



PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.

The Presbytery, Longford Tel: 043 3346465

Website: www.longfordparish.com

Email: stmelscathedral@gmail.com 

PARISH NEWSLETTER

15th Week in Ordinary Time Monday 13th July to Sunday 19th July 2020.

Monday, 13th July. St Henry.

8.00am: No Intention.
10.00am: Mai, Denis, D.J, Paddy and Tilly O'Connor (A).
7.30pm: Special Intention.

Tuesday, 14th July. St. Camillus.

8.00am: Special Intention. 10.00am: People of the Parish.
7.30pm: Special Intention.

Wednesday, 15th July. St. Bonaventure.

8.00am: No Intention.
10.00am: Michael Kelly (A).
7.30pm: No Intention.

Thursday, 16th July. Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

8.00am: Michael Gannon and deceased family members.
10.00am: Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.
7.30pm: Seán Connolly (A).

Friday, 17th July.

8.00am: No Intention. 10.00am: Joseph Farrell (A).
7.30pm: Marion Farrell (A).

Saturday, 18th July.

8.00am: No Intention.
10.00am: No Intention.

Sunday, 19th July.

6.00pm: (Vigil) J.J. Maguire (1st Anniv).
7.30pm: (Vigil) Margaret O'Hara (A).
8.00am: No Intention
10.00am: Michael Brady (A).
11.30am: Shared. Ross and Joe Carr (A).
1.00pm: No Intention.
6.00pm: No Intention.

To comply with Government and HSE guidelines on social distancing, the Cathedral has been divided into 3 sections A,B,C, and entry will be by the three doors at the front of the Cathedral. Exit from section B will be by the door at the Holy Family Chapel. Exit from section C will be by the door at the Chapel of Repose. Exit from section A will be by the main door, the same door that you entered the Cathedral. Those attending Mass at the weekend will need a ticket and tickets are available at the Presbytery. The Cathedral will open 15 minutes before the Mass and the doors will be closed as soon as Mass begins.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank you for your contribution to last Sunday's Offertory Collection that amounted to €3,825.00.

RECENTLY BAPTISED: We welcomed Isaac Benedict Doyle into the Christian Community last weekend.

CONFIRMATIONS: For all the boys and girls in 6th Class in the schools of our parish the end to their time in National School has been so difficult. Mixing and interacting with friends was discouraged, Graduation Days were quieter gatherings than usual and they missed the celebration of the Holy Spirit in their lives in the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are pleased to announce the new dates and times for Confirmation. Because of the requirement of social distancing each school will have its own ceremony and the priest associated with the school will administer the sacrament:
Monday 17th August, 6pm: St Joseph's **Tuesday 18th August, 6pm: Stonepark**
Wednesday 19th August, 6pm: Melview **Thursday 20th August, 6pm: Melview**
Friday 21st August, 6pm: St Michael's **Monday 24th August, 6pm: Gaelscoil**
Tuesday 25th August, 6pm: Scoil Eimear

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL concludes next Thursday 16th July with Mass at 10am.

ENABLE IRELAND LONGFORD is back open Mon to Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm. Why not call in and pick yourself up some good quality bargains or hidden treasures. And in doing so helping children & adults with disabilities across Ireland.

COVID 19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE: ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

A GOSPEL THOUGHT: The seed of God's word that is scattered today seeks fertile soil in which to bear fruit. The soil of your heart—is it shallow or rocky? Or is it fertile and rich? As we hear God's word and as we finally receive the Bread of Life again, we pray that the word may bear fruit in us that we grow more and more into what we receive—The Body of Christ.



In these extraordinary times ...

The past four months have been extraordinary in the life of every person on the planet. Who could have imagined on the 1st March 2020 that a virus could cripple the entire world, force people from their workplaces and businesses and compel them to live at home with spouse, children, parents? And that while doing that, you would also be compelled to adhere to stringent restrictions on your movement and your freedom would be taken from you? No doubt in years to come there will be books, films, and miles of paper produced documenting the experiences of people during this unprecedented pandemic.

For many people, Covid-19 instilled fear, it brought isolation, loneliness, cocooning, new ways of living and working, but it also brought to the fore the immense generosity and the willingness of so many to help others. They comforted and supported the dying and the families of those who had died; they offered compassion and support to those bereaved; they tended to the sick; they provided transport to those who needed it and offered companionship while carers or family were away; the countless numbers of people on the front line gave so much at great personal risk to their own-wellbeing and that of their families, to help in every way they could. For all who were confined or cocooned at home, the sacrifices and selfless efforts of others were enormous and will never be forgotten and we hope will be forever appreciated.

There's a story told of a man who wasn't too fond of work. When his spouse would berate him to do something, he would retort by saying "*I'll do that the first Sunday there's no Mass*", certain in his own mind that would never happen. But now we know nothing is beyond the realm of possibilities and even the impossible can become possible and will happen.

Like all of you, we in St. Mel's Cathedral, have now lived through this experience and it has been surreal and beyond the extraordinary. We were very fortunate to have had the webcam and other forms of media available to us, and these outlets motivated us to provide liturgies and services for the people of the parish, but not exclusively, because thousands of others throughout the world tuned in, deliberately or accidentally, and joined with us to form a diverse and worldwide Christian community.

In the midst of these surreal experiences, the parish community has remained loyal, true and faithful and has not fallen short in supporting all of us in so many ways. Your generosity of time—being available to help at short notice; your generosity of

gifts—the giving of food and goodies; the dedication and commitment of our own staff; and above all your overwhelming generosity through financial support which has been so much appreciated in these challenging times for many families and individuals. You continued to contribute and that required extra personal effort on your part to arrange the financial support and then to deliver it to the Presbytery while others arranged to set up and contribute on-line. It gave us great heart and we certainly appreciate your generosity.

We have become used to guidelines, restrictions, social distancing, sanitising, etc. and this is the new vocabulary for all of us. Coupled with that there are guidelines issued by Government/HSE every three weeks, and while there will be restrictions where many will still be compelled to make choices and decisions, we hope that the inconvenience will only be temporary. We know that you will work with us and that we will provide liturgies as best we can to nourish and support each one of you.

So to all of you, we on the Parish Team in St Mel's Cathedral, say a very sincere and heartfelt 'THANK YOU.' We are grateful to you for rising to the challenge in these unprecedented times.

While we want to express our gratitude, we encourage you to share your gratitude with those who have and continue making a difference in the fight against COVID-19. Whatever your position in the community, your word of thanks can encourage and inspire them in the way that you inspire us.

Fathers James, Tony, Michael, Reji & Joseph

Pandemic — Lynn Ungar.

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
In ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all tendrils.
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch

Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.