

**PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.**

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

Website: [www.longfordparish.com](http://www.longfordparish.com)

Email: [stmelscathedral@gmail.com](mailto:stmelscathedral@gmail.com) 

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**



***Monday 08<sup>th</sup> March – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.***

***Monday, 08<sup>th</sup> March. St. John of God. St Senan.***

8.00am: Frank Devine. (A).  
10.00am: Kathleen Kelly. (2<sup>nd</sup> A)

***Tuesday, 09<sup>th</sup> March St Frances of Rome.***

8.00am: Pat, Mary & Martina Dervan (A)  
10.00am: Sr. Rosario Deery. (A)

***Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March.***

8.00am: Frank Devine. (A).  
10.00am: Doddy Sebastian. (1<sup>st</sup> A).

***Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> March. St Agnes.***

8.00am: Frank Devine (A)  
10.00am: James & Mary Dermody. (A).

***Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> March.***

8.00am: Frank Devine. (A).  
10.00am: Tom & Margaret Hopkins (A).  
7.30pm: Dan K. Farrell. (A)

***Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> March.***

8.00am: Special Intention (Sick)  
10.00am: John Mulhern & dec members of Browne & Martin Families.

***Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> March. FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT***

6.00pm (*Vigil*): Billy Shaughnessy. (A).  
7.30pm (*Vigil*): Derek & Garry Mc Nulty (A)  
8.00am: Patrick Mc Loughlin. (10<sup>th</sup> A).  
10.00am: Patricia Rodgers (Nee Farrell) (A).  
11.30am: *Shared*: 1) Sam Dennigan. (A) 2) Anne Maughan. (1<sup>st</sup> A)  
1.00pm: Pauline Maguire, Peggy & Owen Dwyer  
6.00pm: John Burke (A).

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** We thank you for your contribution to the Offertory Collection for the last week that amounted to €2,665.00. You may drop your envelope 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

**+ REST IN PEACE:** Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Jimmy Conway, 64 Annaly Park and Eoghain Faherty-Devlin, Artane, Dublin and formerly Bannan Terrace, Longford who were laid to rest during the week. May they rest in peace.

**LENTEN ALMS (together with The Diocesan Levy from each Parish):** The Lenten Alms contributions are due at this time. The money received for the Lenten Alms goes to cover Diocesan costs for: running the Diocesan Office, Diocesan Advisors Primary and Post-Primary, Youth initiatives, Bishop's secretary (50%) Education Secretary, Bishops expenses, contribution to Episcopal Conference & its agencies, diocesan contribution to Accord and Galway Marriage Tribunal, some welfare support for clergy, Safeguarding Office and safeguarding training.

**13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020—13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021**

As we mark one year of living with COVID-19 restrictions we will pray the **Holy Hour on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> from 8.15-9.15pm** for the intentions of all whose lives are affected in any way. We pray for the sick and the vulnerable, health care workers and all front line workers, shop assistants and all who help lift our spirits. We remember all who have died as a result of the virus and all who have been bereaved without the comfort of normal funeral celebrations. And in our prayer we look forward in hope to the day we can gather together again to celebrate our faith and all that is good in our lives.

**FORMS OF FRIDAY PENANCE:** The following are ways of fulfilling Friday penance:

- Abstaining from meat or some other food
- Abstaining from alcoholic drink or smoking.
- Making a special effort at involvement in family prayer.
- Making a special effort to participate in Mass on Fridays.
- Visiting the Blessed Sacrament.
- Making the Stations of the Cross.
- Fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved to the needy.
- Helping the poor, sick, old or lonely.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** The Way of the Cross will be prayed each Friday evening at 6.45pm and we invite you to pray with us on [www.longfordparish.com](http://www.longfordparish.com)

**EVENING PRAYER:** From Monday to Thursday we will pray Evening Prayer and Night Prayer of the Church at 7.30pm.

### **GOSPEL FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

***John 2:13-25***

***Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up***

**Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.**

**During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.**

***Reflection:*** The Gospel gives us the dramatic account of Jesus' cleansing the Temple of its merchants and money-changers, followed by a prediction of his death and Resurrection. The synoptic Gospels place the "cleansing of the Temple" immediately after Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem on the back of a colt on Palm Sunday, while John places it at the beginning of his Gospel.

The abuses which kindled the prophetic indignation of Jesus were the conversion of God's Temple into a "noisy market place" by the animal merchants and into a "hideout of thieves" by the money-changers with their grossly unjust business practices – sacrilege in God's Holy Place. Jesus' reaction to this commercialised Faith was fierce.

1. We need to avoid a calculating mentality in Divine worship: Our relationship with God must be that of a child to his parent, one of mutual love, respect and a desire for the family's good, with no thought of personal loss or gain.
2. We need to remember that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit: St. Paul reminds us that we are God's temples because the Spirit of God dwells in us. Hence, we have no right to desecrate God's temple by impurity and injustice. We are expected to cleanse our hearts of pride, hatred, jealousy and all evil thoughts, desires and plans. Reminiscent of what Jesus did in cleansing the Temple, we, as 21st century disciples, must, with His grace, cleanse ourselves of attitudes and behaviours that prevent us from seeing and responding to hurt wherever we find it. Let us welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives during Lent by repentance and the renewal of our lives. We will drive out the wild animals that do not belong to the holy temple of our body by making a whip of cords out of our fasting, penance and almsgiving during Lent.
3. We need to love our parish Church and use it: Our Church is the place where we come together as a community to love and praise God. It is the holy place where we gather strength to support one another in the task of living the Gospel. It is the place where we come privately to enter into intimate conversation with God. In this building many prodigal sons and daughters have met the merciful Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and have been welcomed back to our community. In this building, tears have been shed by those in pain and grief. We look forward to the day when we can gather together in this place and celebrate our faith. When we pass our Church, we might take the time to make a brief visit. Let us make our Church even more of a holy place by adding our prayers and songs to parish worship and offering our time and talents in the various ministries.