



**PARISH PRIEST**

Very Rev. Malachy Murphy PP

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**Parish of Loughgilly**

The Mission of Loughgilly Parish Pastoral Council is ...

“To be aware of our Parish needs, bringing together God’s people to enrich and develop our faith, so that we may reflect the image of a true disciple of Christ”.

**CONFESSIONS:** Each Saturday at 6.30pm

**SATURDAY VIGIL MASS:**

St Malachy’s @ 7.00pm

**SUNDAY MORNING MASS:**

St Brigid’s @ 10am

St Teresa’s @ 11.30am

**ADORATION:**

Tuesday 7pm – 9pm in St Brigid’s Church.

**NORMAL WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**

Tuesday: St Brigid’s @ 10.00am

Wednesday: St Teresa’s @ 10.00am

Thursday: St Malachy’s @ 10.00am

First Friday Only: St Brigid’s @ 10.00am

*(In the event of a Funeral, 10am Mass will be cancelled)*

**BAPTISMS:**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month in St Malachy’s at 6.00pm. *(Book on Parish Website)*

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.30am-2.30pm

**SVP Helpline: 07561011117**

Weekly Parish Bulletin – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Peter John Loughran, Eileen McCaul, Robert Downey.

**LOUGHGILLY PARISH ANNIVERSARIES:**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December – St Malachy’s @ 7.00pm**

Margaret Caherty

Charlie Kennedy

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December – St Brigid’s @ 10am**

**Kathleen McDermott 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary**

Maureen O’Callaghan

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December – St Teresa’s @ 11.30am**

Anna, John & Winnie McParland

Patrick O’Rourke

Bernard SNR & Bernard JNR O’Rourke

Sean McCann

Pat O’Hanlon

Margaret & John Shields & DM Shields & Noger Families

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – St Malachy’s @ 7.00pm**

Mary McParland

Deborah McKernan

**Christmas Eve - St Teresa’s @ 5.30pm**

*Christmas Mass Bouquet Intentions*

Nan & Hugh O’Hare

Angela & Dessie McLoughlin

Frankie Finnegan

**Christmas Eve – St Malachy’s @ 7.00pm**

*Christmas Mass Bouquet Intentions*

**Christmas Eve – St Brigid’s @ 8.30pm**

*Christmas Mass Bouquet Intentions*

James, Mary & Vera McGeough

Eugene McVerry

**Christmas Day – St Brigid’s @ 10am**

*Christmas Mass Bouquet Intentions*

Jack, Gerry & Pat Deighan

**PARISH COLLECTIONS**

10<sup>th</sup> December – Main Collection 101 Env £1481.16

**Priest Dues collection taken up at all Christmas Masses.**

SVP COLLECTION totalled £1300.00 – Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS**

Cards available from all Sacristies, from Whitecross and Belleeks shops and from the Parish Office. £2. Intentions will be remembered at all Christmas Masses in the Parish.

**CHRISTMAS CANDLES**

Available while stocks last from all Churches and the Parish Office priced at £2.00

**MASS CHANGES**

**THERE WILL BE NO MASS THIS COMING TUESDAY MORNING.**

**EMERGENCY SICK CALLS**

In the event of an emergency sick call for those living at home, Parishioners should contact the Parochial House. For those who are in hospital, you should ask the Ward Sister to contact the Chaplain. Pastoral Area contact number in case of being unable to contact me are:

**Cullyhanna – Canon Toner – 02830861235**

**Crossmaglen – Fr Maloney – 02830861208**



**UPDATED!!!!**

**Christmas Eve Masses**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Vigil @ 5.30pm in St Teresa’s

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Vigil @ 7.00pm in St Malachy’s

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Vigil @ 8.30pm in St Brigid’s

**Christmas Day Mass**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December– St Brigid’s Church @10am

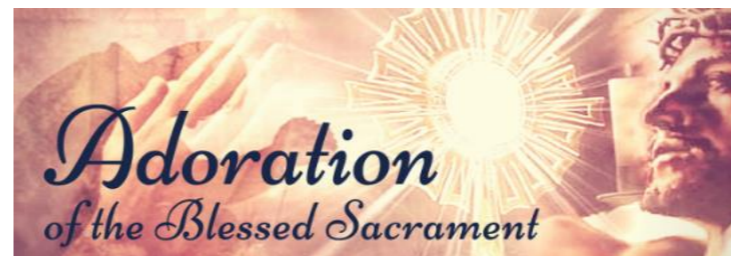
**PLEASE NOTE** – due to the Christmas Vigil being on a Sunday there will be No Normal Sunday morning Mass on this day – I invite Parishioners to attend Mass on the evening of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December in St Malachy’s Ballymoyer at 7.00pm which will fulfil the Sunday obligation to attend Mass.

Attending the Christmas vigil does NOT fulfil the requirement to attend Sunday Mass.

**PARISH CAROL SERVICE**



We thank Elaine, Noelle, all members of St Malachy’s Choir, Veronica our Sacristan and all who cleaned, decorated and prepared the Church. We thank the readers and all our young people who carried the figures to the Crib, which made our Carol Service such a wonderful and prayerful evening.



As we approach Christmas, we invite Parishioners to spend time with Jesus, Truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. This coming Tuesday from 7pm-9pm is the final opportunity for Adoration this year. Adoration will resume on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 from 7pm - 9pm in St Brigid’s Church.



We welcome donations of Christmas Poinsettia for decorations in our Churches. If you would like to donate a Poinsettia simply leave it in any of our Churches this coming week.

**Christmas Tree Decorations**

We encourage families to view our Christmas Tree, which have been beautifully decorated by the Children from our Parish schools. These stars each carry a Christmas Message or Prayer. We thank the children for the Beautiful Stars which will help us remember the true meaning of Christmas and we thank Jesus for the gift of creativity which is evident when we look at the stars. For any family whose children perhaps attend school outside the Parish the images of the Stars and Angels are on our Facebook page, please feel free to print and decorate and hang on the tree in the Church.

**PARISH DRAW – DECEMBER**

Our Last draw of this year will take place on Thursday. Sellers, please have all monies in by Wednesday.



**CHURCH CLEANING**

In Preparation for Christmas we would be grateful if parishioners would volunteer to assist in cleaning the Churches. Please contact each Church Sacristan.

**TROCAIRE GIFTS ON SALE**

Gifts will be available this weekend and at the evening Vigil Mass on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.00pm.



Come Home for Christmas, New Year and Beyond...

Our Churches will be full over Christmas as we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child among us. His birth in Bethlehem brought all kinds of people together – a young married couple who became parents, shepherds, Magi, inn-keeper, visitors, strangers. Our celebration of Mass in Church will also ‘bring people together’ – family, neighbours, visitors, strangers. All gathered for one purpose.

The covid crisis, which still lives among us, changed many habits in life, not least of all the habit of attending Mass on Sundays/Saturday evening. I would like to encourage individuals and families to make a regular attendance at Mass a norm in their lives as we begin a new year. Christmas, Easter, Lent, anniversaries, Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage and funerals are all occasions when the Church in her liturgy ‘brings people together.’ But that happens every Saturday evening/Sunday morning and I invite all to be a part of that faith community. Not all of us are blessed with, what some call strong faith, but we do, if we are honest need some nourishment and encouragement to live as God intends from day to day. I believe that attending Mass will answer that need.

Pope Benedict said this about Mass: *The Mass is not only a meal among friends who have come together to remember the Lord’s Last Supper through the common breaking of bread. The Mass is the common sacrifice of the Church, in which the Lord prays with us and for us and communicates himself to us. It is the sacramental renewal of Christ’s sacrifice: consequently, its redeeming power extends to all, those present and those far away, the living and the dead.*

**Be a PART of the Mass community and not APART from it.**