



Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh  
CHURCH OF IRELAND DIOCESES

**PARISH PROFILE:**  
**LONGFORD GROUP OF PARISHES**

INCLUDING: BALLYMACORMACK, CLONGISH, CLOONCUMBER, KILLASHEE  
& TEMPLEMICHAEL

THE LONGFORD GROUP OF PARISHES WISH TO  
APPOINT A MINISTER IN CHARGE  
WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME THE RECTOR

**SUITABLE CANDIDATE WILL BE:**

- Christ Centered
- committed to biblical faith
- able to impart the Christian faith
- able to relate easily with others and have an ability to connect with people
- mission minded
- able to work with all age groups
- a good communicator
- supportive to and help develop church groups and activities
- pastoral minded

**THE LONGFORD GROUP OF PARISHES WILL UNDERTAKE TO:**

- Support the minister
- help the minister to integrate into both the parishes and the wider community
- provide a stipend and accommodation
- assist the minister to develop his/her gifts

# OVERVIEW

The Longford Group of Parishes comprise of five churches. These churches are represented by three vestries: Ballymacormack & Killashee, Newtownforbes & Clooncumber, and Templemichael (Longford). The parishes consist of a balanced combination of urban and rural settings. The Rectory is located in Longford Town.

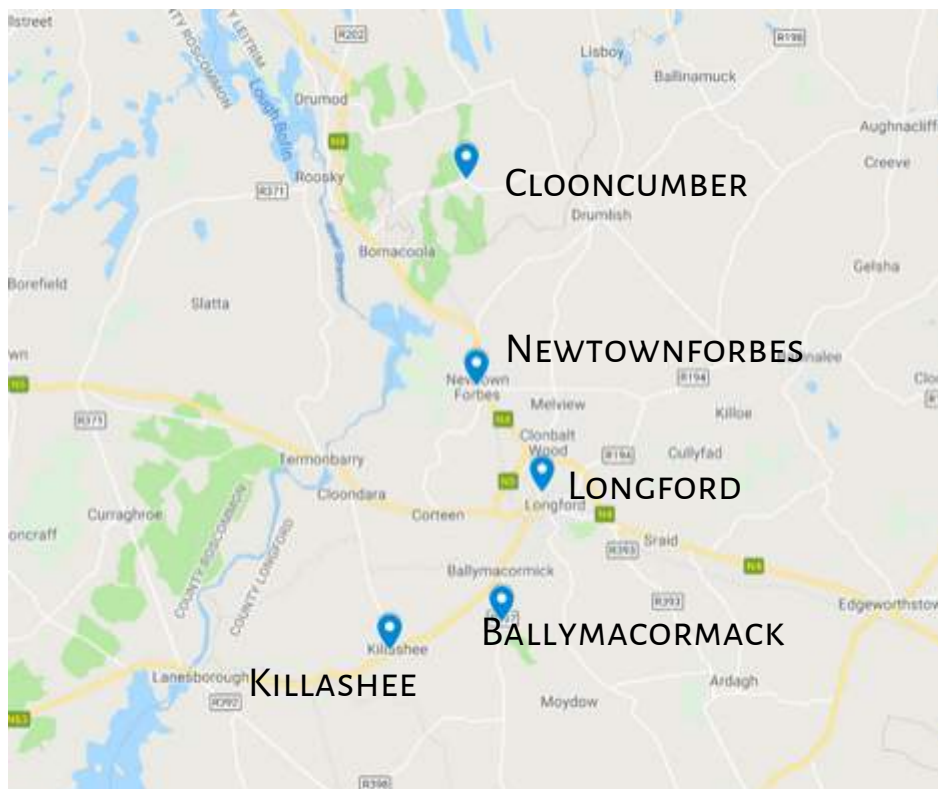
County Longford is located in the heart of Ireland and is easily accessible on major road and rail routes: Dublin 124km, Galway 135km, Belfast 191km, Cork 255km.

Longford is a vibrant and developing county, with many large enterprises choosing to locate there in recent years, including Abbott Diagnostics, Irish Prison Services, Green Isle, Center Parcs. Longford boasts a beautiful landscape and many amenities for both young and old. The River Shannon marks the county border between Longford and Roscommon, and the River Inny and the Royal Canal run through Co. Longford with many picturesque villages located on their banks.

The people of Longford embrace a wonderful sense of community with many ecumenical events across the parishes. The Longford Group of Parishes frequently hold community events such as musical events, Cruthu Arts Festival, Heritage Week and flower festivals. These events are very well received by the wider community.

St. John's National School serves the group of parishes. There are many secondary schools in the area, with Wilson's Hospital School, Cavan Royal School, and Sligo Grammar School nearby. Athlone Institute of Technology is also close by.

## MAP OF LONGFORD GROUP OF PARISHES



# CHURCHES

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH LONGFORD

### (TEMPLEMICHAEL)

St. John's Church, Longford, is located on Battery Road, in Longford Town. Longford town is the main county town of Longford and is a vibrant and energetic urban hub. Longford Town has a population of 10,000 people.

There are 133 parishioners in Longford Parish, with a high proportion of under 18s. St. John's Church has an organ and organist. St. John's Church also has regular Sunday School throughout the year. The Church is situated close to St John's National School, St. John's Hall and the Rectory.

Longford Town is also home to people of a broad range of nationalities. There is a continuous influx of people into Longford Town through the numerous employment opportunities. St. John's Church has potential to offer these people a place to come together to worship God in a welcoming supportive community.

Strong ecumenical links have been forged after many years within the town. We have regularly worked together with other Christian Churches on outreach and events.



# CHURCHES

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, NEWTOWNFORBES (CLONGISH)

There are 77 parishioners in Clongish and Clooncumber Parishes. St. Paul's Church is situated in the centre of Newtownforbes village, which is a picturesque and vibrant centre on the outskirts of Longford Town. The village of Newtownforbes has a population of approximately 800 people. The name Clongish comes from the Irish translation 'Meadow of the Swans'. St. Paul's Church is 5km from the Rectory.

St. Paul's Church has an organ. There is a small parish hall which is currently under renovation. St. Paul's Church is steeped in history and heritage, with unique box seating within the church. In 1829, the church was rebuilt under the design of John Hargrave on the site of a previous church. St. Paul's Church is actively involved in the Longford Heritage Council, and regularly hosts public talks and events about the history of the church and surrounding area.



## CLOONCUMBER CHAPEL OF EASE

Clooncumber is 14km from the Rectory, and located in a rural setting in Co. Leitrim. Clooncumber is a beautiful small stone church, and is a Chapel of Ease. Clooncumber join in fellowship with parishioners of Newtownforbes on the fourth Sunday of the month.

The closest town or village is Mohill or Newtownforbes.



# CHURCHES

## ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, BALLYMACORMACK

There are 58 parishioners in Ballymacormack and Killashee Parishes, made up of 21 households. Of the 58 parishioners, there are quite a number of families with children of school age and youth. St. Catherine's Church has recently had an extensive renovation with the replacement of the roof, as well as interiors including walls, windows and floor. These works are nearing completion. St. Catherine's Church is 5km from the Rectory.



Ballymacormack church is located in a rural setting on the outskirts of Longford Town. This church serves the surrounding farmlands. It was built in 1826 and altered in 1915.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KILLASHEE

Killashee Church is 10km from the Rectory. Ballymacormack and Killashee churches alternate Sunday Services due to their close proximity. St. Paul's Church has also recently been refurbished.

Killashee is a small rural village on the N63 mid-way between Longford and Lanesborough. Killashee is situated near the Royal Canal. The population of Killashee village is just over 200 people. However, many of the people of this parish live in a rural setting.



St. Paul's Church was built on a previous church site in 1837. It is in Board of First Fruits hall and tower form. St. Paul's has also recently had extensive refurbishment, with works to the roof, including interior features. These works are complete.

## **ST. JOHN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL**

St. John's National School is located in Longford Town. The school is a beautiful, historic, red-brick building with a modern renovation to the rear of the school. There are currently three class teachers and two Special Education Teachers. Enrolment in the school is 52 students.

There are strong links between the school and church. The minister generally acts as Chairperson of the Board of Management. The school takes part in the Harvest and Carol Services. There are specific services for the school, such as Ash Wednesday, Ascension Thursday and a Valedictory Service at the end of the year. Both the Methodist and Church of Ireland ministers lead assemblies in the school, as well as the Diocesan Youth Officer.



## **ST. JOHN'S HALL**

This building is located only a short stroll from St. John's Church, Longford. The building has a large hall on the basement level, with a stage. At ground level there is a small meeting room and kitchen. On the top level there is another smaller hall. Many parish events and organisations use the hall on a weekly basis. It is also available and used by members of the public for various activities such as TaeKwonDo, Longford Pipe Band & Irish Dancing.



## **ST. PAUL'S PARISH HALL**

This parish hall is located in the picturesque village of Newtownforbes. It is situated on the main street in front of the church. The building would have originally housed tenants of the Castle Forbes estate, but it has had many purposes through the years. Major repairs were carried out to the roof and floor of the building recently and further works are planned to be carried out to bring it back to purpose.



## THE RECTORY

The rectory is a well-equipped modern home. It is located in a much sought after area of Longford, on a quiet cul de sac, only a short stroll from the leafy Battery Road, where the school and church are located. Also close by is Albert Reynolds Peace Park, Longford Sports and Leisure Centre, Abbeycartron Playing fields, Longford Rugby Club, Longford Tennis Club and Pearse Park GAA grounds.



# INFORMATION

## SERVICES

Traditionally, there have been four services on a Sunday. Three of these services are carried out by the minister in charge and the fourth by diocesan/parish reader. Longford and Newtownforbes have a weekly service. Ballymacormack and Killashee alternate between churches for morning service. Clooncumber join Newtownforbes for morning service on fourth Sunday of the month.

There are two Diocesan Readers and three parish readers in the group who assist with taking of services. There is a United Group Service on the fifth Sunday of the month, each church having its turn in rotation. During the vacancy, we have moved to three morning services.

There are two nursing homes in Longford Town, St. Joseph's Hospital (Public) and Laurel Lodge Nursing Home (private). Both of these nursing homes have a small chapel where there may be need for a service depending on residents from time to time.

## THE PEOPLE

The people of Longford, and specifically the parishioners of the Longford Group of parishes, are very pleasant, honest and welcoming. The parishioners are faithful, co-operative and supportive to clergy as well as to each other.

The parishes have potential for growth, with many young families in the group. The churches are situated in areas of population growth. Across the group of parishes, there is a diverse community of people from many different backgrounds and nationalities.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE PARISHES

Connecting with the community is of vital importance to the Longford Group of parishes. Longford is a county with a growing population due to increased economic activity in the area in recent years. The Longford Group strive to make meaningful connections with both members of the Church of Ireland and members of the wider community.

Parishioners of all ages from across the parishes meet together through a number of active organisations. Youth groups include Boys' Brigade, Girls' Friendly Society, Sunday School, Youth Club, Table Tennis and Badminton. There is also a Mothers' Union Branch in the group. Diocesan events are also regularly held in Longford, including YKEA (Youth of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh) services. The youth organisations work in conjunction with the Diocesan Youth officer.

The Longford Group of Parishes embrace an ecumenical approach to life within the church, often merging with other churches for special events such as the Women's World Day of Prayer, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Harvest Festivals. Our parishes are active in joint leadership with Youth Alpha in local secondary schools, which seeks to give students the opportunity to discuss faith, life and spirituality.



## **CONTACT**

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO BE FORWARDED TO  
ARCHDEACON ISAAC HANNA,  
THE RECTORY,  
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**APPLICATIONS BY 1 NOVEMBER 2019  
TO ARCHDEACON HANNA**

