

PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.

The Presbytery, Longford Tel: 043 3346465

Website: www.longfordparish.com

Email: stmelscathedral@gmail.com 

PARISH NEWSLETTER



Monday 12th April – Sunday 18th April 2021.

Monday, 12th April.

8.00am: Special Intention.

10.00am: James Rogers. (A).

Tuesday, 13th April. St Martin 1.

8.00am: Leo and Mary Farrell. (A)

10.00am: Maureen and Liam Farrell. (A)

Wednesday, 14th April.

8.00am: Jimmy Clarke & Deceased family members.

10.00am: John Dolan. (A)

Thursday, 15th April.

8.00am: No Intention.

10.00am: Michael Nolan. (A)

Friday, 16th April.

8.00am: No Intention.

10.00am: Josie and Tom Kelly. (A).

Saturday, 17th April.

8.00am: No Intention.

10.00am: Catherine Cronin. (A).

Sunday, 18th April. 3rd SUNDAY of EASTER

6.00pm (*Vigil*): Brian Burke. (A).

7.30pm (*Vigil*): Larry White. (A)

8.00am: Justice Shiteoile (1st A)

10.00am: Peter Connolly & DFM.

11.30am: *Shared*: Ann Marie Flynn. (A).

1.00pm: Mary Mitchell. (A)

6.00pm: Brigid & Frank Farrell, Marcella & Jurgen Piesker. (A).

REST IN PEACE: We pray at this time for the happy repose of the soul of Frank Glancy, Templemichael Terrace who was laid to rest during the week. For Declan Lennon, Coolnahinch, Dublin Road, who died on Friday. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank you for your contribution to the Offertory Collection for the last week that amounted to €5,995.00. 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

TRÓCAIRE: we encourage families to hand into the Presbytery their Trócaire box or their contribute to the collection any day this week. Much of the money raised this year will go to help people displaced in Southern Sudan.

Gospel for 2nd Sunday of Easter: John 20:19-31

Eight days later, Jesus came.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, ‘Peace be with you,’ and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, ‘Peace be with you.

‘As the Father sent me, so am I sending you,’

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

‘Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.’

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, ‘We have seen the Lord,’ he answered, ‘Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.’ Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. ‘Peace be with you,’ he said.



Then he spoke to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.’ Thomas replied, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him:

‘You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

MERCY

Today’s Gospel vividly reminds us of how Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a sacrament of Divine Mercy. The Risen Lord gave his apostles the power to forgive sins with the words, *“Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained”* (Jn 20:19-23). Presenting the doubting Thomas’ famous profession of Faith, *“My Lord and my God”* (Jn 20:28), the Gospel illustrates how Jesus showed Divine mercy to the doubting apostle and emphasises the importance of Faith.

1) Let us accept God’s invitation to celebrate and practice mercy. One way the Church celebrates God’s mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive Divine Mercy. The Gospel command, *“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful,”* demands that we show mercy to our fellow human beings always and everywhere. We radiate God’s mercy to others by our actions, our words, and our prayers. It is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God’s merciful judgment.

2) Let us ask God for the Faith that culminates in self-surrender to God and leads us to serve those we encounter with love. Living Faith enables us to see the Risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each one our loving service (*“Faith without good works is dead” Jas 2:17*).

It was this Faith in the Lord and obedience to His missionary command that prompted St. Thomas to travel to India to preach the Gospel among the Hindus, to establish seven Christian communities (known later as “St. Thomas Christians”), and eventually to suffer martyrdom. The Fathers of the Church prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living and dynamic Faith of St. Thomas the Apostle. a) We must come to know Jesus personally and intimately by our daily and meditative reading of the Bible. b) We must strengthen our Faith by the power of the Holy Spirit through our personal and community prayer. c) We must share in the Divine life of Jesus by frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) presents it this way: *“If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then we put our love of God into action.”*

3) We need to meet the challenge for a transparent Christian life — *“I will not believe unless I see”* (Jn 20:25). This “seeing” is what others demand of us. They ask that we reflect Jesus, the Risen Lord, in our lives by our selfless love, unconditional forgiveness, and humble service. The integrity of our lives bears a fundamental witness to others who want to see the Risen Lord, alive and active, working in us. Christ’s mercy shines forth from us whenever we reach out to the poor, the needy and the marginalised. His mercy shines forth as we remain open to those who struggle in Faith, as did the Apostle Thomas in today’s Gospel. We should be able to appreciate the presence of Jesus, crucified and raised, in our own suffering and in our suffering brothers and sisters, thus recognising the glorified wounds of the Risen Lord in the suffering of others.

4) Let us have the courage of our Christian convictions to share our Faith as St. Thomas did. We are not to keep the gift of Faith locked in our hearts, but to share it with our children, our families and our neighbours, always remembering the words of Pope St. John XXIII: *“Every believer in this world must become a spark of Christ’s light.”*