

# Parish



# Review

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YEAR ENDING **2011**

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Another year has passed and again we are pleased to bring you our Parish Review with news of organisations, events and happenings around Longford and the people who made life a little better and brighter for the rest of us. And so many people give of their time to help others, to see them through a difficult phase, to lend a hand, give support and encouragement.

So we celebrate in these pages those among us who have 'gone the extra mile' and literally that's what some actually did, travelling various marathons raising funds.

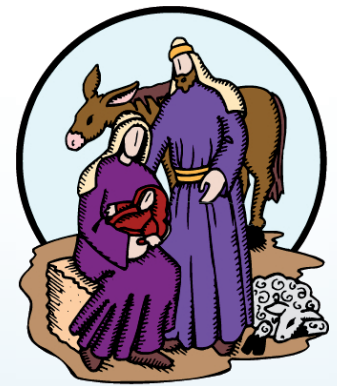
Looking back is the new going forwards so take time to reflect, it will point you forward. Ask, after you have read our Review, if you, too, can join in some of the volunteering so vibrant in our Parish and next year you will be one of the reasons we have a happy new year! We also include a special supplement on the 'work in progress' on the restoration of our beloved Cathedral.

We thank all who have contributed to our Parish Review of 2011 and we wish you a very happy Christmas and God's blessing in the New Year.

**Parish Review Committee:**  
Tom Chapman, Tiernan Dolan,  
Leo Donlon Fr Tom Healy,  
Kitty Hughes, Sive McGuinness



Sinead, Aine and Senan Mc Weeney pictured here with Tamara Gervasoni after completing the GOAL mile on Christmas morning 2010.



### Christmas Family Prayer

*Loving God, on this Christmas Day we give thanks that Jesus your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy. Bless us as we sit down together at this table for our Christmas meal. Bless the food we share and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbours and our friends, those who are lonely, sick or away from home. We pray that our departed loved ones may now sit at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days ahead. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Cathedral Restoration Project Advances



Throughout the year 2011 a great deal of thought and planning was invested by many people on the Cathedral Restoration Project. Diocesan Committees in consultation with the Design Team have advanced the plans for the internal design and improvement of facilities for the future.

Comprehensive investigation/trial works were undertaken throughout the summer months which will greatly inform the future restoration.

The refurbishment of statues and the entablature high up on the front façade work was undertaken with the assistance of the Heritage Council. This piece of art depicts the granting of authority over the diocese to St. Mel by St. Patrick.

An Open Day was held in Sept last when over 3,000 people took the opportunity to visit the Cathedral and see for themselves the extent of the fire damage. Also on that day plans for the future were on display at St. Mel's Cathedral Centre.

It is still hoped that the target of re-opening the Cathedral for Christmas of 2014 can be achieved. See the Cathedral publication for an overview of the many aspects of this complex, challenging and exciting restoration project.

*"Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart, and wait for the LORD" (Psalm 27:14)*

Trial plasterwork took place over the summer months. This picture shows the successful results.