

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

In our Parish people are nourished by the Word of God. It is a Parish where love is tangible and practical. It is a place where people pray together. Our Parish community is centred on Jesus Christ, on knowing and loving Him. It is incarnated in the love we show one another..

Fr Pat O'Donnel (064) 7758026 086 8351732

SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER & SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2023

Sat 2nd Shrone 6.00pm Jerry Moynihan & Bridie Moynihan Doon carrig
Noreen Creedon, Gortnagown & deceased members of the Creedon family

Sat 2nd Knocknagree 7.30pm Jerry Twomey, Umeraboy, Eddie O'Connor Doon & Bristol
Sonny Fitzgerald, Renasup. Pat Reen Tureenareeha, Dan & Nora O'Leary Umeraboy
Philip & Tess Twomey, Rathmore



First Sunday of Advent

Sun 3rd Gneeveguilla 9.30am

Willie Moore, Clounts (1st Anniv)

Sun 3rd Rathmore 11.30am

Annette Kelleher, Gortnahaneboy (1st Anniv)

Fr Jim Kennelly (029) 76151 0872401331 all this Sunday 3rd December for emergency and sick calls.

MONDAY 4th DECEMBER to SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER 2023

Mon 4th Gneeveguilla 7.00pm Private Intention

Tues 5th Rathmore 9.30am People of the Parish

Wed 6th Rathmore 7.00pm Tommy Kelleher, Church View & Star Bar.
Vincent & Joan Cahill & their sons Donal & Stephen, daughter Ann & son-in-law Frank
& daughter-in-law Margaret

Vigil Mass Feast of The Immaculate Conception

Thur 7th Knocknagree 7.00pm (1st Anniv) Tim Carroll Nohovaldaly

Feast Day of The Immaculate Conception

Fri 8th Rathmore 10.00am Michael, Margaret & Tadhg Crowley Gortacorrin & Seanus McDavitt
Jeremiah, Kathleen, John, Humphery & Katie & all deceased of the McAuliffe family Forge Cross.

Sat 9th Shrone 6.00pm Denis Duggan, Gortnagown & his father Bill & mother Mary Duggan

Sat 9th Knocknagree 7.30pm (1st Anniv) Maura O'Connor Umeraboy & remembering her husband Benny

(Do This in Memory of me)

Sun 10th Gneeveguilla 9.30am Mgt Leiczynski & the O'Donovan, Houlihan & Regan families Kenmare
Paudie & Catherine O'Leary their son Pat & daughter-in-law Helen, Gneeveguilla Village
Breda & James O'Connor Gneeveguilla. Daniel Cronin Gneeveguilla.

(Do This in Memory of me)

Sun 10th Rathmore 11.30am Memorial Mass Donal Hickey England & I/o Knocknaloman
Patrick & Hannah Cronin, Shinnagh. George, Maura & John Byrne, Shinnagh



The Five First Saturdays will continue in the Church of The Holy Rosary Gneeveguilla Sat 2nd Dec @ 9.15am

The Parish Office
will be closed on
Tuesday 5th December
due to
no Electricity in the area

DIOCESAN COLLECTION: the
annual collection for the Diocesan
Youth Services will be take place this
weekend the 2nd /3rd Dec.
Donations can be contributed online
on the donate tab on the parish
website www.rathmoreparish.ie or
drop into the Parish Office

The Parish Office opening hours Mon,
Tues, & Thur 9.30am -12.30pm
Fri 11am – 2pm. Closed on Wed.
Parish Office: Booking of Masses, Mass
Cards, any query, just call, phone (064)
7761669
email rathmore@dioceseofkerry.ie
Christmas Mass Bouquets are now
available in the Parish Office

Knocknagree – Kenya

A Christmas Cake sale will take place in the Adoration room on Sat 16th of December before & after the 7.30pm
Mass in aid of Fr Sean Cremin's Missionary Work, your support will be greatly appreciated.

Advent Wreath The Advent Wreath is made from evergreen leaves which stand for eternity, God's eternal love for us (which is ever green, ever new), shown in the promise and birth of the Messiah, his Son. Holly is traditionally used as part of the wreath, with the sharp points of the leaves reminding us of the crown of thorns (the German name for holly is Christdorn meaning 'Christ-thorn').

The circular shape of the wreath (a crown of thorns) also stands for eternity (the ring goes round without beginning or end).

Red berries stand for the drops of blood which Jesus shed for us (in the Christian tradition, the joy of Christ's birth is always tempered by the knowledge that this child will end his life on the cross). Sometimes a red ribbon is tied through the wreath – this too stands for Christ's blood, the cost of our redemption.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas. Purple is the liturgical colour of Advent and rose (or pink) is a special colour that may be used on the 3rd Sunday of Advent (known as Gaudete Sunday meaning 'rejoice' from the Latin antiphon at the beginning of Mass: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!' (cf. Philippians 4:4-5).

In some traditions, the first candle represents prophecy (the prophecy of the birth of a Messiah in Isaiah) or hope, the second love, the third joy, and the fourth peace (sometimes known as the angels' candle after the angels which appeared singing 'Glory to God in the highest and peace to men of goodwill').

Sometimes a fifth white candle is added in the centre of the wreath. This is lit on Christmas Eve to mark the coming of Christ the Light.

Shaping the Future of Our Parishes

In last week's bulletin we highlighted an important webinar which would give a scriptural context for our present reality. I am conscious that not everybody has access to the internet, there I am hopeful that my notes will give you a real sense of the wonderful input. *Fr Pat*

Webinar

Presenter: Dr Jessie Rogers, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Maynooth.

Despite all the changes we have experienced, and will experience, we are moving forward in hope.

The reason we have hope is not because we have lots of ideas and resources, we have hope because it is God's church. God is committed to God's project, and God longs for us to experience blessings for us to experience blessings, joy and fullness of life. **God works in the messiness of life.**

In the Old Testament there are a number of events which give us a context in which to reflect on the present.

The Exile: *(when the Chosen People were forced into exile in Babylon ... leaving behind their beloved Temple and the ways in which they were accustomed to practicing their faith)*

Their initial feeling was that without their structures, their priests, "how could they go on... in the words of the psalm "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land."

We feel sad when the solid ground we are used to -lots of priests.... Not just weekly but daily mass can no longer be taken for granted. So how are we to sing the Lord's song in this strange land!

A land without the priest at the centre.

In the Exile, when the people had left Jerusalem they thought they had left the presence of God. But, through the prophet Ezekiel they realised that God was still with them in their exile. They discovered a new way to be a people of God

So in our present situation we have to get greater confidence that the God who created the church is still present and watching over us.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, I so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty. **Isaiah 55:8-11***

Our task is to see where we see God at work.... Where do we see signs of life and hope?

We can have two options: Decide that the best way to be faithful Is to stay as we are at the moment

Live in limbo and wait for the return of the old ways.

It's easy to bemoan the secular world of today but our second option is to see how we can find the blessings of God in the now. *For I know the plan I have for you declares the Lord.*

Plans to prosper you, and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope for the future. Then you will call on me and come.

