

CLONGUISH PARISH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 10th 2023

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Tues 9.00am. Thurs 9.00pm, Fri. 9.00am.

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Vigil 7.00pm: *Noel & Bridget Pigott / John & Eileen Quinn.*

10.30am: *James Reilly.*

ANNIVERSARIES NEXT WEEKEND

Vigil 7.00pm: *Margaret & Patrick McCormack.*

10.30am: *Tommy Doris / Peter & Patricia Mimmagh.*

Last weekend Collection: €1121 *Thank you.*

On Line contributions

IBAN: IE34 AIBK 9321 4026 9364 22 (BIC: AIBKIE2D). *The Parish of Clonguish A/C is with the A I B bank, Longford.*

Next Weekend

Readers – Vigil: *Anne McCann* **10.30 am :** *Anne O'Brien*

E.Ms. – Vigil: *Cathy Murphy* **10.30 am:** *Michelle Feeney*

Feast Days

Dec. 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico) is patron saint of the Americas. Our Lady appeared to a widower, Juan Diego, in a village close to Mexico city in 1531.

Dec. 13th

St Lucy

St Lucy is patron saint of the blind and those with eye trouble. St Lucy is a martyr of the early church in Sicily. She died in 304

Dec.14th

St John of the Cross (1541-1591)

John, a Spaniard and a Carmelite priest, engaged with the work of reforming the Church. He met with great opposition, persecution and imprisonment.

New Life in the Wilderness

One of the images that we find in the readings for the second **Sunday of Advent** is that of the wilderness. A wilderness is a barren, rocky area with few signs of life there. The wilderness mentioned in the Gospel was close to the **Dead Sea**. This is where **John the Baptist** preached. He was the voice “*crying in the wilderness*”

People would have rarely gone to the wilderness in large numbers. It was a place to avoid. Yet the Gospel reading tells us that ‘*all Judea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to listen to John the Baptist*. Why did the people leave the comfort of their homes to listen to this austere preacher?

They were somehow drawn by John’s preaching of a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was proclaiming the **gift of God’s merciful love** to all who felt the need of it. That message somehow struck a cord with the people. It was a spiritual thirst and hunger which led them out into the wilderness to meet with John.

An experience of failure can be a wilderness time. Many people struggle mentally. They enter a wilderness of mind and spirit which can drain them of life and energy. When we are at our weakest the strong arm of the Lord is there to lift us out of the wilderness to a new way forward. ‘*Let us see, O Lord your mercy and give us your saving help*’ Martin Hogan

Longford Social Services

The Longford Social Services church gate collection will take place next weekend. Please support.

Weekly Envelopes

The weekly envelope boxes for **2024** are ready for distribution. They may be collected in the sacristy. We are very grateful to those who distribute the boxes each year.

The Samaritans

Their free to call Confidential Line number is **116 123**. This is a **twenty four hour service**.

