

PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.

The Presbytery, Longford Tel: 043 3346465

Website: www.longfordparish.com

Email: stmelscathedral@gmail.com 

PARISH NEWSLETTER



Monday 22nd February to Sunday 28th February 2021.

- Monday, 22nd February—Feast of Chair of St Peter, Apostle.**
8.00am: No Intention.
10.00am: John Gilchrist (Months Mind)
- Tuesday, 23rd February—Saint Polycarp**
8.00am: No Intention (A)
10.00am: Fergal Mc Guinness (A)
7.30pm: Theresa Murphy, Treel. (Months Mind)
- Wednesday, 24th February.**
8.00am: No Intention.
10.00am: Special Intention.
- Thursday, 25th February.**
8.00am: No Intention.
10.00am: Cora Scanlon (nee Savage) (1st A) & her sister Margaret, recently deceased
- Friday, 26th February.**
8.00am: Brigid Beirne. (A)
10.00am: Clodagh Dervla Stokes.(A)
7.30pm: John & Thomas Harvey & Nora Horan (A)
- Saturday, 27th February.**
8.00am: Eugene Murphy. (A).
10.00am: Tom Stokes and his deceased grandchildren.
- Sunday, 28th February. SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**
6.00pm (*Vigil*): Des Barry. (A).
7.30pm (*Vigil*): Vincent Sheridan. (A)
8.00am: Peter Mc Ginnity. (A).
10.00am: Seamus & Mai Greene.
11.30am: *Shared*: 1) Teresa Mc Guire. (1stA).
2) Mary Brennan, Ita and Tony Farrell.(A)
1.00pm: John & Anna Beattie (A)
6.00pm: Betty Conway.

✠**REST IN PEACE:** Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the souls of: Anne Sheridan, Connor Park, Longford and Vytautas Reinys, Drumlish 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 €2,285.00. 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The Way of the Cross will be prayed each Friday evening at 6.45pm and you can join with us on www.longfordparish.com

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.

TRÓCAIRE LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2021



Please support the Trócaire Lenten Appeal 2021. This year the focus is on the suffering of displaced peoples in South Sudan. Trócaire Boxes are available in the Cathedral Porch.

First Sunday of Lent



**Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert
to be tempted by the devil.**

GOSPEL FOR THE 1st SUNDAY OF LENT.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (1:12-15)

Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord

LENT 2021

Lent 2021 began last Wednesday, Ash Wednesday. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic restrictions we could not distribute Blessed Ashes in the usual way. Lent is one of the great penitential seasons of the liturgical year the other being Advent. The Season of Lent lasts for 40 days and it divides the cycle of Ordinary Time into two parts. During the Lenten Season the priest wears violet coloured vestments at the celebration of mass, the Gloria is not recited or sung and the Alleluia, normally sung just before the gospel is replaced with 'Praise to you O Christ king of eternal glory' as we greet the gospel.

It is worth noting that at the last mass before Lent, this year, celebrated on Shrove Tuesday, the first reading from the Book of Genesis recalled the story of God telling Noah that he was going to send rain on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights, the same duration as Lent. Of course the '40 day retreat' is very much part of the life of Jesus. After Jesus was baptised in the Jordan He entered the desert, sometimes referred to as the wilderness and spent 40 days in fasting and prayer. This was in preparation for his public ministry. Lent for us is a time of preparation for Easter when we solemnly celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ and the dawn of our salvation. As we hear in the gospel this Sunday while he was in the desert, he was tempted just like all of us are but he did not sin. This illustrates the humanity of Jesus.

It is thought that the word 'Lent' probably comes from the old English word '*lencten*' which means the lengthening of days. Of course Lent always arrives in the spring time of the year. Spring is a time for new life and growth and this gives us an opportunity to renew the life of the Spirit within us.

In the current climate there is a great need for hope as we face another Lent under restrictions. In his message for Lent 2021, Pope Francis writes the following about the great virtue of 'hope':

'In these times of trouble, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation ... In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference.'