

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.

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES Siobhan Carmody 087 9498347 (Gneeveguilla). Betty Moynihan (087) 6186091 Knocknagree Margaret McGrath 089 4182683 Rathmore, Stephanie Brosnan 087 9449288 Shrone.



Parish Office: Opening Hours: Mon, Tues, & Wed 9.30am -12.30pm - Fri 11am – 2pm **CLOSED THURSDAY**
Booking of Masses, Mass Cards, any query, just call, phone (064) 7761669 or email rathmore@dioceseofkerry.ie

Pastoral Area Fr John Fitzgerald (029)70043 / 0877752948 on call 12th July for emergency and sick calls

SATURDAY 11th JULY to SUNDAY 12th JULY 2026

Sat 11th Shrone 6.00pm Chris Sheahan, Rathmore Village

Sat 11th Knocknagree 7.30pm Connie O'Sullivan & all the O'Sullivan Family, Nohoval
Dan & Nellie Lehan. Tureenclassaugh & their son Noel Lehan I/o Cullen & their son - in - law Pat Twomey, Banteer.

Sun 12th Gneeveguilla 9.30am Tim & Margaret O'Connor, Mausrour. Pat Walsh, Scrahanfadda

Sun 12th Rathmore 11.30am Denis Murphy, West End. Jackie & Mary Murphy, Lr Shinnagh. Ann Sheehan, Lissyconnor.
Jeremiah & Bridie Reen, Corran & their daughter Agnes Linehan, Killarney. Cornelius & Eily Hickey, Aunaskirtan

MONDAY 13th JULY to SUNDAY 19th JULY 2026

Mon 13th / Tues 14th / Wed 15th No Mass
Thur 16th Knocknagree 9.30am Donors Intentions

Fri 17th Rathmore 7.00pm (1st Anniv) Micheal O'Keeffe. Tureencahill.

Sat 18th Shrone 6.00pm (1st Anniv) Pat & Ella Cahill, Clonakilty & I/o Gortdarrig
John O'Callaghan, Gortnagown & his parents Sheila & Patrick O'Callaghan

Sat 18th Knocknagree 7.30pm (Months Mind) John Joe Scannell Park

Sun 19th Gneeveguilla 9.30am James Doyle, Maulykevane & remembering his dad Jimmy.
Concepta O'Connor, Kilcummin & I/o Banard.

Sun 19th Rathmore 11.30am Geraldine O' Mahony, Rathmore & her father-in-law Donal O'Mahony.
Margaret O' Connor, Presbytery View & remembering her husband, Denis. Hannah Mary Moynihan, Knockdurath.
Noreen Doyle, East End also remembering her husband Paddy & her brother Humphery & all deceased of the
Doyle & Kerins families. P.J Cronin, Kilquane. Jeremiah, Nancy & Noel Moynihan. The Bungalow, Shinnagh

**PARISH
OFFICE will
be Closed
on
Monday
13th &
Tuesday
14th July**

Fr Pat's Farewell Homily

"To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear, because I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord.

"If you're offered it, be sure to accept it – it's a fabulous place."

Those were Fr Larry's words to me in a late-night phone call thirteen and a half years ago. As usual, his judgement was spot on. Looking back now, I am amazed at how quickly those years have flown by. As parishioners, I don't know what it was like for you, but I have enjoyed every moment of my time here in the parish.

In so many ways, I experienced it as a perfect fit. The words of Con Houlihan always rang true for me. When asked, "Where is Sliabh Luachra?", he replied, "It's not so much a place as a state of mind."

For me, it is a place where people have great pride in where they come from, and where the Christian message finds wonderful expression in the care and support you give to one another. Yes, there is an intense cross-border rivalry, but in the cut and thrust of life all borders disappear, and people are there for each other.

I loved the place where I lived, namely Rathmore Presbytery: to be serenaded every morning by the birds as the dog and I walked down the avenue, with the sunlight glistening through the trees. Some would observe, "It must be a lonely place," but that was never how I experienced it. The word I would use is tranquil. I always knew that William Hassett was just the other side of the wall if I needed him, and I always felt the presence of the monks and their inspiring story that underpins that place. Whenever my batteries were running low, I'd head for Mount Melleray to recharge. Nor will I ever forget the many miles so many of us walked together on the Camino.

While, at first glance, this evening may seem to be about me, the real truth is that it is not, and I wouldn't want it to be. It is about us, and for me it has always been about you.

It is very difficult to say farewell to people among whom you have ministered, whom you have loved, and by whom you have been loved in return. Ministry is not so much about liturgical ceremony; above all, it is about being present in the lives of the people.

As the years went by, each roadway in the parish began to speak to me in a new way. I came to associate each journey with the homes and families with whom I had shared so many significant moments. It brought to mind times of great joy, when cars lined the roads, bedecked with ribbons and all set for a wedding; the lovely family gatherings filled with the glow of welcome for a newborn child; and then, of course, the moments of sadness and unbelievable pain.

When it came to parting, some, though sad, were nonetheless thankful for the long life of their loved one. But my prayers and thoughts invariably turned to those who had lost a loved one long before their time, sometimes in the midst of illness and, at other times, against the background of sudden tragedy.

During my time here, I have been privileged to celebrate 159 weddings, 566 baptisms, and 699 funerals.

In all these situations, I was inspired by your compassion, your kindness towards one another, and the courage of those among you who have been asked to bear such heavy crosses. There was great truth in the words of Dom Hélder Câmara:

"Some people are like sugar cane. Even when crushed in the mill, completely squashed, all they yield is sweetness."

As you've heard me say many a time, our task in ministry is to accompany people across the bridge and, once they have safely crossed, to return to meet the next people making the journey, whether they come with joy or with burden.

In St John's Gospel we hear these words:

"Thus the saying, 'One sows and another reaps,' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour."

Like the priests who have come before me, I am only one link in the chain. The more consistent work is done by those who are here all the time. There are people like Maureen and Janice who have worked alongside numerous priests, stretching back to Canon Doherty and Canon Horgan. There are volunteers in all our churches who can claim that same faithful service.

The work of the Presentation Sisters, the Social Action Group, and the Parents and Friends Association has set the tone for faith in action. The journey over the past thirteen years has been one of shared responsibility and collective decision-making, with the Parish Pastoral Council providing vision and direction, always looking ahead to the challenges that lay around the corner. They have shown courage in making difficult decisions while, at the same time, bringing parishioners with them. That same spirit has been reflected in our Finance and Building Committees, while those involved in the Ministries of Music, the Word and the Eucharist, , our counting Teams, Christmas Crib teams, together with our altar servers, have served with tremendous generosity and enthusiasm.

My sincere thanks to our sacristans, past and present, who have given, and continue to give, such dedicated service.

To our secretaries, Janice, Kathleen and Josie, thank you for the care and attentiveness you have always shown to our parishioners. I also want to thank Kathleen and Josie for keeping a watchful eye on me when it came to schedules and workload.

And to Donie, Betty, Maureen and Eileen, thank you for being such trusted confidants and for the wisdom and insight of your advice.

To our Lay Minister, Nuala McAuliffe, who is doing Trojan work throughout the parish, and who, thankfully, will soon be joined by others as they complete their training in Parish Ministry and Funeral Ministry.

To the countless volunteers who quietly go about so many tasks around the parish, using their own initiative and giving so generously of their time and talents.

To everyone in our schools, thank you for your commitment to excellence; and to the children, thank you for your joy, your laughter and your smiles.

Our focus in recent years has extended beyond the boundaries of the parish to embrace the wider Pastoral Area. It is not all that long ago that there were ten priests serving this Pastoral Area.

Since I came here, Rathmore has gone from three priests to two, and then from two to one. Dromtariffe Parish has moved from having a resident priest to being served by the priests of the Pastoral Area. I want to thank Fr Jack, Fr Jim, Fr Joe and Fr Danny for the positive way in which they have embraced this change. I also wish to acknowledge our Lay Ministers, Edel Fraser, Nuala McCormack and Kathleen Dennehy, for their generous and dedicated ministry.

On a personal note thanks to Jack, Jim, Joe, Danny, for their continued friendship Fr Pat for his constant warmth of his welcome up in Gneeveguilla , not forgetting Msgr Dan who though far away has taken the time to make contact in recent days .

Our Area Pastoral Council members, representing all the parishes in the Pastoral Area, are doing tremendous work in fostering ever-deepening cooperation between our parishes. Ella and Sharon, in particular, have been magnificent in the energy, commitment and enthusiasm they have brought to this effort.

Naturally, neither people nor priests ever imagined they would find themselves in this situation. Yet this is our new reality, and it is together that we are called to respond to that challenge.

That challenge will continue to grow in the years ahead, and more difficult decisions will have to be made. When those times come, it will always be important to keep the bigger picture in mind.

The last week has been tiring in terms of packing. I never want to see another black plastic bag for a long time! Once again, thank you to everyone who has been so generous with their help. It was lovely to have the family around yesterday. There was plenty of work to be done, but there was plenty of fun as well.

My heartfelt thanks to the many parishioners who have put so much work into this evening. I have had nothing to do with it, but I know it will be outstanding.

Why are we here

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

That is at the very heart of who we are as priests and of what we are called to do.

When I first came to you, I was fifty-five years of age. This last while—since I qualified for the pension!—it has taken a little more effort to get to full flow. You deserve new drive and new energy, and so I am genuinely delighted for you that Fr Kieran O'Brien is coming. He will be attentive, caring and hardworking. I know you will take great care of him, and I have no doubt that he, too, will come to love this place as deeply as I have.

Today is a day of mixed emotions. It is never easy to say goodbye to people who have become part of your life and, in many ways, part of your family. As I prepare to leave this parish, I simply want to say thank you.

Thank you for welcoming me into your homes and into your hearts. Thank you for your kindness, your friendship, your prayers and your support throughout these years. It has been an immense privilege to be your priest..

With a grateful heart, I take my leave,
For God still calls, and I believe.
Though parting brings a touch of pain,
God's faithful love will still remain.

I'll carry you in thought and prayer,
The burdens borne, the joys we've shared.
May Christ be with us day by day,
Until we meet again along His way.
God bless you all