

**PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.**

**The Presbytery, Longford Tel: 043 3346465**

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**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**Monday 04<sup>th</sup> January to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

**Monday, 04<sup>th</sup> January.**

8.00am: Deceased members of the Bohan family.

10.00am: Teresa Mulderry. (A)

**Tuesday 05<sup>th</sup> January. St Charles of St Andrew, priest**

8.00am: James, Bridget, Timothy & Colette Gleeson.

10.00am: Philomena Ivory Birthday remembrance.

**Wednesday, 06<sup>th</sup> January - Solemnity of the Epiphany.**

7.30pm Vigil: Iona Andrade (Birthday Mass)

8.00am: James & Mary-Elizabeth Costello.

10.00am: Margaret & Denis Kelly (A).

1pm: Frank Clancy (Months Mind).

7.30pm Pat Monaghan (Recently deceased)

**Thursday, 07<sup>th</sup> January. St Raymond of Penafort, priest.**

8.00am: William & Ellen Cronin,

10.00am: Hugh and Mary Quinn.

**Friday, 08<sup>th</sup> January.**

8.00am: John & Josephine O Donoghue

10.00am: Bridget Ward. (A).

**Saturday, 09<sup>th</sup> January.**

8.00am: Kathleen (Kitty) Barden & deceased family members

10.00am: Kevin Donohue. (A).

**Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> January. Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.**

6.00pm: (Vigil) Noel & Mollie Mc Geeney. (A).

7.30pm: (Vigil) Patrick & Margaret Phelan. (A).

8.00am: Willie, Hannagh & Matthew Hayes. .

10.00am: Paddy, Nora & Patrick(Junior) Mc Donagh(A).

11.30am: Shared. Christy Dann (1<sup>st</sup> A).

1.00pm: Maura (1<sup>st</sup> A) & Tommy O'Brien and deceased family members.

6.00pm: Jude Farrell & deceased family. Mike Baxter & deceased family.

✠**REST IN PEACE:** Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the soul of Michael Duffy, Annaly Park, who died during the week. May he rest in peace.

**CHRISTMAS DUES:** In support of the Bishop and the priests of the parish are now due and may be handed in at any time. Please use the striped envelope in your box of envelopes or an ordinary envelope with your name and address on it.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** We thank you for your contribution to the Offertory Collection for Christmas Day that amounted to €8,216.00 and for the collection for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December that amounted to € 2,799.00. People may drop their envelopes through the Presbytery letterbox. Or you may prefer to offer financial support electronically, the following are our banking details: **St Mels Cathedral Account. Permanent TSB. BIC: IPBSIE2D; IBAN: IE48IPBS99073152096969**

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** We welcomed Emma Pompová and Oscar Patrick Loniewski, into the Christian Community last week.

**BAPTISM:** The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism has been suspended under Level 5 restrictions. All Baptisms will be re-scheduled at a later date.

**6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – The Epiphany of the Lord.** The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the World. The great Feast of Epiphany celebrated the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his Baptism in the Jordan and the Wedding Feast of Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the incarnation.

All Masses for the Feast of the Epiphany will be broadcast live on: [www.longfordparish.com](http://www.longfordparish.com) on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm (vigil) and on Wednesday at 8am, 10am, 1pm and 7.30pm. There will be no 11.30am Mass.

**EPIPHANY PRAYER:** God of all time, who make all things new, we bring before you the year now ending. For life full and good, for opportunities recognised and taken, for love known and shared, we thank you. Where we have fallen short, forgive us. When we worry over what is past, free us. As we begin again and take our first few steps into the future, where nothing is safe and certain, except YOU, we ask for the courage of the wise men who simply went and followed a star. We ask for their wisdom, in choosing to pursue the deepest truth, not knowing where they would be led.

In the year to come, God of all time, be our help and company. Hold our hands as we journey onwards and may your dream of shalom (*peace*) where all will be at peace, be our guiding star. *Amen.*

**CHALIKING THE DOORWAY:** The practice of writing on doorways has a long history. Back in Deuteronomy (6:9), Moses used it to help the Israelites remember. It also brought to mind the Passover, when the blood of the Lamb was splashed on the doorposts as a sign that all inside were under God's protection. Today, chalking the doorway is a visible symbol of God's presence, peace and blessing.

**How to do it:** Gather the family outside the main door and read Matthew 2:1-2, & 9-11, *The Wise Men visit the Messiah, (imagine them coming to your home)* and then write the following letters, in chalk, above the door, down the sides or on the door step **20 + C + M + B + 21**. What do they mean? The 20 & 21 are the current year and next year. The crosses remind us of Jesus and of the star that guided the Wise men to Him. The letter C, M and B are for their traditional names (*Casper, Melchior and Balthazar*), but can also stand for '*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*', a Latin phrase which means '*May Christ bless this house*'. Or you could say '*Christ, My Blessing*', each time you pass underneath. As the letters are written above the door someone could say slowly: **20+C+M+B+21 "The Three wise men: Casper (pause while someone writes C), Melchior [write M], and Balthasar [B], followed the star to find the Christ child two thousand [20] and twenty-one [21] years ago. May Christ [+] bless [+] our [+] home[+] this day and always amen.**

**PRAYER:** Peace be upon this house and all who enter here. All: Amen.  
Bless this house and all who live within. All: Amen.  
May all who enter our home rejoice to find Christ living here. All: Amen.  
Lord Jesus, may we be like the star that guided the Wise Men to you, shining the light of your love to others. All: Amen.  
God, please bless (name all family members) who live in this house or come to visit. May it be for them (us) a place of peace and blessing. All: Amen.

**BLESSING:**

*Speak the words of Aaron's blessing to each other, then re-enter the house.*  
The Lord bless us and keep us: the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord turns his face towards us and gives us peace. Amen.

**SCHOOLS REOPENING:** All schools in the Parish will remain closed until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**Gospel: John: 1:1-18.** *The Word was made flesh, and lived among us*

In the beginning was the Word:  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be,  
not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him  
and that life was the light of men,  
a light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness could not overpower.  
A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.  
The Word was the true light  
that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.  
He was in the world  
that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him.  
He came to his own domain  
and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh  
or will of man  
but of God himself.  
The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.  
John appears as his witness. He proclaims:  
'This is the one of whom I said:  
He who comes after me ranks before me  
because he existed before me.'  
Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –  
yes, grace in return for grace,  
since, though the Law was given through Moses,  
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.  
No one has ever seen God;  
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,  
who has made him known.

