

PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.

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PARISH NEWSLETTER



Monday 01st February to Sunday 07th February 2021.

Monday, 01st February. - St. Brigid.

8.00am: Special Intention.
10.00am: Patrick and Kathleen Glancy.
7.30pm: Michael Egan

Tuesday, 02nd February. - The Presentation of the Lord.

8.00am: Special Intention
10.00am: Mary Boland & son Liam J. Boland. (A).
7.30pm: Martin Collum.

Wednesday, 03rd February. - St Blaise.

8.00am: Special Intention.
10.00am: John O Gorman.
7.30pm: ---

Thursday, 04th February.

8.00am: Special Intention.
10.00am: Winnie & daughter Mary Stokes.
7.30pm: -----

Friday, 05th February - St. Agatha.

8.00am: Special Intention (Mass of thanksgiving).
10.00am: Andrew Doyle (Months Mind).
7.30pm: Michael Duffy, (Months Mind).

Saturday, 06th February.

8.00am: Special Intention (A).
10.00am: Mary and Dan Farrell. (A).

Sunday, 07th February. 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time & St Mel.

6.00pm (*Vigil*): Hubert Flanagan (Months Mind).
7.30pm (*Vigil*): Michael & Betty Shedwell & dec. family members (A).
8.00am: -----.
10.00am: Baby Harry Mullin (1st A).

11.30am: *Shared.* Bridie, Michael & Oliver Croghan
Frank, Anita & Vicky Mc Kiernan (A).

1.00pm: Elizabeth Flynn. (A)

6.00pm: Thomas & Rosaleen Keogh, Niall Jenkins, Kitty Amphlett & deceased family members.. (A).

✠**REST IN PEACE:** Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the souls of Brendan Connolly, Foynescourt whose funeral mass will take place on Monday at 11am. May he and all our faithful departed rest in peace.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank you for your contribution to the Offertory Collection for the last week that amounted to €3,120.00. You may drop your envelope through the Presbytery letterbox. Or you may prefer to offer financial support electronically, the following are our banking details: **St Mels Cathedral Account. Permanent TSB. BIC: IPBSIE2D; IBAN: IE48IPBS99073152096969**

HOLY HOUR: On Saturday evening from 8.15pm-9.15pm we will have a Holy Hour in the Cathedral. The Holy Hour will be weekly until the end of the current restrictions.

EVENING PRAYER: will be replaced with Mass each evening at 7.30pm for our Festival of Faith.

FESTIVAL OF FAITH; COME AS YOU ARE: From Monday 1st February to Saturday 6th February we will celebrate our annual Festival of Faith with mass each evening at 7.30pm. The theme for this year is: **BE NOT AFRAID!** Please join us on www.longfordparish.com

PRAYER CARD & CANDLE: Because of the current restrictions we are not able to gather for the celebration of the feasts this week. To help pray the Feasts of Brigid, Candlemas and St Blaise in our own homes you can pick up a prayer card and a candle from the presbytery these days. Candles will be blessed virtually at Tuesday's mass for Candlemas and Wednesday's mass for the Feast of St Blaise will conclude with the blessing of throats virtually.

St. MEL, To celebrate the feast of the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois we conclude our Festival of Faith with the Vigil Mass on Saturday 6th February celebrated by Bishop Francis. This will be followed by a Holy Hour led by Bishop Francis.

FIRST FRIDAY: Friday is the First Friday of the month. Mass at 7.30pm. Unfortunately we will not be calling to the houses of the Parish for this First Friday.



GOSPEL FOR THE 4th WEEK in ORDINARY TIME (Mark)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, '*Be quiet! Come out of him!*' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

In the Gospel, Mark describes a Sabbath day of Jesus' public life. Jesus joins in public worship in the synagogue as a practicing Jew, heals the sick, drives out evil spirits and prays privately. People immediately notice that Jesus teaches with authority and heals with Divine power. Jesus explains the Scriptures with complete confidence, and when questioned by people, he answers with authority. Jesus in using his Divine authority to teach, empower, liberate, and heal others. In the Gospel the evil spirit recognized and loudly declared Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus' harsh command, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" exorcises the demon who departs, obedient to His Divine authority.

Jesus did not use his authority and Divine power to rule and control people. He came to set people free. We can approach Jesus with trusting faith so that he may free us from the evil spirits that keep us from praying and prevent us from loving and sharing our blessings with others, as well as from all the "evil spirits" of fear, compulsions, selfishness, anger, resentment and hostility. "I have come that they may have life, life in abundance" (Jn 10:10). Jesus should be a source of liberation and life for us. May Jesus free us from all those spirits which make us deaf, dumb, blind, lame, and paralyzed, physically and spiritually.

We can use our God-given authority to build up lives. No doubt we can think back to people who have made a lasting impression on our lives – either for good or bad. Perhaps it was a grandparent, an uncle, or a parent, who loved us and cared for us. Perhaps it was a school teacher who encouraged us in our faith and exerted a positive impact on our lives. Perhaps we remember the kindness as well as the firm discipline that a schoolteacher gave us. Are children learning something from us as parents that will stand them in good stead for the future? We want our children to grow into strong, wise, confident, capable, mature adults. But we want more than that. We want them to grow in their faith, to accept Jesus as their Lord and personal Saviour. We want children to see in us the love of Jesus and how our Christian Faith affects our lives. A good question for parents, teachers and all of us is: "In what way am I helping the children I know grow in wonder at Jesus and his love for them?" When God's word and God's ways are taught and spoken about with authority – with conviction – our children (and others) will see in them, with amazement, God's love for them in His Son Jesus.

We need teachers who know how to use their authority properly: Teachers are powerful because they change lives. Most of us are deeply and forever indebted to some caring teacher in our past. When we hear that Jesus entered the synagogue at Capernaum and began to teach, we need to take note: Jesus was a teacher. They called him "Rabbi," which means "teacher." Let us all become good teachers and use our authority to mould young lives in the right way.