

**PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.**

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PARISH NEWSLETTER



**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021.**

**Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February.**

8.00am: Bridie Smyth and Ellen & Thomas Ward (A)

10.00am: Teresa Sweeney (A)

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February.**

8.00am: Patrick Earley (A)

10.00am: James & Helen Fitzgerald and Mary Croghan (A)

**Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February. ASH WEDNESDAY**

8.00am: Martin Reilly (A)

10.00am: John & Anna Connolly and children Marie & Tony (A)

7.30pm: John & Ellen Masterson (A)

**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February.**

8.00am: Holy Souls

10.00am: Ann O'Brien (A) and deceased family members

**Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> February.**

8.00am: Odhrán Keating Clyne. (A)

10.00am: Mass for Victims and Survivors of Abuse

7.30pm: No Intention.

**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> February.**

8.00am: Special Intention.

10.00am: Baby Skye Lorraine Daly (*recently deceased*)

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> February. FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

6.00pm (*Vigil*): No Intention.

7.30pm (*Vigil*): Anne Kelly (A)

8.00am: No Intention.

10.00am: Dermot Geelan and deceased members of Geelan family.

11.30am: 1) Paddy, Val & Katie Hourican 2) Thomas, Mai & Mary Murtagh

1.00pm: Tony & Brenda Hynes (A)

6.00pm: No Intention.

✠**REST IN PEACE:** Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the souls of: Elizabeth Comer, Coventry and formerly Annaly Park; Arunas Grazus, Richmond Street; Jim Barry, Lisduff; and David Kelly, Deanscurragh who died recently. May they rest in peace.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** We thank you for your contribution to the Offertory Collection for the last week that amounted to €2,345.00. 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**

**SHROVE DUES:** for the support of the priests of the Parish are due at this time. Please return your contribution to the Presbytery at your convenience.

**HOLY HOUR:** On Saturday evening from 8.15pm-9.15pm we will have a Holy Hour in the Cathedral. The Holy Hour will be weekly until the end of the current restrictions.

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

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** This Wednesday we begin the Season of Lent. Traditionally this is the day when our foreheads are marked with ashes as a sign of our desire to follow the gospel. Unfortunately, because of the Level 5 restrictions Ashes cannot be blessed and distributed as they are traditionally. However, we invite every household to gather some cold ashes or even some soil from the garden and it will be blessed remotely during our masses on Wednesday at 8am, 10am and 7.30pm. During the mass people will be invited to administer the ashes on their own foreheads. Perhaps the bowl of ashes can be kept in some sacred space in the home for the duration of Lent.

**PRAYER RESOURCES FOR LENT:** We will have a pack available that will contain, a card with Stations of the cross, a postcard that can be sent to someone in a Nursing home or isolated in their own home, a sheet with prayer suggestions to be used through Lent and a card with prayers for children preparing for the Sacraments in the Parish this year.

**COMMITMENT CEREMONY** for all those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Parish this year will be live-streamed from the Cathedral on Sunday evening 21<sup>st</sup> February at 6pm. 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils can join us on [www.longfordparish.com](http://www.longfordparish.com)

**ENROLMENT CEREMONY FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 6pm Vigil Mass. We invite all who are preparing for First Eucharist and First Penance with their families to join us on-line for that ceremony and we look forward to welcoming them to the Table of The Lord soon.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Please join us to pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening during Lent at 6.45pm.

**TRÓCAIRE BOXES** for the Lenten campaign are available in the porches of the Cathedral. Please take one home with you and place it in your sacred space or in a prominent place in your home.

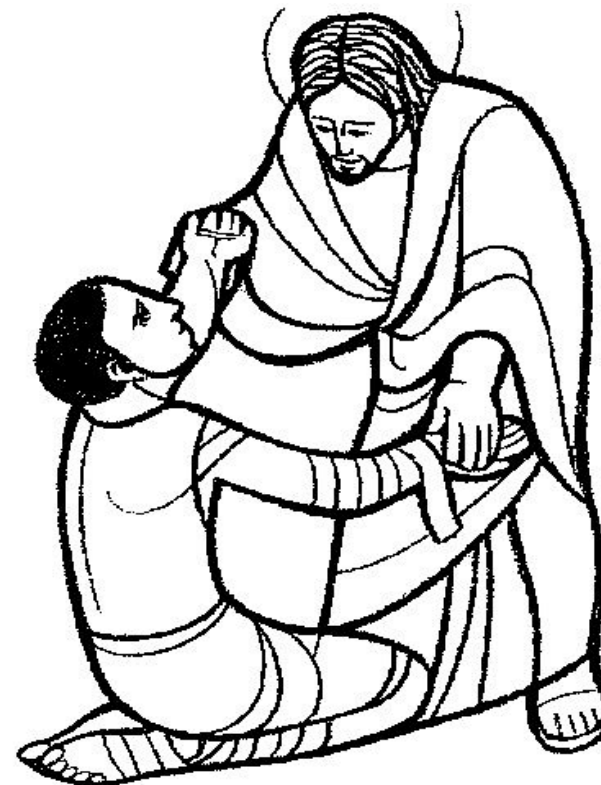
**TEMPERANCE SUNDAY:** Today is a day of prayer for temperance. Temperance has an unpopular image. It is perceived as a restrictive, a sort of kill-joy and spoil sport. Nothing could be further from the reality. Temperance brings balance and prevents ‘excessiveness’ getting a grip on us. Bad tempered behaviour or intemperate language is neither accepted in sport nor in social behaviour. Society is all too aware of how drugs, including alcohol, have done such damage to sport, recreation, working and family life. It has become so difficult for people to resist the culture of artificial and chemical enhancement for all kinds of performances and entertainment particularly in competitive sport at international level. Temperance is a virtue which can help us to moderate the attraction to substances like alcohol and so avoid excessive use.

Alcohol, when used in moderation, can be good and a part of our social life. However we must remember that alcohol is also the number one drug in our country, and does affect us in some way.

We should realise that we can all do something to help those who abuse alcohol rather than waiting for Government to lead. As a society we need to agree what is acceptable to tolerate or not with regard to drunkenness, harm to self, to others, protection of children and families.

Something that goes hand in hand with the virtue of Temperance is the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart was founded in St Francis Xavier Church, Gardiner St, Dublin on 28th December 1898 by Fr James A Cullen. Fr Cullen was always concerned with social issues, and his motivation in setting up the Pioneers was to address the enormous damage that he saw excess alcohol was doing in the Ireland at that time. Many workers were heavy drinkers, and alcohol was the greatest drain on the weekly earnings of the family.

From the beginning, members – who joined in their thousands – pledged three things: to abstain from alcohol for life (which Fr Cullen referred to as “The heroic sacrifice”); to say the Pioneer prayer twice a day; and to bear witness by wearing the pioneer pin at all times. The PTAA has always been underpinned by devotion to the Sacred Heart, and its emblem reflects this.



## GOSPEL FOR THE 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (1:40-45)*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: ‘If you want to’ he said ‘you can cure me.’ Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. ‘*Of course I want to!*’ he said. ‘*Be cured!*’

And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, ‘*Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.*’ The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

*The Gospel of the Lord*