



Members of Longford Pastoral Council. Back row, Tommy Dolan, Therese O'Shea, Anita Mollaghan, Stefan Macko, Colm Dardis, Fr. Merlyn Kenny, Fr. Nigel Charles, Tony Gillhooly, Christine Treacy, Bernie Mulligan, Kevin Victory, Fr. Brendan O'Sullivan. Front row: Deirdre Dalton, Colette Skelly, Sr. Angela Clarkson, Fr. Tom Healy and Teresa Neville.

Longford Pastoral Council

A Pastoral Council is a group of people who work together for the good of the parish. It is partnership in action at parish level. Our Pastoral Council comprises of the priests in the parish, and a number of parishioners who can give some time to the working life of the parish on a regular basis. Members of the Pastoral Council assist for a number of years and new members are co-opted at intervals ensuring new ideas and outlook. Our meetings always start with a prayer and from there we work towards enriching the spirit of the parish through discussion, practical assistance and commitment to whatever task is in hand.

We meet twice a month - each month having it's own agenda - Advent, Lent, Parish Visitation, Station Masses, Easter, First Confession, First Holy Com-

munion, Confirmation, Eucharistic Procession, Cemetery Sunday to name a few. We also work towards developing new programmes which might benefit the parish community. All these require some planning and arranging and this is where we can help. Everyone brings his/her own strengths and skills to the group and each one of us brings something through our own associations within the parish, helping our Pastoral Council reach directly or indirectly into the homes of the parish.

The people of the Parish of Templemichael and Ballymacormack are the life force of the parish and we provide the link. As members of the Pastoral Council we would hope to provide the stepping stones to future plans and events in the parish.

PARISH INFORMATION

MASS TIMES
St. Mel's College Chapel

Weekdays: 8.00am, 10.00am
Advent/Lent/November/ December: 7.30pm

Cathedral Centre
Sundays: 7.30pm (vigil), 8.00am, 10.00am, 11.30am, 1.00pm

Parish Churches
Shroid: 10.30am
Curry: 9.30am
Killashoe: Friday 7.30pm, Sunday 10.30am
Clondra: Tuesday 7.30pm, Sunday 8.00pm

Holy Days
St. Patrick's Day & Christmas Day:
All Masses as per usual Sunday Schedule

Epiphany, Assumption, Immaculate Conception, All Saints: 7.30pm (vigil), 8.00am, 10.00am, 1.00pm, 7.30pm
(No Mass in Curry or Shroid)

BAPTISMS (4 weeks notice)
1st, 3rd, 5th Weekends: Sunday 1.45pm
2nd & 4th Weekends: Saturday 2.00pm
Book at Parish Office (043 3346465)

CONFESSIONS
Saturdays: 10.30-1pm, 6.30-7.30pm,
Eve of Holy Days/First Fridays: 12.00-1.00pm, 7.00pm-8.00pm

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

St. Mel's Cathedral Presbytery 043 3346465
Email: stmelcathedral@eircom.net

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St. Emer's	043 3341188
Gaelscoil an Longfoirt	043 3341360
St. Joseph's	043 3345700
St. Michael's	043 3345536
Melview	043 3346197
Stonepark	043 3346036

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Scoil Mhuire	043 3346608
St. Mel's	043 3346469
Templemichael College	043 3345424
St. Christopher's	043 3341769

ACCORD Marriage Support Service: 043 47222
(11.30am - 1.30pm)

Alcohol & Drugs Service: 043 3350988
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA):

Health Care Centre: Mon, Wed, Sat at 9.00pm
Family Centre: Tues & Fri 1pm, Sunday 11.30am

CURA: 090 6474272/1850 622626

Club '89: Family Centre, Tuesday, 2.30pm-4.30pm

Family Centre: 043 3346827

Longford Casualty: 043 3350142

Longford Gardai: 0433346741 / 999

Longford Mental Health Services: 043 3346992

Money, Advice & Budgeting Service (MABS): 043 3347705

MIDOC: 1850 302702

Mullingar Hospital: 044 9340221

St. Joseph's Care Centre: 043 3346211

Samaritans: 090 6473133

Social Services: 043 3350114

SVP Thrift Shop: 043 3346074

Temperance Hall: 043 3349548

Tony reflects on his journey to priesthood

My name is Tony Gilhooly. I come from Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. I attended Drumshanbo Primary School and afterwards received my secondary education in Drumshanbo Vocational School. After completing Leaving Cert I decided to go into the workplace rather than continue with education despite having obtained a V.E.C. Scholarship. I joined the staff of C.S. Laird, a local jam manufacturer until its closure in 1991. I then joined the staff of Leitrim County Council and worked in Motor Tax and Revenue for some years.



Tony Gilhooly.

During my life I always had a keen interest in the Mass, Liturgy and Scripture. I attended daily Mass regularly from the time I was a teenager and was involved in many parish activities. During this time I occasionally thought of becoming a priest but I used to think it couldn't be for me. After the death of my mother in 2006 having experienced the wonderful help of the hospital chaplains and the local Parish Priest Fr. Burke I gave the idea of priesthood some serious thought.

The notion of priesthood became much clearer in my mind at this stage so I decided to explore it. I went on pilgrimage to Lourdes in May 2007 and prayed quietly about having a vocation. When I returned I spoke about the matter of a vocation to the priesthood to Fr. Burke. I joined St. Patrick's College Maynooth and began my studies in August 2007. The training programme for priesthood known as *formation* consists of four areas: spiritual, pastoral, academic and human formation.

The academic course comprises of two years study of philosophy, a year of pastoral study and three years theology. I have completed a course in philosophy and arts and studied theology last year. I am presently undertaking a diploma in Pastoral Theology.

During this course I spend two days in Maynooth and the remainder of the week is spent on Parish Placement. My placement is in Longford Parish. I reside in the Cathedral Presbytery and work in close association with the parish team.

I have become involved in the various parish activities since I joined the parish team at the end of September. My placement concludes at Easter time. I have become involved in the meetings of the parish team where the various issues are discussed. I run the "Do this in Memory" programme for the First Holy Communion class at St. Emer's school. This involves taking one class a week in the school and also working with the parents. I prepare and deliver scripture reflections at both week-day and Sunday Masses regularly. I read and help with the distribution of Holy Communion as required. I have had the opportunity to accompany the priests on parish visitation.

I have edited the parish newsletter which involves supplying editorial comment on the Sunday readings. Sr. Angela Clarkson, parish sister has introduced me to the work of a baptismal team and has generously shared her wealth of experience in various aspects of parish life. I am gaining valuable experience from working with and observing them in their day to day roles.


The whole area of Pastoral Ministry is vast and varied and I am gaining great experience from the parish clergy - namely Fr. Tom Healy, Adm.; Fr. Merlyn Kenny, C.C.; Fr. Brendan O'Sullivan, C.C.; Fr. Nigel Charles, C.C. and Fr. Pdraig Kel-

liher, C.C. I have the opportunity to see each Pastoral Minister bringing his/her unique style to each pastoral encounter. This is all made possible by the unflinching co-operation of the parish team, for which I am most grateful.

It is great to become part of parish life with all its facets and having the opportunity to meet the people who come together for the successful running of the parish. This includes the office secretary, the housekeeping staff, grounds keeper, sacristan and the many volunteers who give of their time for the betterment of the parish.

During my time in the parish I am gaining vast experience in all areas of formation. There is a wide range of work in your parish so if any one wishes to volunteer they could find something fulfilling and rewarding just by taking an active role in the life of the parish.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the priests and people of the parish who are leaving no stone unturned in supporting me on my journey to priesthood.


Christmas Reflection

Lord, in this Holy Season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us; for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise You for the Word made Flesh in a little Child. We behold His glory, bathed in it's radiance.

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment
In which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary,
At midnight in Bethlehem, In the piercing cold.
In that hour, I beseech Thee, O my God,
To hear my prayer and grant my desires, Amen.*



"The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom A light has shone"
Isaiah 9:1

St. Mel's Cathedral 2010 Christmas greetings from the Pastoral Team of Longford Parish

Dear Friends,
We wish you and your family a very happy Christmas remembering in particular those who cannot come home, all who mourn, the sick and the lonely. Our prayer is for the Lord's Blessing to come upon you in a most special way during this holy season. We take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation of your continued support for our parish throughout the past year.

*With every good wish,
The Parish Pastoral Team:
Fr. Nigel Charles, Sr. Angela Clarkson, Deirdre Dalton, Colm Dardis, Tommy Dolan, Fr. Tom Healy, Fr. Pdraig Kelliher, Fr. Merlyn Kenny, Stefan Macko, Anita Mollaghan, Bernie Mulligan, Teresa Neville, Therese O'Shea, Fr. Brendan O'Sullivan, Colette Skelly, Christine Treacy, Kevin Victory*

"The maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel."
Isaiah 7: 14

Parish Facts 2009
Baptisms 176
First Holy Communions 148
Confirmations 153
Marriages 33
Deaths 79