm: Jim and Margaret Kelly (A)

Tuesday, 23rd November. St. Columban
8.00am: Michael and Bridget Drumm (A)
10.00am: Patrick McDonnell (Month's Mind)
7.30pm James, Bridget and Sadie Gallagen (A)

Wednesday, 24th November. Ss Andrew Dung - Lac and Companions
8.00am: Hubert McMahon (A) 10.00am: Dearbhla Cox (A)
7.30pm: Deceased members of the Kane family (A).

Thursday, 25th November. St. Catherine of Alexandria
8.00am: Tom and Catherine Lawrence & their grandson Martin (A)
10.00am: Padraig Sheahan (A)
7.30pm: Paddy King and DFM (A) *Year of St Joseph (Joseph the Dreamer)*

Friday, 26th November.
8.00am: Jim Wynn (A) 10.00am: Bryan Grant Roberts (Rem)
7.30pm: William Kett and his sons James and Billy (Jnr)

Saturday, 27th November. Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
8.00am: Stephen Quigley (A)
10.00am: Novena Mass in honour of Our Lady.

Sunday, 28th November. 1st Sunday of Advent
6.00pm (*Vigil*): Dermott Gray (Month's Mind)
7.30pm (*Vigil*): Hubert Hand (A)
8.00am: Leo Branigan, Maggie Kelly, Leo (Snr), Phyllis & Maeve Branigan
10.00am: Peter and Bridget Keenan (A)
11.30am: *Shared*: Frank & Rose Martin & DFM. Jim & Frances Kelly (A).
Amalia and Pavol Racovi (Rec deceased).
1.00pm Harry Ryan (A) 6.00pm: Ken Herterich (A)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank each one of you most sincerely for your continued generous contributions to our weekly collections. The amount received in the Offertory Collection last weekend was €4,010.00. **Mission Sunday amounted to €5,675.00.**

NOVEMBER DUES: In support of the Bishop and the priests of the parish are now due and may be handed in at any time.

BAPTISM: With joy, we recently welcomed Beauden Leo Casey and Ava Elizabeth Con-sidine into the Christian Community.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the soul of James (Jimmy) McKeown, Longford town whose funeral took place during the week.

RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): We hope to begin a programme for adults who have a desire to enter the Catholic Church next Easter. The programme will begin on Thursday 2nd December at 7.30pm. Please contact the Presbytery for further information. 043-3346465.

CATHEDRAL CIRCLE IS BACK !! Weekly draws will recommence on Monday 6th Dec. Lines are €1 and are available from your local promoters, including Farrell Coy, Baxters Totalhealth Pharmacy, Elegant Interiors, Pdraig Loughrey, Doyle's Shop, Clarke's Bar, Donlons Newsagency - Dublin St., Drumlish P.O., Patricia Ryan, Eric Trappe, Joe Lyons, Peter O'Brien, Christy Monaghan, Gala - Dublin Road, Larry Foudy, Mary Creevy, Breege Savage, Helen Leavy, Josephine Reilly, Annette Lally and Liz Oates.

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 are unsure, please contact the Parish office at 043-3346465 or email: stmelscathedral@gmail.com

FORÓIGE'S BIG BROTHER BIG SISTER MENTORING PROGRAMME is currently looking for volunteers, adults aged 18 years and over in Longford town and county to sign up to our BigBrother BigSister mentoring programme. If you are interested in volunteering contact Mary Gaughan 86 047 1420 or email mary.gaughan@foroige.ie

LONGFORD MARY'S MEALS FUNDRAISER FOR CHRISTMAS 2021: We are selling tickets as Christmas presents at a cost of €20 for 1 ticket or €50 for 3 tickets, 1st prize VW Golf 2nd prize Lenova Computer. Others prizes €500 Center Parcs voucher, €150 voucher. Draw takes place on 1st Jan 2022. Tickets can be purchase from Louis Herterich, Ballymahon St., Longford, Carola's Barbers, Newtownforbes and Egan's Electrical shop.

THE LONGFORD BRANCH OF THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND, will hold their monthly virtual alzheimer café next Wednesday 24th November at 7.30pm. Guest speaker is Niamh Condon, Dysphagia Chef, and her topic is 'Dining with Dignity'. The café will then run on the last Wednesday of every month, with a different speaker and topic each month. For further information contact Eileen 085 8724475.