



Parish of Gallen and Rynagh

St. Mary's, Cloghan & St. Rynagh's, Banagher
Patrick Kiernan P.P. 057 9151338



Parish Website: www.cloghanbanagherparish.ie

Church Radio: 106.6 FM

Email newsletterstrynaghs@gmail.com

Notices to be in before 6 p.m. on Thursdays.

Parish Secretary: Tracy Dolan - Monday or Friday

10.30 to 12.30 p.m. 086 0705801

Midoc 1850 302 702

Banagher Health Centre 9151247

Cloghan SVP 087 9272877

Readings:

Feast of The Holy Family

Birr SVP 085 8804028

Mass Times & Anniversaries

Sat. 26 th	6.30 p.m.	St. Rynagh's	Kathleen Gallagher, Curraghavarna. (1 st Anniv.) Hubert Rigney, Coolfin and deceased members of the family. Intentions of all Parishioners & Friends of the Parish.
Sat. 26 th	8 p.m.	St. Mary's	Margaret Claffey, Noggus. Denis & Anna Reynolds, Tulcon.
Sun. 27 th	9.30 a.m.	St. Mary's	Jimmy Duffy, Aughaga & his parents Tom & Margaret. Sally Clarke, Hill Road.
Sun. 27 th	11 a.m.	St. Rynagh's	Thomas Rodgers, Derrycasson. Charlie Reilly, Dring & Dublin.
Mon. 28 th	9.30 a.m.	St. Rynagh's	Mary O'Shea, Curraduff. Paddy O'Hara and deceased members of the family.
Tues. 29 th	9.30 a.m.	St. Mary's	Maureen Nugent, Annaghgartagh. John Doyle & deceased members of the family.
Wed. 30 th	9.30 a.m.	St. Rynagh's	Sr. Veronica Curley. Special Intention.
Thurs. 31 st	9.30 a.m.	St. Mary's	Darerca Ryan. Special Intention.
New Year's Day	9.30 a.m.	St. Mary's	Intention of all Parishioners, Friends of the Parish. Mass in Thanksgiving.
Sat. 2 nd	6.30 p.m.	St. Rynagh's	Maureen White. Michelle Cahalan Horan & Nora Horan. Josie Molloy, Tonelemone (1 st Anniv.) & dec. Coughlan & Molloy Emmet Maher, Gallen. Families.
Sun. 3 rd	9.30 a.m.	St. Mary's	Susan Ledwith. (Requested by J. and A.)

Jesus Said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life".



Please pray for the repose of the souls of Charles Nichols, America, brother-in-law of Tom Keady; Alison Meehan, Rush, Dublin & Holycross, Tipperary. May they rest in peace.

Readers (Dec.)

6.30 p.m. Cora Stronge Smith

Eucharistic Ministers: (Dec.)

6.30 p.m. Gerry Flynn & Siobhan Regan.

Readers Cloghan:

27th Dec. 9.30 am. David Daly

Offertory Collections:

Banagher €1,698. Cloghan €1,640. Counters: Team D

Sincere thanks to all who contribute to the collections and to the Post Office in Cloghan and Banagher.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People. ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., by calling 0818 222 024.

Chiropody clinic 10 mins from Banagher House calls and evening appointment available. Contact Geraldine Heenan 08 6353267.

Happy Christmas & Happy New Year: Wishing you and your family peace, hope and health this Christmas and in the New Year.

World Day of Prayer for Peace: Friday 1st Jan. 2021. Mass online St. Mary's, Cloghan 9.30 a.m.

Due to the new government restrictions Mass will only be available online or on the radio.

St. Rynagh's Church: Monday & Wednesday 9.30 a.m. and Saturday 6.30 p.m.

St. Mary's Church: Tuesday & Thursday 9.30 a.m. and Sunday 9.30 a.m.

A Christmas Blessing

During this Christmas season, may you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is peace, the gladness of the season, which is hope and the heart of the season, which is love. Somehow not only for Christmas but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing the poor and lonely and sad, the more of your heart's possessing returns to you glad. *John Greenleaf Whittier*

The Annual St. Vincent de Paul Collection: This year envelopes have been left in the Church porches in both Churches. This is the only means of fundraising for St. Vincent de Paul in our area and all monies raised will go directly to helping people in our community coming up to Christmas and throughout the year. Thank you.

Stamps for the Missions: Keep the stamps from your post, leave a small margin around each stamp and post them to St. Patrick's, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow or you can drop them into the Convent in Ferbane.

Banagher Library: Open Thurs. 31st Dec. 10 – 1 p.m. & 2 – 5 p.m. If you would prefer to request a book for collection, contact us on 057 9151471 or banagherlibrary@offalycoco.ie. We can order a book from any library in Ireland.

Forgotten Souls: Many thanks to all those who have purchased copies of Forgotten Souls. The book has sold very well thanks especially to the generosity and energy of Flynn's and Feeney's Newsagents on Main Street. The attractive window display by Barbara Coakley dedicated to the book also helped boost sales. Copies are still available locally and online orders at www.offalyhistory.com Further enquiries to James Scully 085 7107569 or jsmeeleck@gmail.com

Christmas Message 2020

A year ago, in preparation for our Diocesan Assembly, I referred to "the joys, anxieties and hopes that come with family life". Little did we know then the extraordinary challenges that 2020 would entail.

We have missed what we value most - people. We miss being with and among people, all the ordinary everyday encounters, free from restriction and anxiety. Christmas brings thoughts of people who are no longer with us, especially those who died during this year. We miss those we cannot visit as freely as usual, especially our family and friends who are in hospital or in nursing homes.

We cannot gather as a community to worship the Lord as we normally do; we long to be back. Priests and parishioners carry out Trojan work to keep our churches welcoming and safe and we are grateful to them for their work and care. Although we have experienced lockdown and restrictions the Lord is present with us in so many ways.

At Christmas we celebrate the arrival of God's son among us. The story of the first Christmas in Bethlehem was full of hope and joy. What was expected for so long had come to pass. The Christmas story always refreshes our joy and our hope. The joy that each human life is of vital importance to God because of the baby in Bethlehem. The hope that this baby has changed the way we see ourselves, one another and our destiny.

We hope that life will become safer and less restricted because, decisions taken by individuals will, collectively, reduce the threat to health, lives and livelihoods. There is the hope that vaccines will assist in our great efforts to be safe. During 2020, there were times of sacrifice, when some of our normal freedoms were curtailed for the common good. There are many examples of great care and generosity throughout our parishes. We are grateful to all in leadership, essential services and in our communities whose work and sacrifice contribute to our safety.

The candles on the Advent Wreath are lit one Sunday after another, ushering us closer and closer, week by week, to Christmas. We look forward with great hope to celebrating the birth of the Saviour. Our hope is in him.

I wish you and your family and friends at home and abroad a happy Christmas.

Francis Duffy, **Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois**

"God has done everything; he has done the impossible: he was made flesh. His all-powerful love has accomplished something which surpasses all human understanding: the infinite has become a child, has entered the human family. And yet, this same God cannot enter my heart unless I open the door to him." *Pope Benedict XVI*