

CLONGUISH PARISH NEWSLETTER

18th December, 2016

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Mon: 9.00am. **Tues:** 9.00am **Wed:** 9.00am **Thurs:** 9.00am **Fri:** 9.00am

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEKEND

Vigil: *Nan Faichney / Pat and Margaret McCormack.*

10. 30am. *Paddy Farrell and deceased family members.*

ANNIVERSARIES NEXT WEEKEND

*Next weekend is Christmas. There are no anniversary Masses celebrated at Christmas. **December 26th 10.00am.** Mary Reilly and deceased family members. **Dec 31st (Vigil)** James and Prudence Flynn.*

Last weekend Collection's €1,890. (Incl. Holy Day). Thank you.

Next Weekend

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| Readers—Vigil: <i>Sonia Flynn</i> | 10.30am. <i>Patricia Keenan</i> |
| E.Ms. Vigil: <i>Geraldine Halpin</i> | 10.30am. <i>Michelle Ghee</i> |

Christmas Mass

*Masses for Christmas are as follows: **Vigil (Saturday) 9.00pm.***

Christmas Day (Sunday) 9.00am and 11.00am.

Penance Services

*Our Christmas Penance Service will be held on Tuesday at 7.00pm. Also in **Ennybegs** on Monday at 7.30pm. and **Drumlisk** on Wednesday at 7.30pm. Confession all day from 10.30am—6.00pm., in **St Mel's Cathedral** on Christmas Eve.*

Longford County Choir—Christmas Celebration Concert

***Venue:** St Mel's Cathedral. **Date:** Sunday Dec. 18th. **Time** 7.30pm.*

***Tickets:** €10. Donations to local charities and St Christophers*

Parish Calendar 2017

The calendar is now on sale in the local shops and the sacristy for €3.

Outward Signs - Inward Reality

As I think about preparing for Christmas I am reminded of a story I heard many years ago.

A man was lost in the jungle for days: starving and tired, he comes to a clearing where he sees a lovely log cabin with a sign in the window which said: “**Fresh homemade bread sold here,**” He ran up to the door and knocked on it with great anticipation.

A woman answered the door and he man, pointed to the sign, said; “**Can I buy some of your homemade bread please?**” The woman smiled and said: “**Oh I'm sorry, we only make the signs here.**”

So much of what we see in these weeks before Christmas are the signs of realities but not the realities themselves. How much will be spent on gifts to celebrate a baby's birthday and how many parties will there be to celebrate the same birthday but with little mention of the birthday boy himself?

The challenge for the followers of the birthday boy in this Advent Season is to make the outward signs into inward realities. Let's make Advent real! Then the boy would think all his birthdays had come together!

Fr Martin Delaney (The Irish Catholic)

County Longford Social Services

The County Longford Social Services (Meals on Wheels) Church Gate Collection is on this weekend. Please support.

Church Rota's

Readers and Collectors Rotas are available for collection in the Sacristy.

Irish Guide Dog

Church Gate Collection realised €346. Thanks to all who contributed.

Shane Brennan 5K

The run/walk is on St Stephen's Day as usual. Walk starts at 12.45. pm Run at 1.00pm. The designated charity this year is **Women's Link**, Longford. There is a new course this year.

The **Walk** takes in the Lismore, Cleghill, Corry circuit. The **5K Run** starts at the school, through Corry into Corryline, back to the Village, finishing (with a full lap of the gravel track) at the stand. The course is very user friendly with **entries, start and finish** all within yards of each other and practically traffic free. The course has been professionally measured.

