



## Cathedral Bells



The sound of the bells of St. Mel's Cathedral have long been an integral part of the life of Longford Town. So much so, that when local band 'Busy Fingers', decided to launch a song to aid the restoration project, it was entitled 'The Bells of old St Mel's'.

At the suggestion of some parishioners, it is hoped to have the sound of bells ringing out again from the Cathedral spire in the near future as a symbol of continuity and hope as we look forward to the restoration project advancing. (It will not be possible to have the original bells up and running for some time so it is hoped to put a temporary arrangement in place).

*Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, But just look what they can do when they stick together.*  
Verna M Kelly

*We learn the rope of life by untying the knots*  
Jean Toomer



Our Annual Bereavement Ceremony was held in St. Mel's Cathedral Centre on Sun Nov 28th. All parishioners who were laid rest in the previous year were remembered by name, and commended into God's mercy as we asked His comfort and strength for all who were bereaved of their loved ones.

## The wise woman's stone

A wise woman who was traveling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream.

The next day she met another traveller who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food.

The hungry traveller saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation. The traveller left, rejoicing in his good fortune.

He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime. But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman.

"I've been thinking," he said, "I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more

precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me something more precious.

Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone.

— Author Unknown



Kids Paradise Creche have great fun raising funds for Make-A-Wish Foundation

## Parish giving

During these weeks, new boxes of envelopes for the various Parish Collections are being distributed to the homes of our Parish.

We are very grateful to you for your continued generous support which enables us to sustain the life of the parish, maintain its buildings and meet the many expenses a parish of this size carries.

Thank you to all who helped in the task of distributing approximately 2,500 boxes. We also thank our team of weekly counters.



In recent years we have been able to claim significant funds through the Tax Relief Scheme for Charities. Your use of the envelopes is important for us in the tasks of recording contributions which in turn enables us to claim this Tax Relief.

Therefore we would encourage you to use the envelopes for your contributions. It is also helpful to us if you write the amount of your contribution in the space provided.

As our Parish continues to grow, please understand that mistakes and omissions will inevitably happen. If you have not received your new envelopes by the end of December, extra boxes are available at the Presbytery. Thank You.

## Forgive me, Lord, I am stingy

Every day you give me 24 hours for myself – 10,080 minutes a week – and I share so few with you. If Sunday Mass takes 40 minutes, I complain. Even then I still have 10,040 minutes for myself.

I have done some calculations, Lord, that disturb me. If I live to be 72, I will spend 24 years in bed – I need eight hours sleep every night. I will spend 14 years at work, 6 years eating meals, 5 years in conversation, 4 years travelling around and 8 years in recreation. But where would I be without the game of cards and the television?

Then I worked it out. If I go to Mass just every Sunday and say a few prayers every morning and evening, I will spend only 31 weeks with You. Just think of it – 31 weeks in a lifetime of 72 years!

Forgive me, Lord, for I am stingy.

## THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

*"When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star is gone,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The true work of Christmas begins;  
To find the lost, to heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
To bring peace among all, to make music in the heart"*

Mark Thurman

## MOTHER

*Mother You filled my days with rainbow lights,  
Fairy tales and sweet dream nights,  
A kiss to wipe away my tears,  
Gingerbread to ease my fears.  
You gave the gift of life to me,  
And then in love, you set me free.  
I thank you for your tender care,  
For deep warm hugs and being there.  
I hope that when you think of me,  
A part of you, you'll always see.*

## Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois: Child Safeguarding Policy Statement

Each child shall be cherished and affirmed as a gift from God with an inherent right to dignity of life and bodily integrity which shall be respected, nurtured and protected by all. This right is embedded in Gospel values, best practice guidelines and international and domestic laws. Everyone in the Church has an obligation to ensure that the fundamental rights of children are respected. The Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois is committed to taking the

necessary steps to:

- Demonstrate that the right of the child to protection from harm is paramount.
- Cherish and safeguard children and young people.
- Foster best practice.
- Demonstrate accountability through establishing effective structures.
- Support Church organisations and personnel in safeguarding children.
- Establish safe recruitment and

vetting practices – aimed at preventing those who pose a risk to children from holding positions of trust

- Maintain codes of behaviour – having clear guidelines that set out what is and is not acceptable behaviour as an essential part of keeping children safe.
- Operate safe activities for children – helping them ensure they can play and learn in a safe environment.

Services and Contact Details:

Designated Persons – Fr. Michael Bannon, Parochial House, Drumlish, Co. Longford. Tel. 043 3324132; Fr. Liam Murray, St. Mary's Presbytery, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. Tel. 0906 472088.

Diocesan Representative for Concerns outside Safeguarding: Mr. Liam Faughan, 087 – 1443831; Faoiseamh Helpline, 1800 331234.

HSE Contacts: Social Work Department – Longford, Tivoli House, Longford, 043 3350584; Child Care Manager's Office – Longford

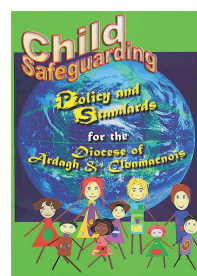
– Westmeath, Mullingar Health Centre, 044 9395019/20.

Garda Siochana, Longford, 043 3350570.

National Office for Safeguarding Children, 01 5053018. Website: [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)

Diocesan Website: [www.ardaghdiocese.org](http://www.ardaghdiocese.org)

Copies of "Child Safeguarding – Policy and Standards" are available from the Parish Priest / Parish Office or at [www.ardaghdiocese.org](http://www.ardaghdiocese.org)



## Rest In Peace



In the past year the following parishioners were laid to rest. We remember them with affection and commend them into God's loving care, trusting they have gone to share eternal life with him in the Heavenly Kingdom.

- BRENDAN MCCARTHY
- BRIDIE GHEE
- NELLIE CARR
- TERESA CUNNINGHAM
- MARY BELTON
- NOEL KEEGAN
- MARY FARRELL
- CHRISTY DELANEY
- PATRICK CASEY
- JAMES MURRAY
- MAUREEN MAHON
- BRENDAN GILL
- MATTIE JEFFRIES
- MARY MCBRIDE
- ANNIE GILCHRIST
- BRIAN CARBERRY
- EILEEN REYNOLDS
- MICHAEL SMYTH
- MARY TREW
- LINDA MCINERNEY
- DANIEL MCNAMARA
- COLM FOUHY
- DAN FARRELL
- JOHN SHERIDAN
- MARGARET DONLON
- MICHAEL CLINCH
- BRIDGET HALVEY
- DAVID THORNE
- JOSEPHINE KELLY
- MOLLY KILLIAN
- DERMOT OROHOE
- BRIDGET THOMPSON
- BERNADETTE IRELAND
- P. J. MCTIERNAN
- ANTHONY HEALY
- THOMAS NOEL KELLY
- PATRICK REGAN
- MARY CULLEN
- SEAMUS MULVEY
- TOM CADWALADER
- BABY PATRICK DANIEL STOKES
- MICHAEL DORAN
- PATRICK MCCRANN
- MICHAEL KEARNEY
- VERONICA CORKERY
- JIM SHANLEY
- KATHLEEN O'MALLEY
- BRIDGET SEXTON
- CHARLES FLYNN
- ROSE MURPHY
- ROSE VAUGHAN
- BRONA O'TOOLE
- EILEEN HOLMES
- MICHAEL WALSH
- CYRIL FAGAN
- BABY JADEN ROHAN
- MAUREEN KELLY
- MARY KELLEHER
- FRANK FAHY
- MARY TAFFE
- GERALDINE HURD
- DAVID MCTIERNAN
- LIBERA MACARI
- ANNIE BYRNE
- JOHN HALLIGAN
- PADDY MARSHALL
- PEGGY KILEMADE
- BRIDGET LENNON

Father you made us for yourself, and our hearts will never rest until they rest in you. Grant that amid the uncertainties of this changing world our hearts may be set on our eternal home where true joys are to be found. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.