



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 @ 7.00pm

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

BAPTISMS:

1st 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: 0756101117

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, my prayer is that we let JOY be born in our hearts, not just this Christmas day, but the whole year; and not just the whole year, but our whole lives. Let us, by our kind words and helping and giving hands, inspire our homes, parish, and world, that can seem so lost in darkness, with the light of Christ in the light of our joy.

Let us welcome family and friends. Let us welcome strangers in our midst, who may join with us to celebrate the Eucharist. Let us make room for them in our hearts, greet them with a welcoming smile and gracious hospitality, like Mary and Joseph, who are seeking room in the inn. Let us not send them away to be born in a manger like the baby Jesus.

If you are returning to Mass today from a long absence, or even a short one, let the joy of this celebration fill you. Let the light of Christ into your lives and into your hearts that your hearts may be filled with his love this day and return to the joy of celebrating the Eucharist today and every week of the year.

*My thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners, for all you do, even through these tough times. I give thanks to God for the great privilege of serving you in the parish. Thank you for all your support and prayers. To all who minister in our parish in so many ways, too many to list, I want to say **"Thank You"**.*

Together we have achieved so much, both spiritually and financially, in progressing and maintaining our Churches and still so much to do, but I am truly looking forward to journeying together into the New Year and continue the great work done and pray that the Lord will continue to bless all our great endeavours.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas, may all darkness in your lives be removed by the light of Christ. May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ's birth and may we all be missionaries of that joy, peace and love this Christmas and New Year. Amen.

*Every Prayer and Blessing,
~Very Rev. Malachy Murphy PP*



MASS CHANGES

THERE WILL BE NO WEEKDAY MASS TUESDAY 26-29TH DECEMBER AND FROM TUESDAY 2ND – 4TH JANUARY 2024.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish office will be closed until Tuesday 9th January 2024 – For any **urgent requests** please call the Parochial House on 02837507214.



Mass for Epiphany

Vigil Mass at 7.00pm in St Brigid's (Also First Friday Mass) Epiphany is a Holy Day of Obligation. Peters Pence collection will be taken up at this Mass.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

There is a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany (6 January) when the family gather to ask God's blessing on their home and family life. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our homes.

Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using the blessed chalk (Bring Chalk to Mass on 5th January in St Brigid's and it will be blessed) mark the lintel of your front door as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 24 saying: The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-three years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then say the following prayer:

Visit, O Blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

This new year, perhaps more than ever, is a year in which we need to invite Jesus into our homes, our Domestic Churches.



St Laurence O'Toole's Church Belleeeks

Works have begun on the roof of the Church with two thirds of the roof now been stripped and replacement laths and felt put in place.

The building has been power washed in preparation for a further assessment in the new year in relation to penetrating damp.

Some repairs to the windows have been highlighted.

In order for us to do any replastering, painting and window repair we do need further donations. I therefore appeal to people to support our

Donate a Slate campaign by visiting...

www.parishofloughgilly.com/fundraising Essentially by paying £10 you can donate a slate in memory of someone or gift it to someone who is living. The new slates will not need to be repaired for at least 150 years so donating to this appeal really will leave a mark on history. Dedications will be printed in a future publication and current dedications are available on the website.

St Malachy's Church Ballymoyer

The Window restoration project has begun, this is a phased project, which means windows will only be replaced when finances become available. We have had 2 windows completely repaired to date and due to present donations, we are able to complete one further window in the new year. Works will then cease until finances become available. Other works which we would hope to complete on the Church include repainting of the building and an upgrade of the radiators.

Any donation, large or small, is welcome and again a dedication for anyone living or deceased will be placed on our website and in future publications. Visit www.parishofloughgilly.com/fundraising

Assisi Pastoral Centre

The centre has begun to be used and plans are already in place for further activities in 2024. The next activity is a First Aid course which lasts for 6 hours and will cover topics such as dealing with Unconscious breathing and non-breathings casualties, CPR and use of a defibrillator, Choking, Bleedings, Burns etc.

The cost of this Course is £15.00 and will include a light lunch. **Times are from 9am – 3.30pm on Saturday 20th January.** Booking is essential by emailing the Parish on info@parishofloughgilly.com, places are limited so please book early. Places given on first come first serve basis.