



**St Martha's Hostel,
Knockahaw,
Dublin Road, Longford.**

**Society of
St Vincent De Paul**

Telephone: 043 33 48062

St Martha's Hostel provides temporary accommodation for homeless men. We provide accommodation and food in a warm, safe environment.

We offer support and links to other service providers and to follow on accommodation.

The hostel operates on a 24-hour day, 7 days a week basis and all staff are welcoming and friendly and confidentiality is assured.

Staff are fully trained in areas of homelessness.

If you find yourself in need of our support please contact the above number.

"Hostels are no longer just about providing shelter, they are a stable force for the person at a time of crisis in their lives"



**Bethany House,
Women's Hostel/Refuge,
Longford.**

**Society of
St Vincent De Paul**

Telephone: 087 7497043

Bethany house offers accommodation to women and their children who find themselves homeless because of domestic abuse or other crisis related issues.

It operates on a 24 hour day, 7 days a week basis and all staff are welcoming and friendly, confidentiality is assured.

We provide safe accommodation that meets the needs of women who are homeless and we provide support and links to other service providers and to follow on accommodation.

Staff are trained in areas of:
• Homelessness
• Domestic abuse & Advocacy
If you find yourself in need of our support please contact the above number.

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Active Year for The Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary has been in Longford for many years and was founded in Dublin in 1921 by the Servant of God, Frank Duff. It grew out of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and is to be found in almost every country in the world. The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic organisation at the service of the Church under ecclesiastical guidance and its spirituality is based on the teaching of Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort. It has over 3 million active members, many more auxiliary (praying) members and its handbook is translated into over 90 languages.

Its work in Longford consists of visitation of

homes, hospitals, the elderly in their homes and the distribution of Catholic literature and other good works. The members try to encourage people in their faith and always work in pairs. Many couples have met through the Legion and a group in Cork has reported 5 marriages!

We are fulfilling in a special way our apostolic duty by becoming members of the Legion of Mary and adhering to its rules and systems. A sense of peace, joy, and a feeling of being forever young comes with membership, for when working for Our Lady, we receive blessings which only she knows

how to bestow. New members are always welcome.

The following groups meet in The Family Centre, St. Mel's Road, Longford:-

Our Lady of Mount Carmel: Friday, 4-30pm, (Young peoples' Praesidium); Virgin Mother of Good Counsel: Thursday, 7-30pm, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour; Wednesday Morning, 10-30am; Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Monday, 6pm. (A Slovakian group); The Patrician Group (discussion), First Saturday every month, 8-30pm. See also www.legion-of-mary.ie

ST. MEL'S CHOIR FROM 1960's



St. Mel's Choir from the sixties, pictured from left to right: front row: Liam O'Connor, Fr, Sean O'Rourke, Johnny Clabby, Tommy Devine, Tom Forkan. Middle row: Johnny Farrell, Paul McGuire, Kevin Farrell, Vincent Clabby, Gerard Carroll, Johnny Danton and Brendan Bartley, Back row: John Reilly, Charlie Gallagher, Tommy Carroll, Des Brennan and Roderick Murphy.

Longford Credit Union



"Not for profit, not for charity, but for service" - this is the ethos of the Credit Union Movement. Longford Credit Union is in existence for the past 40 years and has embodied this ideal in all its dealings with its members. In doing so, it has been a force for good in all sections of the community.

The Credit Union is a financial institution WITH A DIFFERENCE. Involved in Longford Credit Union, and its sub-office in Edgeworthstown, are over 30 volunteers who meet weekly and monthly to serve on the Board of Directors, and numerous other committees. There are over 500 Credit Unions in Ireland, and with an average of 25 volunteers per branch, that results in a total of approx. 12,500 volunteers working wholeheartedly for the members of their respective communities. The standard of living in today's Longford is light years away from the Longford of 1969. Then, people saved in shillings and borrowed in pounds for such basic essentials as cookers, washing-machines, fridges, First Communion, fuel, etc. These loans were paid off and another item earmarked. In an era before credit cards, the Credit Union provided a lifeline to many people who simply had no other way of borrowing money. Longford Credit Union is proud to sponsor Co Longford School's Soccer League, Backstage Theatre and a number of smaller local initiatives. We have also been involved with local Car Dealers since the introduction of our popular Car Draws in 1998.

The Credit Union's commitment to young people also extends to our annual Poster Competition and Schools Quiz. In addition, a free draw is held for our young members every two months.

Longford Credit Union appreciates the commitment of its Manager, Staff, Board of Directors, members of Edgeworthstown sub-office, and various committees. We pay tribute to past Credit Union personnel and those who are no longer with us. Long may the Credit Union tradition continue.

SVP Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

St. Mel's Visitation Conference, Ozanam House, Chapel Street, Longford

SVP CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Dear Friends,

2011 has been a busy year for St. Mel's Visitation Conference of SVP. The support we have been able to provide is entirely due to your generosity to this conference. It has been rewarding for us so that many good and kind people have placed their confidence in us. Any assistance we have provided to clients was carefully considered and deemed necessary by our members.

Last Christmas we prepared and distributed in excess of 150 hampers to families in need throughout the county. We support five local schools with breakfast clubs, school books and uniforms and in some cases we give assistance with transport charges. Some third level students are assisted with fees and parents trying to pursue third level courses are helped with crèche fees.

Fuel and ESB bills are a constant cause of anxiety. Families are supplied with food and back up support in times of emergencies including sickness and funerals.

We operate a 24 hour helpline 043 33 42084. We help with after school activity clubs and sport camps and we support the elderly as far as possible with short holiday breaks, visitation and minor home maintenance. We arrange basic cookery and money management courses in our centre and with God's help and your continued support we will be available to every man, woman and child in Longford who may be in need in 2012.

The future unfortunately looks bleak, but hopefully we will make a difference.

This year we are encouraging donations of either cash or non perishable goods. Toys and luxuries are low on our list of needs. Good quality furniture is always welcome as is help with transportation. The cost of providing our services in 2011 has amounted to approximately €160,000. All of our services are free and our members all work on a voluntary basis. New members are always needed. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and any donation, large or small, will be much appreciated.



Please complete the slip below and forward with donation to above address. Thank You.

Please tick if you wish your donation to ... remain anonymous ... or be receipted ... Please contact the Society if you do not receive your receipt within two weeks. All donations will be acknowledged in the local papers.

Name:
Address:
Amount:

**24 HOUR
HELPLINE
043 33 42084**

