



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.



WEEKEND MASSES FOR SAT. DECEMBER 21st & SUN. DECEMBER 22nd 2019

Sat	21st	6.00pm	RATHMORE	Julia Cremin, Lissyconnor (1st Anniv.)
Sat.	21st	7.30pm	KNOCKNAGREE	Nora & Dan O'Leary, Umeraboy Timothy & Josephine Cronin, Shanballa Pat & Cathy Hickey, Mountcain & their son Patrick Donors Intention
Sun	22nd	9.00am	SHRONE	Dan T. O'Keeffe, Tureencahill
Sun	22nd	10.00am	GNEEVEGUILLA	Daniel Cronin, Gneeveguilla Upper Nora O'Sullivan & O'Sullivan family, Knocknageeha Nell Leader & the Leader family, Knocknageeha
Sun	22nd	11.30am	RATHMORE	Nora & Richard McAuliffe, Gneeveguilla & their daughter Deirdre Maguire I/o London & Gneeveguilla Mary O'Leary, West End & all the Dineen family, Knocknacopple Timmie & Nell Reen, Moulagow



SUN 22nd 4 to 6pm - RATHMORE CHURCH - SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



MONDAY 23rd DECEMBER TO SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER 2019

Mon 23rd 6.30pm GNEEVEGUILLA Nora & Tim Cronin, Chertsey, England & I/o Goulane

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

CHRISTMAS EVE Tues. 24th RATHMORE 7.00 pm Mass
 (Special welcome to all children who will be going to bed early for Santa's visit.)

KNOCKNAGREE 7.30 pm Mass

GNEEVEGUILLA 8.30 pm Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY Wed. 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 Thurs. 26th RATHMORE 11.00 am Mass – Shared Christmas Mass Intentions



Fri.	27th	7.30pm	RATHMORE	Denis O'Sullivan, Knocknaloman Andrew & Elizabeth Sheahan, Nohovaldaly
Sat.	28th	10.00am	GNEEVEGUILLA	Dan Joe O'Keeffe, Tureencahill (Months Mind) (Please note time)
Sat.	28th	6.00pm	RATHMORE	Nancy Moynihan, The Bungalow, Shinnagh (1st Anniv.)
Sat.	28th	7.30pm	KNOCKNAGREE	Donors Intention
Sun.	29th	9.00am	SHRONE	Donal O'Donoghue, Bru na Sinsir & Shronemore
Sun.	29th	10.00am	GNEEVEGUILLA	Michael & Joan O'Connor, Maughantourig Eugie Kerrisk, Sliabh Luachra, Gneeveguilla
Sun.	29th	11.30am	RATHMORE	George, Maura & John Byrne, Shinnagh John Kelly, Ard Mhuire



Fr. John Fitzgerald (029)70043 & (087)7752948 is the on duty this Sunday for emergency and sick calls

FR. PAT O'DONNELL P.P. (086)8351732

CHILD PROTECTION REPRESENTATIVES

Han Donnelly(087) 1249461 (Gneeveguilla) Margaret McGrath (089) 4182683 (Rathmore)
 Ber Murphy (087) 6468620 (Shrone) Betty Moynihan (087) 6186091 (Knocknagree)

**PARISH OFFICE-064 7761669: Opening hours: Opened Monday 23rd 9.30am to 12.30pm. Closed during Christmas
 Re-opening Friday 27th Dec. 11am -2pm **COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER:** Resumes weekend 4th/5th Jan. Email
 correspondence to communitynewsletter@rathmoreparish.ie or telephone Janice 064 7758219**

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL – LOCAL CONFIDENTIAL CONTACT: 087 3462332

PARISH CALENDAR: Additional Parish Calendars are available in the Parish Office and in each church sacristy - Donations are invited for same and proceeds going to local St. Vincent de Paul conference.

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY: To Zuzana & Peter Vantrobova, Knocknageeha, on the death of their daughter, **Veronika**, whose funeral Mass took place in Rathmore on Sat. 14th Dec. To Sheila O'Keeffe, Kathleen O'Leary, Betty O'Riordan, Anna O'Mahony, and Michael Cronin on the death of their sister, **Margaret Allman**, Firies, whose funeral took place on today Sat. in Firies. To Joan O'Keeffe, Carrigaline, on the death of her sister **Mary O'Donovan**, Ballineen, whose funeral took place on Monday in Ballineen. May **Veronika, Margaret & Mary** rest in peace and may all who mourn their loss be comforted by family and friends.

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

THE CHRISTMAS DUES COLLECTION (Clergy support Fund) will be taken up as a second collection at all Masses in the parish on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please return your Christmas Dues envelope (Pink Envelope) in this collection. Many thanks for your generous support during the year.

FR. PAT WRITES OUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I hope that 2019 has been a year of blessing for you.

For me, the beginning of 2019 was interesting. I enjoyed three Christmases' - the usual one here in Rathmore, and another two in the Holy Land'

In the Holy Land, the Orthodox churches use the old Julian calendar that pre-dates the Gregorian calendar, to determine the date of the religious feasts. Accordingly, the Greek Orthodox celebrate Christmas on January 6th and the Armenians celebrate Christmas on January 18th. On the day before Armenian Christmas, January 17th, the Armenian Patriarch together with the clergy and the faithful, travels from Jerusalem to the city of Bethlehem, to the Church of Nativity of Christ, where his entourage are greeted by the Mayor of Bethlehem. Afterwards, church services and ceremonies are conducted in the Cathedral of Nativity all night long until the next day, January 18th.

What was special about my time away, was a break from being the one who was responsible In my "2nd and 3rd Christmas" it was great to be ministered to; to be part of the congregation. So this year I will be very conscious of that perspective during our Christmas Ceremonies.

To those of you who will visit our parish for the first time, or will be returning, to each of you - Thank you. Thank you, for being with us for the Christmas celebrations. You should not underestimate how much your presence enriches us presence after all is what Christmas is all about. The first Christmas was about God showing up. "The WORD made Flesh, and lived among us" Christmas Masses give a true reflection of our community. Ceremonies can seem a bit chaotic at times, but it will be wonderful to hear babies crying, children full of anticipation of Santa, teenagers and young adults with their wonderful sense of style, all family members filling the church pew.

Each one brings their own story, of love, hope, joy, or the opposite: disappointment, grief and sadness. The importance of the birth of Jesus is where God comes to us and meets us where we are in this world today.

On behalf of all Parishioners we wish to acknowledge the many of you 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. Our thanks to our Secretaries and Sacristans who are so wholehearted in their giving.

This year too we wish to thank Fr. Anthony O'Sullivan who made a wonderful impression on everyone during his time in the parish. (Another missionary from Ballymac!)

Thank you so much for all you do!

Yes it's hard to believe that it's nearly a year since I participated in the Armenian Christmas but it's nice to be back to the place where I feel very much at home. **Fr Pat**

*Jesus is
the reason
for the
season*

KERRY SAMARITANS CHURCH GATE COLLECTION will be taking place on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at all Masses in the parish. Your support would be greatly appreciated to enable them to continue to provide help and emotional support to their callers.