

First Holy Communion 2022

Sat 7th May, 11.00am - St .Eimear's N.S. 2.00pm - St. Michael's N.S.

Sat 21st May 11.00am - Gaelscoil Longfoirt, 2.00pm - Melview N.S.

Sat 28th May 11.00am - St. Joseph's N.S., 2.00pm - Stonepark N.S.

Confirmation 2022: Unfortunately we are unable to announce Confirmation dates at this time.

Advent: This 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.

As you light the first purple 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.*

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'



Advent by Patrick Kavanagh

We have tested and tasted too much, lover –
Through a chink too wide there comes in no wonder.
But here in the Advent-darkened room
Where the dry black bread and the sugarless tea
Of penance will charm back the luxury
Of a child's soul, we'll return to Doom
The knowledge we stole but could not use.

And the newness that was in every stale thing
When we looked at it as children: the spirit-shocking
Wonder in a black slanting Ulster hill
Or the prophetic astonishment in the tedious talking
Of an old fool will awake for us and bring
You and me to the yard gate to watch the whins
And the bog-holes, cart-tracks, old stables where Time begins.

O after Christmas we'll have no need to go searching
For the difference that sets an old phrase burning –
We'll hear it in the whispered argument of a churning
Or in the streets where the village boys are lurching.
And we'll hear it among decent men too
Who barrow dung in gardens under trees,
Wherever life pours ordinary plenty.
Won't we be rich, my love and I, and please
God we shall not ask for reason's payment,
The why of heart-breaking strangeness in dreeping hedges
Nor analyse God's breath in common statement.
We have thrown into the dust-bin the clay-minted wages
Of pleasure, knowledge and the conscious hour –
And Christ comes with a January flower.

Monday, 29th November.
8.00am: James Powell (A) 10.00am: Michael Rodgers (A)
7.30pm: Anna Cunningham (Month's Mind)

Tuesday, 30th November. St. Andrew
8.00am: Holy Souls
10.00am: Deceased members of the Legion of Mary
7.30pm Deceased members of the McCabe family

Wednesday, 1st December.
8.00am: Evelynna Michel McKenna (A)
10.00am: Sabina Doris (A)

Thursday, 2nd December.
8.00am: James and Brigid Rogers and deceased family members
10.00am: Anthony McCrann (Remembrance)

Friday, 3rd December. St. Francis Xavier. First Friday
8.00am: Deceased members of the Conboy family
10.00am: Joe McGrath (A) 7.30pm: Ellen and Felix O'Reilly (A)

Saturday, 4th December. St. John Damascene
8.00am: Pat and Mary Ann O'Leary (Remembrance)
10.00am: Holy souls and especially the forgotten souls

Sunday, 5th December. Second Sunday of Advent
6.00pm (Vigil): J.J. and Maisie Maguire (A)
7.30pm (Vigil): Michael McGuire (A)
8.00am: May Stokes (Month's Mind)
10.00am: John Masterson (A)
11.30am: Shared: Margaret Galvin (Month's Mind)
Mary & Michael Phillips & their daughter Ita Bolton (A)
James Masterson (A)
1.00pm: Ned Duggan (A) 6.00pm: Nora Egan (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 €3,590.00. **November Dues amounted to €14,200.00.**

FIRST FRIDAY: Next Friday is the First Friday of December. Priests will bring Holy Communion to the sick and the housebound.

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 **next Friday 3rd 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

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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL APPEAL "Impossible Choices" has been chosen to reflect what those struggling financially face every day. If you would like to make a donation there are envelopes available in the porch of the Cathedral or you can place a donation in an ordinary envelope marked St Vincent de Paul and leave it in the Presbytery. This year the local VdeP have a "gift card" in lieu of presents that you can send to a loved one. You can get a "gift card" (or cards) by making a donation to VdeP. This can be passed on to a loved one instead of buying a present. The gift card can be obtained from any committee member or from the presbytery.

BOX OF PARISH ENVELOPES 2022: Parish envelopes will be available for distribution at the end of this week. Volunteers who distribute them are asked to collect them in the Sacristy or contact the parish office.

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.