

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE CATHEDRAL THIS WEEK

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| Mon. 11am Decd. members of Loughrea Activity Association | 8pm Byrnes, Kerr & Bannon families |
| Tues. 11am Fredda Holland | 8pm Shiela Tierney |
| Wed. 11am Teresa McDonald | 8pm Herbie Denecke |
| Thurs. 11am People of the Parish | 8pm John & Lill Loughnane |
| <u>Fri. Feast of the Immaculate Conception</u> | <u>Holy Day of Obligation</u> |
| Fri. 11am Tim Moylan | 8pm James & Eileen Kelly |
| Sat. 11am Personal Intention | 8pm Michael Murphy and Murphy family deceased |
| Sun. 10am Agatha Manton | 12 noon Eileen Horgan |

<u>Ministers of the Word</u>	<u>Ministers of the Eucharist</u>
Thurs. 7th Dec. 8pm Michael Martin	Thurs. 7th Dec. 8pm D. Fahy, P. O’Sullivan, D. Quinn
Fri. 8th Dec. 11am Anna Rose/Lisa Shaughnessy	Fri. 8th Dec. 11am M. O’Brien
Fri. 8th Dec. 8pm Ann Flynn	Fri. 8th Dec. 8pm M. Murphy, A. McTigue, M. Chambers
Sat. 9th Dec. 8pm Jane Doheny/Aisling Quinn	Sat. 9th Dec. 8pm G. Dervan, D. Fahy, J. Beatty
Sun. 10th Dec. 12noon John Hayes	Sun. 10th Dec. 10am M. Doyle
<u>Mass Server</u>	Sun. 10th Dec. 12noon J. Fitzgerald, C. Darcy, A. Gardiner
Team F Sat. 9th Dec. 8pm	
Team D Sun. 10th Dec. 10am	
Team E Sun. 10th Dec. 12noon	
<i>Cathedral Collections: Offertory: €1,100 Restoration: €525</i>	

Baptisms: Please welcome into God’s family Ailbhe Rose Mahony, Kincullia, Loughrea.

R.I.P. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Cecilia (Sadie) Griffin, Masonbrook, Loughrea and Neil McGhee, Loughrea (Station Officer, Loughrea Fire Station) who died recently.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE CARMELITE ABBEY THIS WEEK

Please note 8am Mass Intentions are now in Mount Carmel

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| Mon. 8am Owen & Anna Dwyer | 10am William, Nora & Willie Murphy |
| Tues. 8am James & Bridie Lyons | 10am Decd. mbrs. of Corbett family |
| Wed. 8am Joe Flanagan & decd. family mbrs. | 10am Gillie & Mary Frances Fox |
| Thurs. 8am Flynn family | 10am Sr Mary Casey |
| <u>Fri. Feast of the Immaculate Conception</u> | <u>Holy Day of Obligation</u> |
| Fri. 9am Michael Joyce | 11am Anthony Casey |
| | 6pm Vincent Kelly |
| Sat. 8am Margaret, Deirdre & John Kyne | 10am Tom Heagney |
| Sun. 9am Bridie, Ned & Denis Maloney | 11am John, Mary Kate & Jim Murphy |
| | 6pm Thomas Shaw |

Society of St. Vincent de Paul 086-0551134	Bethany Bereavement Group 087-2109396
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LOUGHREA CATHEDRAL & CARMELITE ABBEY
The Presbytery 091-841212 The Abbey 091-841209
Website – loughreacathedral.ie clonfertdiocese.ie
Newsletter online: loughreacathedral.ie clonfertdiocese.ie
First Sunday of Advent, 3rd December 2017

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS Mark 13:33-37

The coming of the Lord is not just the moment of death, but any moment of grace. Recall unexpected graces – good things that happened when they were not anticipated. Perhaps some of these were moments when you were particularly alert and aware of what was going on in you and around you, and this enabled you to be open to the moment of grace. Recall the contrast with moments when that alertness and awareness were not present. The servants were given charge of the household ‘each with their own job’. Identify with the servants as people given a responsibility within the household of God’s people. What has it been like for you when you have been shown trust in this way by another person? What is it like for you to see yourself trusted in this way by God? Jesus says that what he is saying to his disciples he is saying to all. Have there been times when you have been a messenger of hope to others, encouraging them to wait for a moment of grace. Who have been the ones to encourage you? John Byrne OSA (Intercom Magazine)

THE DEEP END: Keep Awake

We are surrounded these days by the commercial ‘circus’ of Christmas shopping and ‘getting ready’. It might seem far removed from the story that we are celebrating; the story of a poor refugee family 2,000 years ago who had a very special delivery. The story of God choosing to intervene in human history in such an intimate and shocking way; God choosing to be born into a situation of poverty and danger. It is good to ask ourselves at this time of year, what are we getting ready for? Advent is a wonderful season which invites us to use our waiting to grow spiritually. We are invited to make space for ourselves and for God in the midst of the rushing. Can we stop and be still and ask ourselves: ‘Where do I see God being born around me today?’ In those I meet? In kind words and gestures? In my community? In my own heart? Have a more ‘aware’ Advent. Be mindful in all you do. Be aware in your rushing, be aware as you stand in that queue, be aware as you eat, be aware of your feelings, be aware of your thoughts. By watching all of this we become more awake, more able to recognise our true selves and more able to see God being born continuously each day within us and around us. Our awe and wonder grows and we can be prepared for the coming of the Gift himself. How we prepare determines what will be. Jane Mellett (Intercom Magazine)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference - Loughrea Conference

The annual collection (**Second Basket**) will be taken up at all Masses in the Cathedral and the Abbey this weekend, 2nd & 3rd December. All funds collected will be used by the Society to assist less fortunate families over Christmas and during 2017. Please give generously.

Padre Pio Relic will be in the Cathedral on Saturday, 9th Dec. from 2.30-4.30pm

Senior Citizens' Christmas party in Loughrea Hotel and Spa, Sun. Dec. 10th. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kirby @ 2pm. All senior citizens welcome. Phone Mary at 091-841725

Prayer Meeting Mount Carmel Chapel with the Carmelite nuns, Wed. 6th Dec., @ 7.45pm, as we begin the new liturgical year with the holy season of Advent.

Loughrea Mental Health Services Mass, Thurs. 14th Dec. in St. Brendan's Cathedral @ 11am. All welcome, please support.

Clonfert Diocese's Advent Adult Faith Development Gathering Sun. 3rd December, 2.30-5.15pm in Scoil an Chroí Naofa, Ballinasloe. Theme: 'Drawing Closer to Christ Through Mary'. For more details, www.clonfertdiocese.ie or see leaflet in the Church porch. All are welcome.

Esker Healing Mission Mon., 4th to Fri., 8th December. Daily:10am, 5pm, 7pm & 9pm. This is an ideal way to prepare for Christmas. All welcome.

December All-Night Vigil, Knock Shrine The 45th Eucharistic All-Night Vigil takes place at Knock Shrine Thurs. 7th-Fri. 8th Dec. The programme begins on the 7th at 10pm with confessions until midnight in the Chapel of Reconciliation. The vigil will begin in the Basilica at midnight with Rosary, Candlelight Procession, Holy Hour and Stations of the Cross. Mass takes place at 4am on Dec. 8th with main celebrant Fr Freddy Warner and concelebrant Fr Brendan Walsh. St John's Rest & Care Centre will be open all night to facilitate pilgrims attending the vigil. For more info., please contact Knock Shrine [\(094\)93 88100](tel:0949388100).

Silent Retreat- Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius takes place at the Alexian Brothers Monastery, Knock, for women aged 18 years and up. From Dec. 28th to Jan. 1st. Places are limited. Book early. For details, contact 085-8235525.

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages 2018: 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from €279 per person. For further details, phone 01-4434510 or reservations@med-irishcentre.com.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje Joe Walsh Tours 2018, 7 nights half board, €699 in May, €729 in Sept., Group Travel Insurance included. Flights from Dublin in May and Knock in Sept. For more details, contact Ann Kelly @ 086-1505298

Advent Challenge Take the short-term pledge for the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas. Contact your local pioneer centre representative or join online at www.pioneerassociation.ie

Accord Ballinasloe Marriage and Relationship Counselling service available & affordable to all. For appt. email: ballinasloeaccord@eircom.net /0909643573

St Raphael's College are hosting their first Christmas Fair in the school on Saturday, Dec. 9th, from 10am-4pm and also welcomes you to an open viewing of their new school extension the same day. If you are interested in displaying, demonstrating or selling at our Fair please contact the school office at 841062 or tcunniffe@saintraphaels.ie All are welcome.

LARC will host a Christmas Coffee Morning on Sun., 10th Dec. in Loughrea Family Resource Centre (Pigott's St) 11.30am-2pm. Donations will go towards helping to save Loughrea Town Hall. Festive treats will be served. All welcome. To help out or for more details, call/message [0857623310](tel:0857623310).

Social Bridge Autumn season in the Loughrea Hotel & Spa, Mondays at 11am.

Loughrea Hurling Club AGM in the Arch Bar, Sun. 10th Dec. 4pm. All welcome.

Aware is currently recruiting volunteers across four support services – Support Line, Support Mail, Support & Self Care Groups and Life Skills Online. No prior qualifications/experience required. For info. aware.ie/volunteer/01-6617211

Pieta House Wren Run on St. Stephen's Day 11am in Woodford. Its generous sponsors, McInerney's & O'Meara's Supervalu, have each donated €100 voucher to be won in a draw on 18th Dec. Everyone that registers before the 17th Dec. will be entered into the draw and will also be entered into our Monster Draw to win more prizes. For details, contact Roderick at 087-9925624

A Conservation Plan, funded by Galway County Council, is currently being prepared for "The Walks". This Plan will be used to apply for funding to repair the walls and the bridges. It would be greatly appreciated if anybody who has old photographs of the area could contact Ursula 087-3830710.

Loughrea Toastmasters Club Next meeting Mon. 4th Dec. at 8pm in the Loughrea Hotel and Spa. Start your New Year's resolutions early and build confidence through learning public speaking and leadership skills. Charge €6 to cover room hire and refreshments. Contact Martin @087-2210689 for details.

BAFFLE Triple Event Wed.13th Dec. 7.30pm, in Morrisseys, West Bridge. Theme: THOSE WHO NEVER RAN or I WAS ROBBIED. If you're baffled by this, call 085-7239561. 8.00-8.30pm Watching Lesser Spotted Ulster on UTV featuring Loughrea and Baffle. After: Original Poems by BAFFLE's Sunny Side Poets.

Set-Dancing Classes Family Resource Centre, Thurs. 6.30-8pm-Children, 8.30-11pm Adults. Children advance class Fri. 6-7.30pm. All welcome. Call Bridie @ 087 6202451 after 5pm.

Sean Nós Dancing in the Family Resource Centre. Phone Bernie @ 086-3731547

Yoga Classes L'rea Youth Theatre, Mon. & Thurs. 8pm. Call Julia: 086-2608039

Music Lessons in guitar, piano, violin, mandolin & banjo in traditional or pop/rock music for all ages. Contact Andrew Neylon @ [0857086757](tel:0857086757)

Hurling Club Lotto Winning numbers: 3, 4, 14, 31. No winner. Next week's jackpot is €5,000

Temperance Hall Events

Loughrea Rugby Club Bingo every Friday night @ 8pm. Jackpot €10,000 plus huge cash prizes. Comp tea, coffee. A great night out for all the family.

Loughrea Bingo Fridays @ 8.30pm. Christmas jackpot €10,000 in 46 numbers for next 3 Fridays. Free entry to Christmas draw with every book purchased.

Loughrea Activity Assoc: AGM meeting, Monday evening @ 7pm
Bowling: Monday 1.30-3.30pm, Tuesday 11am-1pm.

Line Dancing Classes Tea Room (side entrance), every Wednesday at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. Tel: Sean Casey 087 9761692.

Karate Classes: Beginners & members- Mon. & Wed. 7.30-9pm. Ladies, gents and children over 8 years of age are welcome.

Dance Aerobic Classes: Every Tues., 7.30pm. 087-9379563. Pay as you go!

Power Soccer Every Saturday.

Fraughen School Of Irish Dancing Monday & Friday, juniors 5-6pm, seniors 6-7pm. Adult class Tues. 7.30pm. Class also in St Ita's school Wed. 3-4pm.

Whist every Thurs. in the Supper Room @ 8pm. New members welcome.

Parent and Toddler – Every Wed. 10am-12pm. €3 per family. All are welcome.

World Meeting of Families Ireland. For more info., www.worldmeeting2018.ie