

**PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.**



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

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**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

**Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> December. St. Ambrose.**

8.00am: Norah Egan (A).

10.00am: Holy souls especially the forgotten souls.

**Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December. Immaculate Conception of the BVM.**

7.30pm: (Vigil) Jimmy McLoughlin (Month's Mind).

8.00am: Tony and Maeve Vaughan and their daughter Veronica (A).

10.00am: Michael Nevin (1<sup>st</sup> A).

1.00pm: May and Bob Phipps and deceased family members (A).

6.00pm: Aggie Ward (A).

**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December.**

8.00am: Julia, Patrick and Peter Rodgers and deceased family members (A).

10.00am: Tommy Doyle (1<sup>st</sup> A).

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December. UN Human Rights Day.**

8.00am: Mary Savage and deceased family members (A).

10.00am: Hannah Keegan (A).

**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> December. St. Damasus 1, Pope.**

8.00am: Bridget West (A). 10.00am: Theresa Keenan (A).

7.30pm: Frankie Smyth and Franz Emig (A).

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> December. St. Fiannan**

8.00am: Michael Rogers (A).

10.00am: Paddy Lee and deceased family members (A).

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> December. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

6.00pm: (Vigil) Deceased members of the Kearney family (A).

7.30pm: (Vigil) Mel Murtagh (A).

8.00am: Nelson Andrade (Month's Mind).

10.00am: Patricia and Frank Meally (A).

11.30am: Shared. Irene Glennon (1<sup>st</sup> A) and Liam Óg (A).

Anthony Newman (A).

1.00pm: Eileen Doyle (A).

6.00pm: Brean Donnelly (1<sup>st</sup> A).

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** We thank you for your contribution to last Sunday's Offertory Collection that amounted to €2,595.00. 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**

**CEREMONIES DURING THE COMING WEEK:** As well at the morning Masses at 8am and 10am, we will celebrate evening Mass during Advent on the Friday evenings only 7.30pm. Evening Prayer of the Church will be prayed Monday to Thursday at 7.30pm. This will be streamed live on the webcam.

**BAPTISM:** The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism has now resumed. If you are seeking to have your child Baptised in the immediate future please contact the Presbytery to arrange a date.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL:** Due to Covid-19 restrictions we currently cannot hold collections in person. To assist us in the many appeals that are made to us for urgent assistance, you can still donate by using the St Vincent de Paul envelope which is available in the Cathedral. The envelopes can be dropped into the Presbytery or into the letterbox at Ozanam House, behind the Cathedral. The funds raised will be spent in this community helping those who are in need of it for education, food, fuel and heating during the winter and beyond.

**SISTERS FROM ST. ELISABETH'S CONVENT (Minsk, Belarus)** are unable to participate in the annual **Christmas Markets** in their region due to travel restrictions. Nevertheless they have found a great way to spread the Christmas joy, love and deeds of mercy. They are launching their very first Online Christmas Market this year, so that people from all over the world can purchase Christmas presents and souvenirs made with love and continuous prayer. Please visit their website <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/christmas-market> Through purchasing beautiful Christmas gifts each one of us will be able to serve the poor, sick, homeless and lonely people. Because every item purchased at the Online Market is a donation towards one of the Convent's ministries.

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** We are currently updating our census in the Parish office. We would like to have every household registered and to ensure that each home receives their box of envelopes. If you are not registered or unsure, please contact the Parish office at 043-3346465 or email: [stmelscathedral@gmail.com](mailto:stmelscathedral@gmail.com)

**CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TICKETS:** Tickets will be issued for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses and will be available from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December in the parish office.

## **Gospel Mark 1:1-8**

*A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



### **Gospel Reflection:**

***Prepare the way of the Lord make straight his paths.***

On the second Sunday of Advent we hear again from Mark's Gospel. We are now in Year B of the three year cycle of Sunday readings named Year A, B and C. Today, the text we hear comes from the start of Mark's writing and he opens with a very direct message. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Good News, the gospel. Mark's whole Gospel is about revealing for us who Jesus is.

Every day we listen out for the news of the day. But the Gospel of Jesus is the news of our salvation. And the message of John the Baptist points firmly to Jesus as the source of our salvation. The challenging figure of John the Baptist continues to call us, even today, to examine ourselves as we prepare to welcome Jesus into our lives once more. John reminds us that we are a baptised, forgiven people. We can be grateful for this forgiveness but we can also choose to be a better person as a result of it. And we can choose to share forgiveness with others in our lives. A key part of our Advent preparation is about figuring out this question: what would it mean for me to be a better person, to be a forgiven and forgiving person, straightening the path for Jesus to take root in my life?

**ADVENT:** This Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, a time to reflect and prepare for the coming of Christ. The Advent Wreath is a reminder that we are preparing to celebrate the coming of Jesus - the light of the world in darkest winter.

**Second Sunday of Advent:** The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Hope. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child. Hope is a gift that we must be prepared for. God gives us the gift of hope when we turn to him in faith.

***All make the Sign of the Cross +***

*A member of the family lights the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> candle.*

**Blessing:** Loving God, on this Advent night we turn to you in prayer. As we wait for the coming of your Son, we ask you to bless our family. Comfort us with your healing and help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of peace. May your peace guard our hearts, our minds and our home.



We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. **Amen.** Come Lord Jesus.

***All make the Sign of the Cross +***

The two candles are allowed to burn during the evening meals of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week.

### **Advent Safeguarding Message 2020**

The last nine months have been very difficult for many people with the continuing threat to health, lives and livelihood. As we prepare for Christmas during this season of Advent we remember that Jesus Christ was born into a family and there he grew up. Although Church activities have been restricted for most of this year our commitment to safeguarding children continues. I thank Parish Safeguarding Representatives and our priests for their thorough and vigilant work in ensuring the safety of children and adults at risk in our Church related activities. I encourage anyone with concerns regarding the safety of children or anyone who suffered in the past to contact our Designated Liaison Person, Sean Leydon (087 743 1649) or our Deputy Designated Liaison Person, Róisín O'Doherty (087 705 7516).  
+ Francis Duffy **Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois**