

PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.

The Presbytery, Longford Tel: 043 3346465

Website: www.longfordparish.com

Email: stmelscathedral@gmail.com

PARISH NEWSLETTER



Monday 2nd - Sunday 8th August 2021 - 18th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, 2nd August. St. Peter Julian Eymard.

8.00am: No Mass

10.00am: Special intention

Tuesday, 3rd August.

8.00am: Special intention.

10.00am: Austin Sheahan (A)

Wednesday, 4th August. St John Mary Vianney

8.00am: Special Intention

10.00am: James Boyle (A)

Thursday, 5th August. Dedication of Basilica of St. Mary Major

8.00am: Special intention.

10.00am: Joan Hanley (A)

Friday, 6th August. Transfiguration of the Lord. First Friday

8.00am: James O'Kane (A)

10.00am: Frank and Patricia Meally (A)

7.30pm: Jack Kiernan

Saturday, 7th August St. Sixtus II.

8.00am: Special Intention

10.00am: Angela, Anne and James Donnelly (A)

Sunday, 8th August 19th Sunday of the Year.

6.00pm (Vigil): Hugh Connolly (A)

7.30pm (Vigil): Frank and Lisa McCaffrey (A)

8.00am: Special Intention

10.00am: John and Bridie Duffy (A)

11.30am: Shared: 1. Patrick and Margaret Devlin (A)

2. Paddie Connellan (A)

1.00pm: Eireni Boulos (A)

6.00pm: Kathleen White and Mel Gilleran

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank you for your contribution to the Offertory Collection for the last week that amounted to €2,750.00.

BAPTISM: With great joy, we recently welcomed Lucia Mary Doyle, Máire Kate Moughan, Stephen Anthony Maughan, Rivers Gabriel Rawlings-Ratley and Hannah Kitty Mulligan into the Christian community.

WEDDING: Congratulations to Winnie Nevin and Tyrone McDonnell who were married recently in St Mel's Cathedral.

+ **REST IN PEACE:** Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Michael Sheahan, Ferefad whose funeral took place during the week.

NEW PARISH BANK ACCOUNT: The Parish has changed its bank account.

Our new banking details are as follows:

Bank: Allied Irish Bank, 58 Main Street, Longford

Account Name: St Mel's Cathedral

National Sort Code: 93-21-40 **Account No:** 02724370

IBAN: IE49AIBK93214002724370 **BIC:** AIBKIE2D

FIRST FRIDAY: Friday is the first Friday of the month. We will bring Holy Communion to the sick and the housebound and if you would like a priest to call, please contact the Presbytery on 043-3346465.

MARY MEALS: Longford walks to KNOCK for Aug 15th. This walk commences from St Mel's Cathedral on Thur 12th Aug at 8.30am. The daily Longford 5.5K circuit walk 7th - 15th Aug. Sponsorship forms and tee shirts are available in Louis Herterich's shop. Kitty Ross 086 0405621. www.marysmeals.ie/fundraising/project/kitty-ross/step-by-step-walk-from-longford-to-knock-2021

SAMARITANS are available on freecall 116123, 24 hours if you would like to talk about something that is bothering you.

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS: Fr Reji Kurian, who has been a curate in the Parish of Templemichael and Ballymacormack, will now be a resident priest in Boher, Ballycumber, Co Offaly, Syro Malabar chaplain and assist in St. Mary's Athlone. On behalf of the people of the Parish, we want to thank Fr Reji most sincerely for his 5 years of faithful service to the people here, and to wish him every blessing in his new appointment. We will continue to see Fr Reji as he returns from time to time to celebrate the Syro Malabar Mass here in St Mel's.

Gospel John 6:24-35

It is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven; I am the bread of life

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?'

Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.

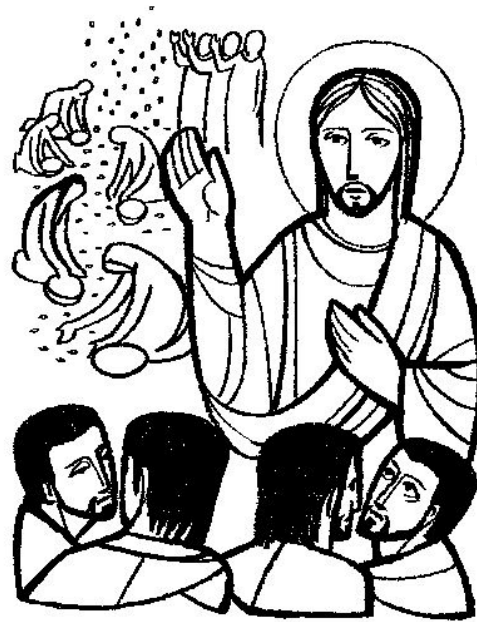
Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life,

the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.'

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God



is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered: 'I am the bread of life.

He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

Reflection

The central idea that links the first reading and the gospel is the food that God provided for his people. In the desert Israel receive manna, the food that strengthened them on the journey to the promised land. Now, God feeds his people with the bread of life, which is Jesus of Nazareth.

The second reading shows the kind of transformation this food brings. Those who assimilate it will become new people. Thus, Jesus says, '*I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty*'.

We eat good food to satisfy our physical hunger. However each of us hunger for spiritual food, which is, truth, righteousness, love, peace and holiness. Our spirit yearns for a deeper union with God. It is a deep inner spiritual hunger, which only the bread that Jesus offers can satisfy. This bread is Holy Communion and intimacy with God. We are blessed to share in the Body and Blood of Christ, which Christ offers to us.

An African proverb says, "*the grasshopper which is always near its mother eats the best food.*" Therefore, only those who enjoy communion with God remain fully satisfied. There is, a hymn about the Eucharist, it goes thus:

***You satisfy the hungry heart, with gift of finest wheat
Come give to us, O Saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.***

When the Shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice; so when you call your family, Lord, we follow and rejoice.

Our prayer and hope is that, we will always long for the food that satisfy.