

**PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.**



**The Presbytery, Longford Tel: 043 3346465**

Website: [www.longfordparish.com](http://www.longfordparish.com)

Email: [stmelscathedral@gmail.com](mailto:stmelscathedral@gmail.com) 

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

*35<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020.*

**Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November. St. Andrew, Apostle.**

8.00am: Holy Souls.

10.00am: Philip Greene (A).

7.30pm: John and Patrick McGivney (A).

**Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December.**

8.00am: Holy Souls.

10.00am: Paddy, Úna, Marie and Pdraig Connellan (A).

**Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December.**

8.00am: Special Intention.

10.00am: Retired teachers of Longford.

**Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December. St. Francis Xavier.**

8.00am: Edward and Kathleen McCabe & their daughter Dympna Cooney (A).

10.00am: Gwenaldine Reilly her husband John and Pat Reilly. (A).

**Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December. St. John Damascene, First Friday.**

8.00am: Mary Kate and Willie Brady (A).

10.00am: Deceased members of the Moore, Wenman and Galvin families (A).

7.30pm: Michael Maguire (A).

**Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> December.**

8.00am: Billy Snr and his sons Jimmy and Billy (Jnr) Kett (A).

10.00am: William Condron (A).

**Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

6.00pm: *(Vigil) Paddy Moffitt (recently deceased).*

7.30pm: *(Vigil) Paddy and Kitty Cassells (A).*

8.00am: Ned Duggan, is son Colm and deceased family members (A).

10.00am: Joe (Josie) Mimmagh and deceased family members (A).

11.30am: *Shared.* Michael and Mary Phillips (A).

Brigid Ward and deceased members of the Lawrence family (A).

1.00pm: Ken Herterich (1<sup>st</sup> A).

6.00pm: James Masterson (A).

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** We thank you for your contribution to last Sunday's Offertory Collection that amounted to €2,330.00. If you wish you can drop envelopes through the presbytery letterbox or for anyone who may prefer to offer financial support electronically, the following are our banking details:

**St Mels Cathedral Account. Permanent tsb. BIC: IPBSIE2D;  
IBAN: IE48IPBS99073152096969**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the soul of Matthew (Matt) Harte, Williamstown House, Longford and Billy Kett, St. Michael's Road, 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.

**FIRST FRIDAY CALLS TO THE HOUSEBOUND AND THE SICK:** The priests will resume their First Friday house calls on next Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Unfortunately we cannot visit unless we are invited to do so by the family. If you or a family member would like to receive Holy Communion from the priest of your area on the First Friday please contact the priest directly or the parish office at 3346465.

**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.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** First Holy Communion will be celebrated with the children from Melview National School on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm. For the children from Gaelscoil Longfoirt at 11am on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Stonepark N.S on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Unfortunately a maximum of 4 people is all that will be permitted to attend.

**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.

**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](mailto:stmelscathedral@gmail.com)

**FREE FLU VACCINE FOR CHILDREN AGED 2 – 12 YEARS:** The flu spreads easily from person to person and can cause serious illness in children. That's why children, aged 2 to 12 years, can now get a free flu vaccine. Book a free appointment with your GP or Pharmacist. *Visit [hse.ie/flu](http://hse.ie/flu) for more information.*

**SHOP LOCAL IN LONGFORD: Now more than ever, it's time to think local first by supporting your local businesses. Support your community, support your town, and support each other. Keep Longford in Business.**

### Gospel Mark 13:33-37

If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



**ADVENT:** This Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November is the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

**Blessing:** *(While a member of the family lights the first candle)* Lord our God, We praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ; He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Saviour of every nation. Lord our God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candle of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

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**