

MARY'S MEAL'S, Support Group, Longford would like to express a most sincere thanks for your very generous donations received for the Longford/Knock August 15th 2021 walk. €31,747.56 was collected.

CRUTHÚ ARTS FESTIVAL 2021

Thurs 30th Sept at 7.30pm in St. Mel's Cathedral. *Sharon Carty and Malcolm Proud:* Sharon Carty is an alumna of the RIAM Dublin, MDW Vienna, and the Oper Frankfurt Young Artists programme. The operatic veteran will be accompanied by renowned organist Malcolm Proud for this once off performance in St. Mel's Cathedral. Please note places are limited and booking is essential.

TRINITONES - Fri 1st Oct at 7.30pm in the Crypt, St. Mel's Cathedral, **Trinitones** is an all-male a cappella ensemble from Trinity College Dublin. Founded in 2012, the group have since been described as "pioneers" of the collegiate a cappella genre in Ireland. Places are limited and booking is essential. *For a full list of events visit cruthuartsfestival.com/events/*

Gospel Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

Do not stop anyone from working a miracle in my name

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'



SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2021, 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Do not stop anyone from working a miracle in my name

The main theme of today's reading is presented in the first reading and then the first part of the gospel. It is the fanaticism and envy that we harbour, often unconsciously, towards those who do good but are not part of our group. The spirit acts freely through any person and is not compelled to keep within any boundary.

The second reading prove's this point. Aren't there Christians who, as James says, pile up riches, and don't share their goods with the poor and exploit workers? On the other hand, don't we know of people who are not Christians yet are good and generous, and sensitive to injustice towards the poorest and the defenceless? The Gospel further teaches that heaven is for those who can go through the process of cutting off.

While the world strives to preserve life with its consumerist world-view, we strive to cut off, in order to gain heaven. To reach heaven we must learn to cut ourselves off part by part, day by day, until nothing of ourselves remains but everything of God. In other words, we must cut off pride for humility to grow; cut off egoism that altruism may grow; cut off lust that love may prosper; cut off laziness to give way to hard work.

We must cut off anger that there may be inner peace; cut off noisy world that silence may be heard; cut off negative friendship or influence to give way to authentic companions. It is in dying to vices that we cultivate virtues. Virtues give us strength to move close to God.

When we succeed in cutting off the unwanted elements, heaven becomes a living reality here and now. Our life on earth becomes a foretaste of heaven.

Monday, 27th September.

8.00am: Willie Joe and Mary Gleeson (A)

10.00am: William and Ellen Cronin (A)

Tuesday, 28th September. St. Wenceslaus.

8.00am: Special Intention

10.00am: Cyril Fagan (A)

Wednesday, 29th September. St. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael Archangles

8.00am: Anna O'Brien (Month's Mind)

10.00am: Alice (Birthday Intention)

Thursday, 30th September. St. Jerome

8.00am: Maria Holobova, Josph Bouz, Asbeta Makunova, Jan Balz & DFM

10.00am: Elizabeth and Anton Pompa (Birthday Intentions)

Friday, 1st October. St Therese of the Child Jesus. First Friday

8.00am: Brendan Bracken (A)

10.00am: Anna and Thomas Pompa and deceased family members

7.30pm: Tom O'Brien (Birthday Rem)

Saturday, 2nd October. The Guardian Angels

8.00am: No Intention

10.00am: Sam Dennigan and deceased family members

Sunday, 3rd October. 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

6.00pm (*Vigil*): James and Máire Molloy (A)

7.30pm (*Vigil*): Seamus and David Flaherty & Ray Gill (A)

8.00am: Patrick Keegan (A)

10.00am: John and Cecilia Nevin (A)

11.30am: *Shared*: Mary Jane Meade (1st A); Molly Lynch (A)

1.00pm: Padraic Gearty (A) 6.00pm: Latoslav Pompa (A)

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 **€3,821.00**

HARVEST DUES for the priests of the parish are now due. Please use striped envelope from the box or one of the envelopes in the Cathedral porch or any envelope with your name and address. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

BAPTISM: With joy, we recently welcomed Oisín Vincent Jones, Mary - Kate Bridget O'Rourke and Calvin Jaxson McLoughlin into the Christian Community.

REST IN PEACE: Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the soul of Kay O'Rourke (née Breen), Clonbalt, whose funeral took place during the week.

DAY FOR LIFE 2021: This year's Day for Life will be celebrated in Ireland next Sun 3rd Oct on the theme 'The Good Samaritan: A Model of Compassion'. In the context of the recent proposal to introduce assisted suicide, both in Ireland and the UK, this year's Day for Life message invites Catholics to consider a more positive and compassionate response to the care of people who are in the final stages of life. Visit www.councilforlife.ie for more information.

CONFIRMATION: This week we continue the celebration of *Confirmation*. The following are the remaining schools: Gaelscoil Tues 28th Sept at 6pm. St. Joseph's N.S., Wed 29th at 6pm. St. Eimear's N.S. Tues 5th Oct at 6pm. *Each ceremony will be limited to the Confirmation candidate and 3 adults.*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The remaining schools to receive their First Holy Communion from the Table of The Lord, are as follows:
Sat 2nd Oct at 11am, Stonepark N.S. Sat 2nd Oct at 2pm, St. Joseph's N.S.
Sat 9th Oct at 11am, Melview N.S. Sat 9th Oct at 2pm, Gaelscoil. Ceremonies will be limited to the Holy Communion child, their parents and siblings.

FIRST FRIDAY: Friday is the First Friday of October. Priests will bring Holy Communion to the sick and the housebound. If you, a family member or a neighbour would like to receive Holy Communion for the 1st Friday please contact the Presbytery: 043-3346465 before Thursday.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS: To celebrate the feast of St Francis of Assisi we will have a blessing of all animals on the plaza of the Cathedral next Sunday 3rd Oct at 3pm. Please bring along your animal for this special blessing

VIRTUAL ALZHEMER CAFÉ: The Longford branch of The Alzheimer Society Of Ireland, will hold their monthly virtual Alzheimer Café next Wed at 7.30pm. Guest speaker is Dr. Orla Dolan, Occupational Therapist and her topic is 'Activities For Individuals Living With Dementia'. The Café will then run on the last Wed of every month. Contact Eileen on 085 8724475.