

GLENCORRIB & SHRULE PARISH NEWSLETTER

19th DECEMBER 2021 & 26th DECEMBER 2021 (2 WEEK ISSUE)

Fr. Vivian Loughrey PP,

Parochial House, Ramolin, Shrule, Co. Mayo. H91, V2FK

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Parish Website: www.shruleglencorrib.com

Newsletter email: newsletter@shruleglencorrib.com

Newsletter only 086 3782156 Newsletter (Vol. 26 – 23/24)

Newsletter on Web: www.shruleglencorrib.com & www.mayo.ie

All Masses are on the parish radio 101.4 FM

Weekend Masses are available on Facebook/Shrule Parish and on www.churchtv.ie Shrule Church is <https://www.churchtv.ie/shrule/> and Glencorrib Church is <https://www.churchtv.ie/glencorrib/>



CHRISTMAS TIME (YEAR C) MASS DATES, TIMES & INTENTIONS

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, SHRULE - Dedicated 1832

Sat	18 th Dec	8.00 pm	Thomas O'Dowd , Shrulegrove	26 th Anniv
Sun	19 th Dec	11.00 am	Richard (Dick) Cahill , Cloonbanane	RIP 11/10/2021
			Elizabeth Sherlock , N.Y., USA	RIP 11/11/2021
		3.00 pm	Advent - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 3pm to 4pm	
Mon	20 th Dec	9.30 am	Noel O'Dea , Claretuam, Tuam	RIP 22/10/2021
		12-noon	Maisie kelleghan (Nee O'Neill) Carramore	Funeral Mass
Tue	21 st Dec	9.30 am	Máire Uí Chonaire	
Wed	22 nd Dec	9.30 am	Jacinta Heneghan & DM of McGath family , Turin, Kilmaine & Lakeview	RIP 10/08/2019 & deceased
			Martha Burke , Rathgranagher	Anniv
Thu	23 rd Dec	9.30 am	Tom, Marie, Frank & Francis Dooley , Ramolin	37 th & 26 th Anniv & deceased
			Pamela Corbett , Kinlough	1 st Anniv
Fri	24th Dec	12-midnight	Con & Mary Joe Kennedy , Cahernabruck	49 th & 6 th Anniv
Sat	25th Dec	11.00 am	Christmas Tridium Masses	
			Bart Cawley , Dalgan Road	Mass Cards 39 th Anniv
Sun	26th Dec	11.00 am	Una Martyn (Née McDonnell) Shrule	Month's Mind
			Tony Heneghan , Dalgan Road	RIP 09/05/2021
Mon	27 th Dec	9.30 am	Mass	
Tue	28 th Dec	9.30 am	Mass	
Wed	29 th Dec	9.30 am	Mass	
Thu	30 th Dec	9.30 am	Nora & Martin McTigue , Kille	15 th & 3 rd Anniv
Fri	31 st Dec	7.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 7.00 pm – 7.55pm	
		8.00 pm	Fursey Heneghan , Shrule	RIP 29/08/2019
Sat	1 st Jan	8.00 pm	Christmas Tridium Masses	
Sun	2 nd Jan	11.00 am	Josie (Joe) McDonnell , Dalgan	Months Mind

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, GLENCORRIB - Dedicated 1876

Sat	18th Dec	6.30 pm	Jack, Mai, Frank, Fr. Michael & John Moran , Glencorrib	66 th , 17 th , 11 th , 67 th Anniv & RIP 28/09/2020
Sun	19th Dec	9.30 am	Noel Meyler , Glencorrib	RIP 29/09/2021
		3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 3pm to 4pm	
Wed	22 nd Dec	10.00 am	Bridie Murphy , Ballycurrin	RIP 19/07/2021
Fri	24th Dec	5.00 pm	Christmas Tridium Masses	
Sat	25th Dec	9.30 am	Tess & Mike Byrnes , Glengarriff, Co. Cork	3 rd Anniv & deceased
Sun	26th Dec	9.30 am	Jim & Breege Leonard , Castlebar & Balla	11 th & 8 th Anniv
			Mary Joe O'Sullivan , Gortbrack	30 th Anniv
Wed	29 th Dec	10.00 am	John Nally , Ballinlough, Claremorris	40 th Anniv
Fri	31 st Dec	7.00 pm	Margaret Reddington , Gortbrack	32 nd Anniv
			Jim & Breege Leonard , Castlebar & Balla	11 th & 8 th Anniv
Sat	1st Jan	6.30 pm	John & Mary Martyn , Ballynalty/Carrowoughteragh	22 nd / 51 st (A)
			John Reddington , Gortbrack	40 th Anniv
Sun	2nd Jan	9.30 am	Mary Donohue & DM Donohue family , Glencorrib	1 st Anniv

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY, HOLY, HEALTHY, PEACEFUL AND MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

CHRISTMAS DUES & 2022 ENVELOPES- THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

Christmas Due envelopes are now available at the back of the church for those who do not use the envelope system. If you are using the envelopes available at church, and are planning to apply for charity tax rebate, please write your name and envelope number on envelope.

CHURCH ENVELOPES 2022

Distributors over the next few weeks will be delivering the 2022 parish envelopes in your area. Thank you to those who distribute the parish envelopes in your area. In the current environment, the use of the envelopes is essential while the regular method of collections during the liturgy is not taking place. The income from these envelopes ensures the parish can continue to **pay its regular bills and continue with the renovations** taking place in both churches. Your support and generosity is essential & greatly appreciated. Remember it is possible to leave the envelopes in Shrle post office as well as donate online. Further information is found on the page attached to the Parish Envelopes 2022

OVER THE CHRISTMAS WEEKEND:

Friday 24th December to Sunday 26th December; Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and St. Stephen's Day we will have 6 Christmas Masses in the parish. The Bible doesn't actually tell us what day Jesus was born so feel free to come to any of the 6 Masses to fulfil your Christmas obligation. As always, people with cold or flu like symptoms are advised to stay at home and follow the Mass on the parish radio, Facebook or www.churchtv.ie

ALONE: are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided. If interested please email Karen on karen.byrne@alone.ie or ☎ Karen on 0860576401. In our online parish newsletter we have further details as well as why they are recruiting and a little more background information about ALONE.

SGK - WILDLIFE SURVEY 2021:

The final weeks of the Wildlife Survey 2021. Throughout this past year we have been recording local wildlife sightings from Shrle, Glencorrib and Kilroe of **wild birds, mammals, insects and amphibians**. Thank you to those who participated in this survey. You can still submit any wildlife sightings you spotted throughout the year up to **31/12/2021**. Send them to the following email address sgkwildlifesurvey@gmail.com We have already captured over 270 images from the sightings to date, these can be seen on Instagram **#sgkwildlifesurvey2021**

Happy Christmas from SGK Environment Group

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND SOLAS RESOURCE CENTRE CHRISTMAS 2021 FOOD APPEAL:

Helping Families in our own Community. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to support those seeking assistance to the best of their availability. Food can also be left into Solas Resource Centre, Headford. All food collected will be helping families in our own community. Vouchers and money donations will also be gladly accepted. Thank You

REMEMBERING OUR BABIES AT CHRISTMAS: Our annual Mass remembering all babies who have died on or around the time of birth (stillbirth, neonatal, miscarriage} will be held on Sunday 19th December 2021 at 6pm at The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Oranmore. Parents, Grandparents, Siblings, family and friends are all warmly invited to this special Mass. The Mass will follow Covid protocols and will also be live streamed on <http://www.oranmoreparish.org/live>.



'So who's been naughty and nice?'

THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2021 The past year was difficult for everybody. Normal life seems very far away at times. But we are still strong. Parishioners have been so good. The volunteers have kept our two churches open and alive. We have been gatherings in our Churches. Alone with the parish radio, our web cam goes worldwide on www.churchtv.ie and Facebook. Community does age. Too many have died. But we all continue to look out for each other and look after each other. A new world is being born. The dance of life goes on. Our love affair continues. God is among us and we are blest with the life we have even if it not perfect. The New Year will bring more changes but we have the energy and the stamina to face whatever comes. Thank you all for your company and your goodness both to our parish and to me personally through-out the year. Have a lovely Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR: YOU JUST GOTTA LOVE THE WAY KIDS THINK SOMETIMES:

After a hardy Indiana rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddle through her kitchen window. The older of the two, a five year old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face into the water hole. As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother ran to the yard in a panic. "Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?!" she said as she shook the older boy in anger. "We were just playing 'church' mommy," he said. "I was baptizing him in the name of the Father, the Son and in the hole-he-goes."

**PLEASE REMEMBER WITH A PRAYER THOSE FROM SHRULE AND
GLENCORRIB PARISH WHO DIED ON THIS WEEK IN FORMER YEARS**



Surname	Christian	Village	Date Died	Age	Cemetery
Lawless	Katie	Gortlagga	18/12/1907	34	
Mongan	Catherine	Boherbee	18/12/1920	71	Shrule
Nolan	Martin	Cloonbanane	18/12/1930	30	Shrule
Murphy	Mrs.	Brodella	18/12/1943	82	Shrule
Duddy	Thomas	Shrule	18/12/1944	65	Kilconly
Sweeney	Mary	Brodella	18/12/1950	84	Shrule
Keady	Michael	Boula	18/12/1968	75	Killursa
Corbett	Annie	Anlacca	18/12/1978	72	Shrule
Keville	James	Moyne	18/12/1979	62	Shrule
Carey	Marie	Ballycurrin	18/12/1991	78	Killursa
Toher	Jim	Glencorrib	18/12/1993	65	Killursa
Hennelly	Mary	Glencorrib	19/12/1950	26	Killursa
Carey	Thomas	Ballycurrin	19/12/1970	74	Killursa
Moughan	David	Cahernabruck	19/12/2003	79	Shrule
Hennelly	Martha	Toorard	19/12/2020	75	Moyne
Hennelly	Mary	Glencorrib	19/12/1950	26	Killursa
Carey	Thomas	Ballycurrin	19/12/1970	74	Killursa
Moughan	David	Cahernabruck	19/12/2003	79	Shrule
Hennelly	Martha	Toorard	19/12/2020	75	Moyne
Mellet	Patrick	Cloonbanane	20/12/1916	85	Shrule
Davin	James	Brackloon	20/12/1943	93	Shrule
Garvey	John	Gortbrack	20/12/1975	66	Killursa
Dooley	Maimie	Ramolin	20/12/1995	86	Shrule
Monahan	Martin	Toorard	21/12/1943	83	Moyne
Joyce	William	Cahernabruck	21/12/1963	73	Shrule
Gleeson	Michael	Shrule	21/12/1970	77	Shrule
Hardiman	Annie	Gortbrack	21/12/2012	89	Cross
Moughan	Brigid	New Ballynalty	22/12/1917	75	Moyne
Browne	Josephine		22/12/1942	63	Shrule
Gannon	Martin	Shrule	22/12/1956	76	Shrule
Hennelly	Julia	Toorard	22/12/1987		Moyne
Murphy	Stephen	Ballycurrin	22/12/2007	85	Cross
Mc Donagh	Martin	Ramolin	23/12/1918	78	Shrule
Conroy	Julia	Kilroe	23/12/1960	85	Ross Errily
Garvey	Patrick	Shrule	23/12/1987	80	Shrule
Fitzgerald	Patrick	Mochorra	23/12/1994	92	Shrule
Moran	Mai	Glencorrib	23/12/2004	90	Moyne
Corbett	Pamela		23/12/2020	73	Shrule
Murphy	Nora	Gortatubber	24/12/1925	44	Killursa
Davin	James	Brackloon	24/12/1957	32	Shrule
Gaynard	John	Ballisnahina	24/12/1964		Shrule
Kennedy	Con	Badgerfort	24/12/1972	52	Shrule
Naughton	Bridget	Mocollogan	24/12/2016		Shrule
Higgins	Margaret	De Clifford St.	25/12/1938	91	Shrule
Gavin	Peter	Toorard	25/12/1949	47	Shrule
Murphy	Roger	Woodpark	25/12/1951	44	Shrule
Bodkin	Kathleen	Shrule	25/12/1982	80	Corcomroe Abbey
Cawley	Bart	Dalgan Road	25/12/1982	70	Shrule
Molloy	May	Toorard	25/12/2005	77	Moyne
Madden	Mary	New Ballynalty	26/12/1932	57	Killursa
Roche	Martin	Kinlough	26/12/1932	62	Moyne
Connor	John	Rostaff	26/12/1953	74	Moyne
Monaghan	Patrick	Toorard	26/12/1977	69	Moyne
Garvey	Winifred	Boula	26/12/1979	83	Killursa
Ryan	Paddy	Brodella	26/12/1992	77	Shrule

PLEASE REMEMBER WITH A PRAYER THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Maisie Kelleghan nee O'Neill, Carramore, Shrule (in her 92nd year) Funeral Mass for Maisie will take place at St. Joseph's Church, Shrule on Monday 19th December @ 12 noon. RIP

Mary Langan (Née Walshe) Laragan, Shrule. Funeral Mass for Mary took place at the Corner Chapel Church on Wednesday last 15th December. RIP

PLEASE REMEMBER WITH A PRAYER THOSE FROM SHRULE AND GLENCORRIB PARISH WHO DIED ON THIS WEEK IN FORMER YEARS



Surname	Christian	Village	Date Died	Age	Cemetery
Sweeney	Catherine	Ravenhill	27/12/1936	79	Shrule
Noone	Patrick	Tubbersharave	27/12/1943	101	Shrule
Cradock	Michael John	Shrule	27/12/1952	2	Shrule
Fitzgerald	James	Mochorra	27/12/1994	88	Shrule
Gannon	Katie	Boula	27/12/2016		Killursa
Cahill	Sarah(Sadie)	Cloonbanane	27/12/2000	87	Shrule
Flaherty	Michael	Cahernabruck	28/12/1920	90	Shrule
Corbett	Nora	Anlacca	28/12/1938	75	Shrule
Mc Hugh	Patrick	Cahernabruck	28/12/1938	75	Shrule
Fahy	Mrs.	Glassvalley	28/12/1942	72	Killursa
Myers	Michael	Ballinrobe	28/12/1954	48	Shrule
Daly	Michael	Polbee	28/12/1963	80	Moyne
Murphy	Kate	Dalغان	28/12/1970	82	Shrule
Burke	Ulick	Cloonbanane	28/12/1983	56	Shrule
Reilly	Bridie	Woodpark	28/12/2009		Shrule
Newell	Catherine	Mount Henry	29/12/1915	92	Killursa
Barrett	John	Gorthbrack	29/12/1924	74	Cloughanover
Sweeney	Catherine	Ravenhill	29/12/1928	76	Shrule
Toole	Patrick	Tubbersharave	29/12/1943	101	Shrule
Burke	Brigid	Woodpark	29/12/1972	86	Shrule
Donohue	Mary	Glencorrib	29/12/2020	92	Moyne
Malley	Brigid	Mohology	30/12/1939	59	Shrule
Walsh	James Christopher	Shrule	30/12/1946	3 weeks	Shrule
Murphy	Stephen	Carheens	30/12/1967	45	Shrule
Garvey	Thomas	Gortbrack	31/12/1934		Killursa
Moughan	Thomas	Cahernabruck	31/12/1941	61	Shrule
Joyce	Michael	Cahernabruck	31/12/1943	90	Shrule
Murphy	Margaret	Brodella	31/12/1968	68	Shrule
Geraghty	Dick	Shrule	31/12/1990	72	Shrule

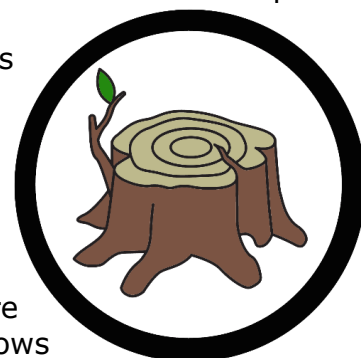
FIRST COMMUNION GROUP 2022 & DO THIS IN MEMORY PROGRAM

If you get a chance, check out the outstanding work about the 'Jesse Tree' in both churches done by students who are preparing for their First Holy Communion next year. Please continue to remember them and their families in your prayers.

Meaning & Purpose of Jesse Tree

If anyone ever asked you what is so different about Jesus? Or have you ever heard someone say while Jesus was a good person, there is nothing special about him? The Jesse Tree developed in response to such queries. The Jesse Tree is a statement of faith.

The Jesse Tree is one of those long-standing Christmas traditions and is named after the Biblical figure Jesse. The tree is a reference to the passage from Isaiah 11:1, "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse, from the Bible, is one of the ancestors of Jesus. Using the prophets, the ancestry of Jesus is traced from the first day of creation to the birth of Jesus. The practice of the Jesse Tree is recorded from early Middle Ages and is even found in stain glass windows of cathedrals of the time. People during that time were illiterate, which means they couldn't read the Bible. So, stain glass windows were used to teach the Bible such as to trace the ancestry of Jesus up to the birth of Jesus to educate people. One such cathedral is in the Cathedral of Chartes.



The tradition of the Jesse Tree is significant in a lot of ways. For one the Jesse Tree is rooted in the Bible. The symbols used in the Jesse Tree show Jesus' ancestry as well as some of the prophecies foretelling & identifying the Messiah.

How Does the Jesse Tree Work?

- The ancestry of Jesus tells us that Jesus came from a long line of prophets – from Abraham to Moses to David, through the maternal (Mary's) side.
- Promises made to various prophets are fulfilled by Jesus – the Messiah would come from the House of David; a shoot (Jesus) would come from the stump of Jesse (David's father).
- Indicators such as 'Good Shepherd' – Eucharist – Resurrection provide evidence that support that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

A WORD IN YOUR EAR... Many people, if they have not already done so, will be thinking about writing Christmas cards in the next few days. As I write this, I am listening to an item on the radio by Claire Byrne. She has assembled a group of 'talking heads' to discuss the traditional Christmas Card. They have taken up their positions: The 'pro' side will argue that the sending of Christmas cards is a noble, worthwhile tradition that should be maintained. The 'anti' side will argue that the practice of sending Christmas cards is a creation of modern consumerism, and is a con-trick played upon an unsuspecting public. Take your pick!

The Victoria and Albert Museum in London has a collection of over 30,000 cards for all occasions. It's fascinating to see how the design and sentiment of Christmas cards has changed over the years. Nowadays some cards have rather generic messages related to Christmas and others use the Christmas season to send family pictures and updates from the year gone by. Here Christmas cards are used 'to keep in touch', literally. Charity cards and recycled cards also highlight the changing trends.



The custom of sending Christmas cards was started in the UK in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole, a senior civil servant who had helped set-up the new Post Office. The first cards usually had pictures of the Nativity scene on them, but the religious theme did not come into prominence until modern times. Scenes from the novels of Charles Dickens were popular in the early days. In late Victorian times, robins and snow-scenes became popular. In those times the postmen were nicknamed 'Robin Postmen' because of the red uniforms they wore. Snow-scenes were popular because they reminded people of the very bad winter that happened in the UK in 1836.

It is a testimony to the changing tradition, that card giving still exists, given that so much of how we communicate is through the use of e-mail and social media, I suspect there is an overall decline in sending traditional cards, but the tradition holds importance for many. A survey commissioned by Royal Mail in the UK has shown 55% of people think sending Christmas cards is more important now than ever because of the pandemic.

For Christmas Cards are not an immediate form of communication, they are a very special form.

They are a reminder that somebody is thinking of you and not in that moment, but just thinking about you. Unlike when one sends a text and expects a response, a Christmas card involves a process whereby I don't even need to say that you've got it; and for the sender, there is a sense of not quite knowing how much that card will mean or touch the person to whom it is sent. As the biblical instruction says, it can be a form of giving without expecting anything in return.



Christmas cards have become a means of maintaining cohesion among societies and movements. Political parties, corporate organisations and campaigning groups all use the Christmas card as marketing devices, or even vehicles for protest. Above all, they have become a convenient way of keeping in touch with friends and acquaintances. When we say that someone has 'dropped off our Christmas card list', we mean that we no longer want to keep in touch.

So this year, we will once again sacrifice our own habits of socialising for the sake of the common good. These gestures of care are made without expecting anything in return. These are the hidden, if practical ways we might love each other.

Fr. Dick Lyng OSA.

<p>PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS: Shrle Parochial House Tuesdays 10.30am to 12-noon Glencorrib Curates House (Sunny Days) Wednesdays 10.30am to 12-noon.</p>		<p>SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.</p>		<p>WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER to open and close Shrle church at the weekends only. Please contact Fr. Vivian if you can help out. Thank you.</p>
<p>CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES</p>		<p>GLENCORRIB</p>	<p>SHRLE</p>	<p>No evening Masses on Saturday 25th December Masses for Sun 26th Dec. are at 9.30am & 11am</p>
<p>Fri 24th Dec</p>	<p>Vigil</p>	<p>5.00 pm</p>	<p>12 midnight</p>	
<p>Sat. 25th Dec</p>	<p>Morning</p>	<p>9.30 am</p>	<p>11.00 am</p>	
<p>Sun. 26th Dec</p>	<p>Morning</p>	<p>9.30 am</p>	<p>11.00 am</p>	

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION: If you are not able to come together to celebrate Mass and receive communion, please find time to pray and receive Jesus spiritually.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

REMEMBERING YOUR LOVED ONES:

If you're loved ones from the parish are not listed in our weekly list and you would like them to be remembered, then please ☎ / Text 0863782156 or email

glencorrib2000@gmail.com with their details. **"To be forgotten is to die twice"**



OUR CHURCHES are open every day not just Sundays. Drop in for some quiet time, prayer and reflection. God want full custody not just weekend visits.

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 to the outbreak of Covid-19. Professional staff will be available to offer reassurance where necessary. The support line is one seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, ☎ 0818222024



PARISH NOTES: - WAYS TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS:

With the resumption of public liturgies, the following ways now in place to make contributions. These contributions make the works been carried out possible. Thank you for your continuing support in these unfamiliar times. At weekend Masses, Shrule Post Office. Drop off at Parochial House (Tuesdays, 10.30 am - 12noon) or Curates' House (Wednesdays, 10.30 am - 12noon) or Banking Online or Standing Order. Details of each church bank account have been provided below.

○ **Shrule Church:**

• Bank: Ulster Bank Ireland DAC
Account Name: Shrule Church
Finance Committee:
IBAN IE10ULSB98525010138070
and BIC: ULSBIE2DXXX

○ **Glencorrib Church:**

• Bank: Ulster Bank Ireland DAC
Account Name:
Shrule Glencorrib Church:
IBAN IE97ULSB98525010138153
and BIC: ULSBIE2DXXX

With banking online please ensure **full name is given** as reference when making the standing order or account transfer, so the parish has a record of who has made their weekly contribution through each bank account. This is **very important** for the Charitable Donation Scheme. Thank you for your continuing support.

Welcome to those Outside of Parish: People outside of the parish are most welcome to attend public liturgies in the parish. Please observe guidelines. Regarding contributions please continue to support your parish and use your own parish envelopes It is standard practice for envelopes to be returned to their respective parishes.

THE ORIGINS OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a joyous occasion that is celebrated world-wide, but what are the true origins of this most special festive holiday? Christmas is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of its founder Jesus Christ. The word Christmas comes from Cristes Maesse, an early English phrase that means Mass of Christ.

Where does the word Christmas come from?



• The word **Christmas** (or Christ's Mass) comes from the Old English name 'Cristes Maesse' - Christ's Mass - and is the celebration of the birth of Jesus.



The story of Christmas comes chiefly from the Gospels of St. Luke and St. Matthew in the New Testament. According to Luke, an angel appeared to shepherds outside the town of Bethlehem and told them of Jesus' birth. No one knows the exact date of Christ's birth but most Christians observe Christmas on December 25.

The first mention of the celebration of Christmas occurred in A.D. 336 in an early Roman calendar. In the late 300's, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire and by 1100 Christmas had become the most important religious festival in Europe, and St. Nicholas had become a symbol of gift giving in many European countries.

The popularity of Christmas grew until the Reformation in the 1500's when it was considered a pagan celebration because it included non-religious customs.

During the 1600's, because of these feelings, Christmas was outlawed in England and her colonies. However, the festival was soon re-established and in the 1800's two more Christmas customs were born - decorating Christmas trees and sending Christmas cards to relatives and friends. Many well-known Christmas carols, including "Silent Night" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," were composed during this period.

In the United States and other countries, during this period, Santa Claus replaced St. Nicholas as the symbol of gift giving.

SHRULE PARISH is committed to the protection of all children & young people in our Church. Please see the notice boards for contact details.

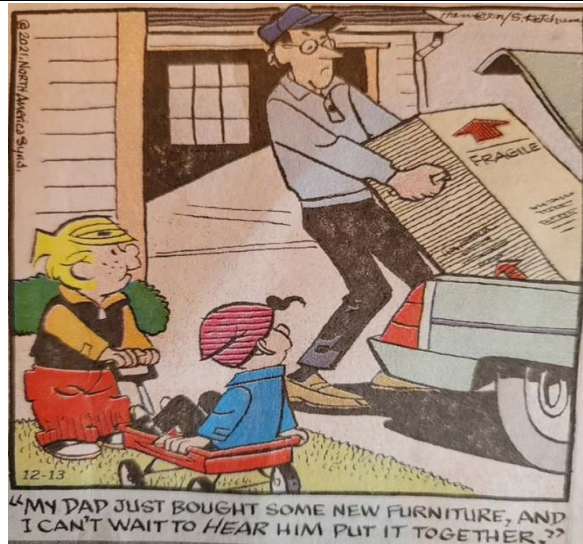
SOME LIGHT HUMOUR: My dog ate a string of Christmas lights. The vet was able to remove them. He said the dog was delighted.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, we praise you and thank you for all you have done for us. We thank you especially for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to visit and save us. We ask you to bless our family and all the people of our parish, especially those who are suffering in any way.

Encourage those in our parish whom you invite to become priests, religious and permanent deacons, and grant them the generosity of mind and heart to follow your call. May they bring good news to our world today. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

QUOTE: Each moment of your life is a picture you have never seen before and will never see again. So live each moment to make it count and make each moment beautiful.



CALLING ALL MEN - NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

Exodus 90 is a spiritual exercise for men, with over 50,000 who have completed it so far. It's a challenging 90-day period (Jan 17th to Easter Sunday 2022) of prayer and asceticism, supported by a weekly fraternal gathering. Today Exodus 90 is renewing the Church by transforming men. See www.exodus90.com to learn more. Zoom information event with testimonies on Thur Jan. 6th at 8pm. Meeting ID: 494 625 9738 Passcode: 997298



REFLECTION

The joyful season of Christmas is often so stressful that it can rob us, ironically, of our joy. This prayer can be a simple way to unplug from the chaos and recharge our spirits.

Like the silent snow that blankets the world around me, my heart, too, longs for the quiet to listen to your voice, O God. As we await the birth of your Son, I want to extract myself from the noise that hurts, and seek the quiet that heals. For in that soundless space I know that grace awaits me. Amen



SIGNS:

- At the Electric Company: "We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."
- In the front yard of a Funeral Home: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."
- At a Propane Filling Station: "Thank heaven for little grills."
- And don't forget the sign at a CHICAGO RADIATOR SHOP: "Best place in town to take a leak."

- People say Bruce Lee was the fastest martial arts fighter ever. However his brother Sudden was faster...
- One thing nobody ever talks about being an adult is now much time you debate yourself on keeping a cardboard box just because it's like a really good box...
- One minute you're young & fun and the next, you're turning down the stereo in your car to see better...



ALONE: My name is Karen Byrne I work for ALONE as a Volunteer Support Officer for CHO 2 also reflected as Counties Galway, Mayo & Roscommon. We are currently seeking **Visitation Support & Befriending Volunteers** in the Galway Diocese, as we've had a growing appeal from older people seeking support. With older people regaining their confidence and re-emerging back into society we want to be able to provide our services all across the Country and within the communities. In the online parish newsletter we have further details as well as why we are recruiting and a little more background information about ALONE. Would you be willing to provide companionship to an older person locally? There are friendships waiting on every corner. ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided. If interested please email Karen on karen.byrne@alone.ie or ☎ Karen on 0860576401



VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT
SEEKING: VISITATION SUPPORT & BEFRIENDING VOLUNTEERS

What is Support & Befriending?

ALONE's Support & Befriending service provides companionship and practical support to older people who would like extra social contact. Trained and Garda-vetted volunteers provide weekly visits or telephone calls which enable older people to feel secure and supported at home. The service provides assistance to solve everyday problems, offers friendship and companionship, and links the older person in with local events and activities through social prescribing. Through regular contact with large numbers of individuals, Telephone and Visitation volunteers enable the implementation of national strategies by communicating relevant messaging and information. ALONE's support staff are on-hand to provide the older person with further support as and when required.

What we are currently recruiting for is, Visitation Support & Befriending Volunteers.

ALONE's Visitation Support & Befriending Service provides regular visits to an older person from a volunteer who provides one-to-one companionship and practical support. Volunteers can support with practical tasks and provide information on local activities and relevant initiatives. All volunteers are trained, Garda vetted and receive support from ALONE staff.

Why are ALONE recruiting?

ALONE are recruiting volunteers in CHO 2 also reflected as Counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon; as we currently have older people in this locality who want to avail of the Visitation Support & Befriending service ALONE offer. Older People have recently been identified in these Counties and we would love to recruit volunteers in these areas to create lasting friendships. Older People are now emerging from long periods of social isolation and we want to make their re-emergence journey as easy as possible with a friend by their side.

For more information on Visitation Support & Befriending

Thank you so much for your interest in volunteering with ALONE. We really appreciate your support and can't wait to hear from you. If you would like to begin your application process, please click the following link to start your volunteering journey. <https://www.tfaforms.com/4890717> Feel free to get in touch with your local Volunteer Support Officer to learn more about the role of volunteering with ALONE, you can do so by contacting Karen Byrne VSO CHO2 086 057 6401 or karen.byrne@alone.ie

If you are an older person who is seeking support

ALONE's National Support Line is available on 0818 222 024 from 8am – 8pm, seven days a week. Contact hello@alone.ie for any further information.



General Description of ALONE

ALONE is a national organisation that strives to enable older people to age at home, safely and securely, for as long as they wish. We work with all older people, including those who are lonely, isolated, frail or ill, homeless, living in poverty, or are facing other difficulties. We provide an integrated system of Support Coordination, Practical Supports, Befriending, a variety of Phone Services, Social Prescribing, Housing with Support and Assistive Technology. We use individualised support plans, provide a point of contact for access to health, financial benefits and supports, social care, housing, transport and other arising needs using technology and other services and activities to improve physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. We have almost 3,000 volunteers throughout the Country who conduct and provide practical supports to older people, visits and phone calls, linking older people into social activity and being a companion.

Social Media Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ALONEIreland/>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/alone.ireland/?hl=en>

Twitter - https://twitter.com/ALONE_IRELAND