

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE CATHEDRAL THIS WEEK

Mon. 11am Deceased members
Loughrea Activity Association
Tues. 11am Fredda Holland
Wed. 11am Eileen Ryan
Thurs. 11am People of the Parish
Fri. 11am Tom Shaw & deceased members
of the Harford and Shaw families
Sat. Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Sat. 11am Gerard Mahony M.M.
Sun. 10am Tim Moylan

8pm Byrnes, Kerr and Bannon families
8pm Sr Mary Mel Murphy & deceased
family members
8pm Sheila Tierney
8pm Thomas, Francis and Joseph Griffin
8pm Martin Tierney M.M.

Holy Day of Obligation

8pm John & Lil Loughnane
12noon Florence MacCarthy

<p><u>Ministers of the Eucharist:</u> Fri. 7th Dec. 8pm P. O’Sullivan, M. O’Brien Sat. 8th Dec. 11am M. Connolly, A. McTigue Sat. 8th Dec. 8pm J. Beatty, G. Dervan Sun. 9th Dec. 10am M. Murphy Sun. 9th Dec. 12 noon M. Chambers, D. Fahy</p>	<p><u>Mass Servers</u> Team E Fri. 7th Dec. 8pm Team F Sat. 8th Dec. 11am Team D Sat. 8th Dec. 8pm Team C Sun. 9th Dec. 10am Team A Sun. 9th Dec. 12 noon</p>
<p><u>Ministers of the Word</u> Fri. 7th Dec. 8pm Jane Doheny Sat. 8th Dec. 11am Tommy Flynn Sat. 8th Dec. 8pm Frances Blake Sun. 9th Dec. 12 noon Mark Connolly</p>	<p><i>Cathedral Collections:</i> Offertory: €1,135 Restoration: €540</p>

Baptisms: We welcome into God’s family Amy Helena Connaughton, Baunoge, Loughrea.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE CARMELITE ABBEY THIS WEEK

Mon. 8am James & Bridie Lyons
Tues. 8am Mona & Paddy Feeney
Wed. 8am Anthony Hodgins
Thurs. 8am Mary Dudley & Bobby Mitchel
Fri. 8am Donors Intentions
Sat. Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Sat. 9am Michael Joyce

Sun. 9am Jack, Tommy & Mary Kelly

10am John, Mary Kate & Jimmy Murphy
10am Rose, Mary & Patrick Donnellan
10am Patrick & Margaret Donoghue
10am Patrick & Sarah Loughrey
10am Gillie & Mary Frances Fox
Holy Day of Obligation
11am Vincent Kelly
6pm Paddy, Mary & PJ Quinn
11am Anthony Casey
6pm Declan Loughnane

Bethany Bereavement Group
087-2109396

Society of St Vincent de Paul
086 0551134



LOUGHREA CATHEDRAL & CARMELITE ABBEY

The Presbytery 091 – 841212 The Abbey 091 – 841209

Website – loughreacathedral.ie clonfertdiocese.ie

Newsletter online: loughreacathedral.ie clonfertdiocese.ie

Sunday, 2nd December 2018

The First Sunday of Advent

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36

1. This passage can be taken as a metaphor for personal experiences when it seems that your world is collapsing around you: plans thwarted, deep disappointment, something out of your control altering the course of your life, etc.? When have such experiences been a prelude to something new? Allow the dramatic language of the passage to remind you of this experience, making sure that you recognise the double movement of collapse and liberation.

2. Advent is a time that calls us to be alert to the signs of the hidden presence of God in our world. What reminds you of this presence of God? Have there been occasions when something woke you up in an unexpected way to the presence of God in the world, e.g. through love, beauty, nature, etc.? John Byrne OSA (Intercom Magazine).

THE DEEP END: Be prepared ...

Have you ever heard the story of the ant and the grasshopper? It tells the tale of a grasshopper who has spent the summer singing and so is not prepared when winter comes, whereas the ant has been working hard all summer and has stored up enough food for winter. Like many of Aesop’s Fables, it has a stark moral lesson, in this case about the virtue of hard work and being prepared for the future.

Of course, Advent is about looking forward to Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Jesus. It is a special time of preparation to welcome him anew into our lives. But today’s readings remind us that Advent is also about looking ahead to another time, the second and final coming of Jesus at the end of time. ‘Advent’ comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning ‘coming’.

The problem, of course, is that we have no idea when this will happen. Unlike the ant and the grasshopper, we have no way of knowing when the seasons will change. We don’t even know when the sun will set on our own individual lives. All we can do is to be prepared and to ‘stay awake’ – to live now in such a way that when we meet Jesus, we will be ready. This readiness is less a practical skill than a condition, or a way of life. Look at how St Paul describes it: he talks about increasing our love for one another, and continually making progress in living the life that God wants. That is how we store up treasures here on earth to make sure we are ready for the heavenly things to come. Triona Doherty (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, 1st & 2nd December.

All funds collected will be used by the Society to assist less fortunate families over Christmas and during 2019. Please give generously.

Loughrea Senior Citizens will meet in the Abbey on Thurs. 6th Dec. at 8pm. Christmas Party will take place in the Lough Rea Hotel on Sun. 9th Dec. Mass at 2pm. All are welcome to attend.

The Legion of Mary meet each Monday at 8.30pm in the Presbytery. New members most welcome. For further information, contact 091-870327.

All-Night Vigil at Knock Shrine, Fri. 7th-Sat. 8th Dec. commencing with Confessions, from 10pm-Chapel of Reconciliation. Vigil at 12 Midnight in the Basilica with Rosary, Stations of the Cross and Holy Hour with Fr Brendan Walsh SCA. Concelebrated Mass at 4am with His Excellency Archbishop Okolo, Papal Nuncio. Information on organised coaches to the vigil at www.knockshrine.ie

Esker Healing Mission Mon. 3rd Dec.- Fri. 7th Dec. Daily 10am, 5pm, 7pm & 9pm.

Clonfert Diocese's Advent Adult Faith Development Gathering Sun. 9th Dec. 3-5pm, Scoil an Chroí Naofa, Society St., B'sloe (beside Barrett's Hardware). Guest Speaker: Fr. Benny McHale. Topic: The Holy Land as the Fifth Gospel. All welcome.

Galway Hospice Memorial Christmas Tree of Life celebration on the grounds of Hospice, Sun. 2nd, Dec. @5pm. All are welcome to attend. Music by Country Star, Mike Denver, Kiltulla Community Choir. Lights switched on by RTE, Daithi O' Sé. Refreshments at Hospice. Please join us to light up the winter sky with memories.

Positive Mental Health Loughrea Mental Health Services together with St Raphael's College Transition Year Choir will have their annual Mental Health Mass on Thurs. 13th Dec. @ 11am in St. Brendan's Cathedral. All are welcome.

Loughrea Parish Council CLG Community Employment Scheme have the following vacancies: General Operative and Clerical position. If interested contact local Intreo office for eligibility. For more info., contact Parish Office: 091-841212. Closing date for receipt of applications: 11th January 2019.

Loughrea Lions Club Annual Christmas Concert Tues. 18th Dec. @ 8pm in the Lough Rea Hotel. Entertainment by members of The Bravo Theatre Company.

Tickets €10 from Keary Auctioneers, Lough Rea Hotel, or any Lions Club member.

St Raphael's College, Loughrea Christmas Fair, 8th Dec., 10am-5pm. Over 60 exhibitors. If interested in displaying/demonstrating/selling at the fair, contact the school on 091-841062 or email tcunniffe@saintraphaels.ie by Mon. 3rd December.

Christmas Craft Fair in Seven Springs Day Centre, St Brendan's CNU, Lake Road, Sun. 2nd Dec., 11am-2pm. in association with St. Brendan's CNU and Loughrea ICA.

Christmas Bazaar Loughrea Golf Club, Sun. 2nd Dec. from 12 noon. Sale items include fuel, silage, vegetables, homemade cakes etc.

St. Brigid's College Loughrea Charity Christmas bingo night in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland, Galway Hospice and Habitat for Humanity on Thurs. 6th Dec. in the school sports hall. Doors open at 7pm. Raffle prizes include hampers, vouchers and much, much more. All support greatly welcomed.

Irish Conversation Hour every Wednesday at 11am at Loughrea Gaeilge office, Old Galway Road. 'Cúpla focail'. Contact Maurice Sweeney @ 086-2031323.

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

East Galway Family History Society Heritage event @ Woodford Heritage Centre, scheduled for Fri. 7th Dec. **Event cancelled until further notice.**

Community Games Volunteers needed in setting up community games in Loughrea for 2019. If interested, call Emma @ 085-1316716/emmacallanan@hotmail.com

Community Employment Scheme Vacancy Youth Work Assistant with Loughrea Youth Project. Applicant must be eligible for DSP – contact local Intreo office to confirm. 19.5 hours p/w. DSP CE Rates of Pay. Contact Noreen Connolly, CE Supervisor: 087-2346943 or ce.supervisor@youthworkgalway.ie

Loughrea Literary & Historical Society Wed. 5th Dec. at 8.30pm in Loughrea Library. A talk by Michael Fahy on the 1918 election in Ireland with particular reference to Galway and Loughrea. All are welcome.

Abbey Arts & Crafts Group weekly craft classes in the Abbey Monastery, Monday evenings 8-10pm. New members are always welcome.

Reflexology at Lakeshore Medical Centre, L'rea, safe/natural therapy for all ages, suitable to use alongside conventional medical care. Contact Sandra: 083-8498311 or sandradunhamtherapy@gmail.com

Homeopathy Clinic with Gráinne Hammond, Homeopath, second Fri. of every month, Loughrea Family & Community Resource Centre. More info., 091-871149.

Ultra flex School of Dance weekly classes in Freestyle Acro & Hip Hop from ages 4 years to teens. Every Wednesday & Saturday in Loughrea Youth Theatre Studio. Places limited. Contact Kim @ 087-7799489 www.ultraflexschoolofdance@yahoo.com

Zumba & Dance Classes for all levels and abilities, Thursdays at 6:30pm in the L'rea Youth Theatre. €8 per class or €40 for a 6 week term. Call Merli @ 0831177277

Sean Nós Dancing Family Resource Centre. Call Bernie @ 086-3731547.

Set-Dancing Classes Family Resource Centre, Thurs. 6.30pm-8pm for children, 8.30pm-11pm for adults. Call Bridie @ 087-6202451 before 5pm.

Modern Jive Country & Western Dance Classes with Gerry every Wednesday in the Lough Rea Hotel & Spa, 8.30pm-10.30pm. No partners required. €10 per class.

Yoga in Force Fitness, Loughrea, helps to reduce stress and rebalance our body & mind. For details, call Sandra @ 083-8498311 or sandradunhamtherapy@gmail.com

Hurling Club Lotto: Winning numbers: 12,13,18,19. Eight match 3 winners. Next week's jackpot €10,100.

Temperance Hall Events

Loughrea Bingo every Friday night @ 8.30pm, jackpot €10,000. **Huge Christmas Promotion** continues every Friday until the grand draw on 21st. Fantastic prizes to be won including a Year's Free Bingo.

Loughrea Youth Project's "Giving Tree" Call into our project, take a tag off the tree, it will have a gift written on it. Gifts: €2-€10. Buy the gift/wrap/drop it back in to us with the tag attached. Gifts will be given to various charities/organisations in the Loughrea area. Ph. 087-7814882, or "@LoughreaYouthProject".

Karate Classes for beginners and members, Mon. & Wed, 7.30pm-9pm. All are welcome, ladies & gents and children over 8yrs of age. For details, call 087-6133297.

Loughrea Activity Assoc. No Meeting Monday, 3rd Dec. Bowling Mondays, 1.30-3.30pm, Tuesdays, 11am-1pm.

Autumn Line Dancing Classes every Wednesday, 8pm in the tea room. €5 per class, pay as you go. New beginners welcome. Tel: Sean @ 087-9761692 for details.

Whist 8pm. New members welcome.

Ballroom & Country Dance Classes every Tuesday at 8.30pm. Absolute beginners and improvers welcome. Partners not necessary. Learn to quickstep, foxtrot, waltz, tango, jive, swing, & cha cha cha. €8 per class. Contact Sean Casey @ 087-9761692.

