

**DATES FOR NOVEMBER: DAILY MASSES AT 8AM, 10AM AND 7.30PM (MON - FRI).**

Mon 1st Nov, All Saints Day, Mass at 8am, 10am, 1pm and 7.30pm.  
Tues 2nd Nov, All Souls Day, Mass at 8am, 10am and 7.30pm.  
Friday 5th Nov, First Friday. Calls to housebound and the sick.  
Sunday 7th Nov, Bereavement Mass for all who died in the Parish at 6pm.  
Thursday 11th Nov, Year of St. Joseph "Joseph the Worker". 7.30pm  
Thursday 18th Nov, Year of St. Joseph "Joseph the Family Man". 7.30pm  
Nov 18th - 26th, Novena in honour of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. 7.00pm  
Thursday 18th Nov, Laurel Lodge, Bereavement Mass. 6.30pm.  
Thursday 25th Nov, Year of St. Joseph, "Joseph the Dreamer". 7.30pm  
Sunday 28th Nov, 1st Sunday of Advent.

**MISSION SUNDAY:** On behalf of Pope Francis, thank you for supporting World Mission Sunday. Your kindness means that overseas missionaries can continue to share the love of God with some of the world's most marginalised and vulnerable people.

**TRÓCAIRE'S SPECIAL APPEAL:** A special collection will be held next weekend 6th & 7th Nov to support its work to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in East Africa. Across East Africa, families face a dire threat of famine. Trócaire is currently addressing this and many other crises worldwide. Parishes in Ireland are requested to undertake a special church collection on 6th & 7th November. Please give what you can.

**SUMMER TIME** ends this weekend Sunday morning. Please remember to put your clocks back by 1 hour.

**Today's Gospel: Mark 12:28-34**

**'You are not far from the kingdom of God'**

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.



The scribe would have been pleased that Jesus had answered the Sadducees so well. These were some influential people, who had no belief in the afterlife and they had tried to mock Jesus by asking him a trick question regarding marriage and the afterlife. To which he explained that there is no need for marriage in the world to come. The scribe was a teacher of the law and he did not agree with the Sadducees' beliefs. His question was a matter that the teachers of the law often discussed. The first command that Jesus gave him was what is called the Shema. The Shema is still important to the Jews today. The word 'Shema' means 'Listen', and it maintains a very important place in the book of Deuteronomy. This verse, that is "the first commandment given by Jesus to love God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your strength", was so important that the Jews wrote it on tiny pieces of paper. They fixed them in a small box on their doorposts to remind them that there is one God as they went in and out.

They had to love God with all their thoughts and actions.

The word for 'love' of a neighbour is the Greek word 'agape'. It does not mean the same as the pleasure of being with a friend. It means to want the best things for the neighbour. It means that we help neighbours. We help them, even if they do not give love in return. They may not show that they are grateful. However, we still have a duty to help them. The Jews would have thought that 'neighbour' meant another Jew. Jesus showed that a neighbour could be anyone. It was anyone who needed help. Jesus shows this in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus showed that love for a neighbour is closely related to love of God.

The scribe agreed that the love of God and of neighbour was very important. It was more important than religious ceremonies. God requires us to love and to obey him rather than to offer sacrifices. The prophets had emphasised that. We read in the book of Samuel that Samuel told Saul, 'to obey is better than to offer sacrifice' In the Old Testament Hosea wrote that God says, 'I desire love and not sacrifice'.

Jesus went on to encourage the scribe and said that he was 'not far' from God's kingdom. The scribe had understood Jesus' answer. But he still had to make the decision to follow Jesus.

**Monday, 1st November. All Saints Day**

8.00am: Tommy & Bernie O'Neill 10.00am: Mary & James McDermott (A)  
1.00pm: Peter Hagan (A) 7.30pm: Nan Drumm (Month's Mind)

**Tuesday, 2nd November. All Souls Day**

8.00am: Jane and Bernard Smith (A). 10.00am: All Souls  
7.30pm: Mary & George Dowd & their sons Jimmy, Francie & Michael (A)

**Wednesday, 3rd November. St. Malachy**

8.00am: Mel McNally (A). 10.00am: DM of the Farrell family.  
7.30pm: Maureen & Michael Walsh & their infant twins. (A)

**Thursday, 4th November. St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop**

8.00am: Christopher Farrell (A). 10.00am: DM of the Ward family (A)  
7.30pm: Maura and Gerry McCreanor (A).

**Friday, 5th November. (First Friday) St. Martin de Porres**

8.00am: DM of the Cassells family.  
10.00am: DM of the Nolan & Eivers families. 7.30pm: Helen O'Donohue (A).

**Saturday, 6th November. All the Saints of Ireland**

8.00am: Bridget Donnelly (A)  
10.00am: Katie and Bernard Eivers (A)

**Sunday, 7th Nov. 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Prisoners Sunday**

6.00pm (Vigil): Colman Tynan (A)  
7.30pm (Vigil): Jimmy McLoughlin (1st A)  
8.00am: Tommy Devlin (A)  
10.00am: Andy Byrne (A)  
11.30am: Shared: Eileen Dolan (Month's Mind).  
Frank Clancy (1st A). Rose O'Dowd (A).  
1.00pm: Teresa Belton & her parents John and Mary  
6.00pm: Bereavement Mass

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** We thank each one of you most sincerely for your continued generous contributions to our weekly collections. The amount received in the Offertory Collection last week was €3,590.00.

**NOVEMBER DUES:** In support of the Bishop and the priests of the parish are now due and may be handed in at any time.

**BAPTISM:** With joy, we recently welcomed Dolceanna Kathleen Majell O'Leary, Amelia Kate Daly, Erin Jelena Zerjal and Rósín Mary Burns into the Christian Community.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the souls of Anna Cunningham, Farneyhoogan and Patrick McDonnell, Congress Terrace whose funeral took place during the week.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** Next Friday the priests will bring Holy Communion to the sick and the housebound. If you would like to receive Holy Communion for the 1st Friday please contact the Presbytery: 043-3346465 before Thursday.

**GARDA BAND:** Longford and Granard District Gardai present the Band of An Garda Síochána in Concert in St. Mel's Cathedral this Sunday 31st Oct at 3pm.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** If you would like to be involved in your Parish we would like to hear from you. We are looking for volunteers to be part of the various teams. Please contact the parish office.

**LONGFORD ACTIVE RETIREMENT:** Longford active retirement have resumed their meetings in the Family Centre. We would be delighted to have you as a member to join us on our various activities, outings etc. Contact 087 6620494.

**LOCAL PROPERTY TAX:** Nov 7th is the deadline for submitting your Property Tax Return. If you are having difficulty in assessing the value of your property feel free to contact John Farrell. This service is provided free of charge. Phone John, (043) 33 41176 or (086) 8346559 at anytime.

**ANNIVERSARY MASS DIARY 2022:** Bookings for Masses will commence on Monday 1st November. Anniversaries may be booked at 3346465.

**INDULGENCES:** 1. From 12noon on 1st Nov until midnight on 2nd Nov, all who have confessed and prayed for the pope's intentions (*one Our Father and Hail Mary, or any other prayer of one's choice*) can gain one plenary indulgence by visiting a church or oratory, and there reciting one Our Father and the Apostle's Creed. This indulgence is applicable only to the souls of the departed. 2. The faithful who visit a cemetery and pray for the dead may gain a plenary indulgence applicable only to the Holy Souls on the usual conditions once per day from 1st to 8th Nov. The conditions mentioned above apply also for this.

**RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):** We hope to begin a programme for adults who have a desire to enter the Catholic Church next Easter. The programme will begin on Thursday 2nd December at 7.30pm. Please contact Presbytery for further information. 043-3346465.