

RATHMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

A Happy and Grace filled Christmas to you all. May the humility of the Shepherds, the perseverance of the Wise Men, the Joy of the Angels, and the peace of the Christ Child, be God's Gift to you and yours this Christmas time and always. Happy and safe celebrations. Fr. Pat



CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY & ST. STEPHEN'S DAY

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| CHRISTMAS EVE Sat 24th | RATHMORE | 7.00 pm Mass (Special welcome to all children who will be going to bed early for Santa's visit.) |
| | GNEEVEGUILLA | 7.30 pm Mass |
| | KNOCKNAGREE | 8.30 pm Mass |
| CHRISTMAS DAY Sun 25th | SHRONE | 9.00 am Mass |
| | GNEEVEGUILLA | 10.00 am Mass |
| | KNOCKNAGREE | 11.00 am Mass |
| | RATHMORE | 11.30 am Mass |
| ST. STEPHEN'S DAY Mon 26th | RATHMORE | 11.00 am Deceased of O'Keeffe family West End |



RATHMORE

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|-----------------------------|----------------|---|
| Tues 27th | 9.30am | People of the Parish |
| Wed 28th | 7.30pm | Denis O'Sullivan, Knocknaloman |
| | | Andrew & Elizabeth Sheahan, Nohovaldaly |
| Sat 31st | 6.00pm | Jack O'Keeffe, Clounts & Nohoval (Months Mind) |
| Sun 1st | 11.30am | John O'Leary, l/o School Place & Corby England |



KNOCKNAGREE

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|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Thur 29th | 9.30am | Donors Intention |
| Sat 31st | 7.30pm | Donors Intention |

GNEEVEGUILLA

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|----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Fri 30th | 7.30pm | Joe Kelleher, Scrahanaville (1st Anniv.) |
| Sun 1st | 10.00am | Mary G. T. Cronin, Goulane |
| | | Mossie & Timmie O'Donoghue, Lisheen |



SHRONE

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--|
| Sun 1st | 9.00am | Donal O'Donoghue, l/o Bru na Sinsear & Shrone |
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Fr. Jim Kennelly (087)2401331 is the priest on duty TODAY SUNDAY for emergency and sick calls

CHILD PROTECTION REPRESENTATIVES

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|--|--|
| Han Donnelly 0871249461 (Gneeveguilla) | Margaret McGrath (089)4182683 (Rathmore) |
| Ber Murphy 087 6468620 (Shrone) | Betty Moynihan 087 6186091 (Knocknagree) |

PARISH OFFICE - 064 7761669

Opening hours: Mon. and Tues. 9.30am to 12.30pm. Wednesday and Thursday 4pm to 7 pm. Friday 11 am to 2pm
During the Christmas period the Parish Office will be closed on Mon. 26th and Tues. 27th December and Mon. 2nd and Fri. 6th January 2017

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

From Jan. 1st 2017 all Email correspondence relating to the Community Newsletter must NOW be sent to our new email address

communitynewsletter@rathmoreparish.ie

Compiling the Community Newsletter will now be shared between the Parish Office and Janice.

During the months of January, March, April, May, June & November – it will be done by Janice and all phone enquiries to 064-7758219

During the months of February, July, August, September, December. – it will be done by Parish Office and all phone enquiries to 064-7761669 (October to be compiled by either depending on workload)

Short term adverts, must be paid for in advance to the Parish Office before 12.30pm Tuesday to be guaranteed inclusion the following weekend. Acknowledgements must be booked in advance to be guaranteed preferred date.

ANNIVERSARY: Please remember in your prayers, Peter Leader, Tureenglanahee, whose anniversary occurs on Christmas Day and also his wife Peggy Leader.

Prayers & Sympathy: To Michael O'Sullivan, Renasup & Margaret Moynihan, Islanderagh on the death of their sister Nora Frost, whose funeral took place on Thursday in Salthill, Galway.

CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS now available in the Parish Office and also at Knocknagree church. Mass for all the shared intentions will be on *Mon 2nd Jan. 2017 at 11 am in Rathmore.*



FR. PAT WRITES OUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners & Friends of Rathmore Parish

What are you getting for Christmas?

Over the past few days I have been traveling around to the sick and the housebound. These are regular visits, but at this time of year there is a wonderful freshness and warmth about them. Usually the person is sitting by the fireside, and all that is required for the day is within hands reach. You can see that the energy that was there in earlier life has receded a little so the circle of activity has become smaller.

However, that circle enlarges again in preparation for Christmas ... the tree is put up, candles on the windows, and the crib holding a special place of honour. That Nativity Scene changes the atmosphere, people have a great sense of not being alone "sure hasn't the holy family moved in"! This year in particular brought one parishioner new energy and when I heard her story it brought a tear to my eye, and fresh perspective as to what is really important in life. It reminded me too that the Spirit of Christmas (which she has in abundance); is a Spirit of Hope, a Spirit of Joy.

Here is her little story and I hope she won't mind me sharing it with you:

"What's the plan for Christmas"? I asked. "Father I've started already, this year I decided to give myself a treat. I can't travel by car anymore, but I discovered that there are Taxis in Killarney that can take wheelchairs; so I ordered one and he came out and brought me to Killarney".

"What did you do in Killarney"? , I asked.

"I went in to see the Christmas Lights Fr. It has been eleven years since I was in Killarney, there were lovely red bulbs there back then; but my O my, the ones they have now are absolutely wonderful. The driver was a lovely man, he took me around the town a few times he showed me the statue of Mgr. Hugh O Flaherty.

The gifts we bring to others are a special part of Christmas but that driver gave our friend a real treasure ... the gift of his time, sometimes that is all that is needed.

THE CHRIST CHILD BEING BORN IN US TODAY

Christmas brings us all back to the crib of life to start over:

aware of what has gone before, conscious that nothing can last, but full of **HOPE** that this time, finally, we can learn what it takes to live well, grow to full stature of soul and spirit, get it right.

CHRISTMAS IS NOT ONLY FOR CHILDREN

It is for those who refuse to give up and grow old, for those to whom **LIFE** comes **NEWLY** and with a **PURPOSE** each and **EVERYDAY**, for those who can let **YESYERDAY** go, so that **LIFE** can be **FULL** of **NEW POSSIBILITIES ALWAYS**, for those who are agitated with newness whatever their age.

LIFE IS FOR LIVING

For those whom Christmas is a Feast without **FINISH**, a celebration of the constancy of change, a **CALL** to begin **ONCE MORE** the Journey to Human Joy and Holy Meaning.

(From "In Search of Belief" by Joan Chittister O.S.B.)

A WORD OF THANKS

On behalf of all Parishioners we again wish to acknowledge all those of you who have served so generously this past year. Whether it's participating in ministries, parish committees, parish collectors, leading groups; shepherding children; playing music; attending to the church environment, acting as area contacts; or any one of the countless other (usually unseen) tasks that keep our Parish warm and vibrant. To our Secretaries and Sacristans who are so wholehearted in their giving. Thank you so much for all you do.

To our Boards of Management, School Pastoral Support Team, and our Ministry to the sick and housebound.

A special thanks to all who supported the restoration of Gneeveguilla Church, which is an investment for future generations to nurture our spiritual heritage.

Happy Christmas

Fr. Pat