



# New-look for Melview National School



The big news for Melview in 2011 is to finally get our long awaited extension.

Work began in June and was completed by September. We gained 3 new classrooms, 3 resource rooms and 2 new storerooms. We reclaimed our PE hall after 28 years. The rest of the school has also gotten a facelift to fit in with our bright new extension, with new flooring, doors, and heating systems. Our yard space has been greatly expanded. We now have 3 new tarmac yards. Roadside parking is a thing of the past as we have a large new carpark. Melview looks forward to a brighter and more comfortable future.

We hope to have the official opening on December 16<sup>th</sup> when all staff, students, parents, past and present will be invited to come and see the new Melview.

Melview NS has again been very successful in the sporting field in 2011.

In basketball our boys won both the League and Championship. The girls won the league and made it to the final in the Championship.

Melview's Gaelic team reached the B final and we won out Longford in 5 a side soccer. Our girls were triumphant in the A final in Indoor hurling and our boys won the B final.

## Longford Cell Groups

In Longford Parish there is at present a network of four Cell groups. These are small groups of people who meet from September to June every second Wednesday in a person's home. The group prays, listens to scripture, shares faith experiences, prays for each other and socialises each time they gather. The meetings normally last one and a half hours. The four groups come together as one large group a number of times each year and the leaders of all the groups meet together regularly to plan the programme for the Cell groups. It is not easy to capture the essence of a Cell group. Suffice to say, here in Longford about 40 people continue to meet in groups of 8-12 people, trying to help one another to grow in faith and friendship. The only way to know if it is for you, is to give it a try! There is also a Cell Group in our neighbouring Parish of Killoe. They meet in Cullyfad Community Centre every second Tuesday night.

For any information please contact: Elaine Keogh; Joyce O'Hara 043 3331728; Bernadette Wall 043 3347771; Catherine Corkery 086 2622327.

— Mary Burns

## Longford Town ICA Guild

Longford town ICA guild holds monthly meetings from September to June in the Family Centre (behind the Cathedral) on the first Wednesday of each month at 8pm. All women are welcome. Our current committee are: Jane Johnston (President), Patricia Guihen (Secretary) and Kathleen Kelly (Treasurer).

If you are interested in joining us, you can come along to meetings to decide if you would enjoy being a member of our group. We have great fun, a cup of tea, friendship and we also invite speakers in to discuss topics that members are interested. We also go bowling, swimming, aqua aerobics, dancing, a summer outing and a Christmas party night. We also visit patients in St. Joseph's Hospital for their birthday.

Every year we fund raise for local charity. This year we held a car boot sale at Flancare for the Children of Chernobyl.

If you would like to meet new friends or develop a hobby, feel free to come along and to bring a friend. For more details contact Kathleen @ 086-3194662

# Longford Women's Link: 2011 – a year of change and growth



Elsie Moxham, Chairperson LWL, Professor Kathleen Lynch, keynote speaker, Adrian Green, CEO LCRL, Louise Lovett, incoming CEO LWL, Tess Murphy, outgoing CEO LWL, Pamela Latimer, Business Development Manager at launch of new Education facility

2011 marked a year of further growth in Longford Women's Link (LWL) with the opening of its state of the art education and training facility. This new building will enable LWL to expand on its unique approach to second chance education using the women's community education model.

It was a year of change as well with Tess Murphy retiring as CEO to be succeeded by Louise Lovett. We wish Louise and her team every success in continuing to offer the women of Longford the support they need to fulfil their potential in a safe and equal society.

Longford Women's Link offers a ladder of support to women in coping with the challenges of life. The woman experiencing domestic abuse, the migrant woman not sure of her rights and entitlements, the woman in need of childcare, the woman isolated and in need of friends, the woman looking for training to return to work or start her own business, the woman who would like a say in how decisions are made locally that impact on her and her family, all these women have benefitted from the services of LWL in the past year.

That is why we say we:

**Save Lives – crisis support, domestic violence support, counselling.**

**Change Lives – Education & work Experience, Childcare & Transport, Group support**

**Transform Communities**

**–Manifest Group, Women in Business Network, influencing local policy.**

If you would like to avail of any of our services or help in supporting our work in any way, please contact us at 043-3341511 or look us up on our website: [www.longfordwomenslink.org](http://www.longfordwomenslink.org)

or you can follow us on:

[www.facebook.com/lwl.longford](http://www.facebook.com/lwl.longford)

[www.facebook.com/LongfordWomensLink](http://www.facebook.com/LongfordWomensLink)

[www.twitter.com/LWLLongford](http://www.twitter.com/LWLLongford)

Finally we want to thank all the people of Longford who supported our fund raising in the past year, the church gate collections, Santa in the Shopping Centre, Mother & Daughter lunch, Women's Mini Marathon, Golf Classic, bag packing in the local supermarkets.

## Sisters of Mercy Celebrate 150 years in our Parish

■ FRANK GEARTY

On the 1st May, 2011, the Sisters of Mercy in Longford celebrated with the parish and extended community the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first five Sisters of Mercy arrived in Longford Town in 1861. Earlier, in 1831 The Order of the Sisters of Mercy had been founded in Baggot Street, Dublin by Reverend Mother Catherine McAuley. The subsequent arrival of the Sisters in Longford Town was supported by Fr. Philip Maguire, Parish Priest of Clough, Kenagh, who donated £2,520.00 to Dr. Kilduff Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois to help found a convent in Longford Town. The Sisters were first based in Keon's Terrace here in the town opposite the site where the Cathedral had been substantially completed in 1853. The first Superior here was Mother Mary Bernard Maguire who had been born in Newgrange House in County Meath, one of fifteen children. She had been accepted into the Sisters of Mercy in 1850



Marion Diffley, Sr. Evangelist and Mary Kenny pictured at the 150th Celebration.

on the feast of the Assumption and governed until 1872 when the foundation stone for the new Convent was laid. The sisters moved to the newly built Convent premises in St. Joseph's Road in 1874.

The anniversary was marked principally by a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Colm O'Reilly in St. Mel's Cathedral Centre. This ceremony was

a great success. Fr. Tom Murray gave a most interesting homily to mark the event and there were contributions from a number of the sisters. It was attended by many Sisters, teachers, past pupils of the school and other friends of the local convent community. This was followed by an exhibition detailing the history of the Sisters in Longford and surrounding

areas. The convent buildings were also open to the public for the Celebration. A book commemorating the past 150 years of the involvement of the Sisters in out local community was published and met with widespread acclaim. The book made possible with contributions from many excellent people from all fields of life and featuring wonderful layout and design by Noel Strange and the team at Turners Printing is still available for sale at local bookshops at a very modest price. It is full of interesting contributions and contains an extensive pictorial and written record of the past 150 years.

*The Sisters of Mercy wish to express their deep gratitude to the people of Longford, Bishop O'Reilly and the local clergy, parish community, teaching staff past and present, students and past pupils, organising committee, and staff in the Convent itself for their support on this happy occasion.*