

GLENCORRIB & SHRULE PARISH NEWSLETTER – 31st OCTOBER 2021

Fr. Vivian Loughrey PP,
Parochial House, Ramolin, Shrule, Co. Mayo. H91, V2FK

☎ 093 31262 or email parishofshrule3@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.shruleglencorrib.com

Newsletter email: newsletter@shruleglencorrib.com

Newsletter only 086 3782156 Newsletter (Vol. 26 – 13)

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/>



31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – (YEAR B) MASS DATES, TIMES & INTENTIONS

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, SHRULE - Dedicated 1832

Sat	30 th Oct	8.00 pm	Bunny, Sean & Kathleen Pender , Shrule	47 th , 47 th & 44 th Anniv
Sun	31 st Oct	11.00 am	Nora Mulroe, her husband Thomas and son Marty Mulroe , Brodella	7 th Anniv & Deceased
Mon	1 st Nov	8.00 PM	All Saints Day – Missa Pro Populo	
Tue	2 nd Nov	8.00 PM	Novena of Masses for faithful departed starts	Day 1 of 9
Wed	3 rd Nov	9.30 am	Novena of Masses for faithful departed continues	Day 2 of 9
Thu	4 th Nov	9.30 am	Novena of Masses for faithful departed continues	Day 3 of 9
		TBC	Parish Confirmation Day for first years in secondary schools	
Fri	5 th Nov	7.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 7.00pm – 7.55pm	
		8.00 pm	Novena of Masses for faithful departed continues	Day 4 of 9
Sat	6 th Nov	8.00 pm	Novena of Masses for faithful departed continues	Day 5 of 9
Sun	7 th Nov	11.00 am	Novena of Masses for faithful departed continues	Day 6 of 9

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, GLENCORRIB - Dedicated 1876

Sat	30 th Oct	6.30 pm	Bill Donoghue , Glencorrib & Ballynalty	18 th Anniv
			Noel Meyler , Glencorrib & Wexford	Month's Mind
Sun	31 st Oct	9.30 am	Special Intention Mass	
			Frances & Christy O'Connor , New St. Ballinrobe	8 th & 32 nd Anniv
		3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 3pm to 4pm	
Mon	1 st Nov	6.30 PM	All Saints Day – Missa Pro Populo	
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		3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 3pm to 4pm	

NOVEMBER 2021		SHRULE	GLENCORRIB	GLENCORRIB CHURCH Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also take place on Sundays: 3-4pm Drop in anytime. All are welcome.
EUCCHARISTIC	Vigil	Bernie Lydon	Mairead Geraghty	
MINISTERS	Morning	Sheila Ronaldson	Geraldine Donoghue	
LAY READERS	Vigil	Sean McGuinness	Susan Mohan	
MINISTRY	Morning	John Heneghan	Mary McNally	

NOVEMBER NOVENA FOR THE HOLY SOULS: Masses for the Novena for the Holy Souls will start on Tuesday 2nd November and continue until Thursday 11th November. Details of times of Masses are as above. Special envelopes where the names of those people wish to remember and pray for during the Novena of Masses for the Holy Souls and throughout the month of November can be found in the parish box of envelopes and also at the back of both churches. These envelopes can be placed in the boxes provided or given up at collection time. May the souls of our faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.



PARISH CONFIRMATION 2021 – PART 2: 18 pupils from our parish who are in first year in secondary schools will be Confirmed at St. Joseph's Church, Shrule on Thursday next 4th November. May HIS wisdom guide you, HIS strength uphold you, HIS care protect you and HIS love enfold you. Amen.



FALL BACK Masses from and on Sunday 31st Oct will be by wintertime. Please turn back your clocks from 2am to 1am on Sunday 31st October. We'll be turning clocks back this weekend. Gaining an extra hour in 2021 is like getting a bonus track on a Yoko Ono album. ☺

NOEL MEYLER – RIP – GLENCORRIB - 1945 - 2021

Noel Meyler was born in Sigginstown, Wexford 24th May 1945. One of 10 children including 2 sets of twins. As you can imagine it was a very busy household. He moved to London at the tender young age of 16 to join family and worked hard as a carpenter building a life for himself and soon got into the swing of London life.

Through family, Noel met Mary Shaughnessy, a young girl from Ballynalty, Glencorrib, and from that day he was hooked. During the week he worked hard on the building sites. This was where he made many lifelong friends who he stayed in touch with. At the weekends they danced around the dance halls of London without a care in the world. Good times.

In 1968 they were married and then came the three children Garry, Denise and Noel Peter who they both loved and adored. Then the family tree grew and they were blessed with 9 grandchildren. Sam, Hannah, Isabel, Aimee, Jacob, Molly, Lilly, Nathan and Max. Gaga Noel was always full of fun and stories.

In 2007 Noel and Mary made a new life for themselves moving back to Glencorrib after 42 years in London. As the years went on they had their challenges but faced everything head on as a family.

Through thick and thin Noel was a constant source of strength to all of his family and friends despite not being well himself. He never let us know how hard things were for him. He just always had a reassuring smile and said everything was OK.

My dad was one in a million. A kind hearted, generous man who loved his family with all his heart. He was the best husband, father, grandad, uncle and friend anyone could ask for and we will miss him terribly.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the extended family, friends and neighbours who called, sent cards and messages of condolence. We appreciate the kind words spoken about Noel. They have given us strength and comfort in this difficult time. We would like to give special thanks to Fr Vivian and James Carey for their help, support and guidance through these emotional days. Also we would like to thank all those friends and neighbours who lined the roads from Glencorrib Church to Killursa Cemetery, his final resting place. These tributes leave a special place in our hearts. Rest in peace Dad xxxx

Obituary courtesy and photo of Denise and the Meyler family



FIRST COMMUNION 'DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME' PROGRAM.

Dear parishioners, this weekend we will begin a parish based First Communion program called 'Do This in Memory of Me' for those wishing to make their First Holy Communion in 2022. There will be a number of Masses throughout the year where children and families will participate in the liturgy in various ways. This weekend launches the program with 'Mass of Enrolment' where children and families are introduced to the faith community, and the faith community are invited to pray for these children and their families. I would also like to introduce you to two characters 'Kath' & 'Qumen'. One part of the program is that these characters explain to the children, various aspects of the Mass so they can get a better understanding of the Mass.

I know you will give warm welcome to these children and their families, and I invite you to remember them in your prayers throughout the year. Thank you.

LEARNING ABOUT THE MASS WITH KATHY & QUMEN - WHY GO TO MASS?

When you were baptised you became a member of God's family and we call that the Church. You might think the church is just a building, but the Church is also the name we give to the people who gather in the building. Without the people, Church would be just a building. One of the most important things we do as a family is go to Mass. There is a special name for all the people who gather at Mass. They are called the Assembly. Everyone in the Assembly helps in the Mass to make the Mass a celebration of God's love. People participate by joining in the prayers, standing, kneeling and sitting at the appropriate times, singing, listening, sharing, giving and receiving. With all these actions, we are all part of the action!



CONGRATULATIONS TO SHRULE GLENCORRIB UNDER 14 GAA TEAM WHO WERE VICTORIOUS IN THE MAYO U14B COUNTY FINAL

in Ballinrobe on Thursday last 28th October: Shrule/Glencorrib 4-11 (23) Parke Keellogues Crimlin 2-15 (21) We salute and congratulate them on winning the county final. A tremendous achievement for the team and brings great honour to the club. We also thank the managers, coaches, parents and all the volunteers who helped the young lads in training and transport over the past few months. It was all worthwhile wasn't it! Unfortunately space is scarce this week in the printed newsletter so we have to put the winners photo in our online newsletter

HUMOUR: I was robbed at a petrol station in Galway yesterday. I called the Guards and they asked me if I knew who did it. Yes, I said, Pump number 6.

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
Lynott	Mary	Ballynalty	30/10/1922	80	Killursa
Lindeman	Elizabeth	Cloonbanane	30/10/1978	39	Donaghpatrick
Murphy	Brigid	Glencorrib	31/10/1930	19	Shrule
Hennelly	Catherine	Glencorrib	31/10/1965	89	Killursa
Garvey	John	Toorard	31/10/1966	75	Moyne
Donoghue	William (Bill)	Glencorrib	31/10/2003	83	Moyne
Biggins	Patrick	Rostaff	01/11/1916	75	Moyne
O'Sullivan	Edward	Parks	01/11/1926	90	Killursa
Nolan	Mary	Cloonbanane	01/11/1937	83	Shrule
Devanney	John (Jnr)	Cahernabruck	01/11/1967	50	Shrule
Tedders	Bernard	Dun Laoghaire	01/11/1989	61	Shrule
Garvey	Dominick	Kilroe	01/11/2000	75	Killursa
McHugh	Kate	Ballycushion	01/11/2020	99	Kilmaine
Reddington	John	Gortbrack	00/11/1981	79?	Killursa
Naughton	John	Rostaff	02/11/1931	75	Moyne
Biggins	Mary	Mochorra	02/11/1950	93	Shrule
Sheridan	Pat	Mohology	02/11/1964	84	Shrule
Donohue	Maureen	Old Ballynalty	02/11/2011	79	Moyne
Flynn	Rose	Moyne	03/11/1945	60	Cloughanover
Moughan	John	Cahernabruck	03/11/1968	48	Shrule
Hyland	Teresa	Brodella	03/11/1991	82	Shrule
Gannon	John	Cahermaculick	03/11/1996	89	Shrule
Ward	Agnes	Mochorra	03/11/1999	82	Shrule
Brennan	Alice	Churchfields	03/11/2014	47	Buncrana
Hyland	Michael	Ballisnahina	03/11/2020		Moyne
Moughan	Patrick	Brodella	04/11/1923	73	Shrule
Moughan	Patrick	Brodella	04/11/1923	73	Shrule
Sullivan	Carolus	Parks	04/11/1940	65	Killursa
Corbett	Patrick	Scardaune	04/11/1954	69	Shrule
Ryan	Edward	Dalgan	04/11/1972	81	Shrule
Flaherty	Sheila	Brodella	04/11/1995	72	Shrule
Burke	Willie	Gortbrack	04/11/2013	78	Killursa
Monaghan	Mary	Tubberkeerane	05/11/1916	86	Shrule
Tallon	Mary	Shrule	05/11/1917	72	Shrule
Biggins	Patrick	Ballynalty	05/11/1921	58	Killursa
Langan	Martin	Shrule	05/11/1928	96	Shrule
Dooley	Francis	Cloonbanane	05/11/1933		Cloughanover
Grehan	Margaret	Shrule	05/11/1946	71	Shrule
Canavan	Margaret	Glassvalley	05/11/1951	70	Killursa
Monahan	Michael	Tubberkeerane	05/11/1969	65	Shrule
Martyn	Mary	New Ballynalty	05/11/1970	41	Moyne
Ruane	Delia	Ballycurrin	05/11/1991	87	Killursa
Hennelly	Paddy	Glencorrib	05/11/1996	81	Killursa
Reilly	Jack	Dalgan Park	05/11/1998	78	Shrule
Biggins	Denis	Brodella	06/11/1938	61	Shrule
Keady	Patrick	Carheen	06/11/1944	85	Shrule

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE WHO PASSED AWAY DURING THE YEAR

Michael Hyland, Ballisnahina (November 2020)
Pdraig Derrig, Gurteen (November 2020)
Kathleen Robinson, Ramolin (December 2020)
Pamela Corbett, Kinlough (December 2020)
Mary Donohue, Glencorrib (December 2020)
Seamus Davin, Dalgan Park (January 2021)
Frank Mortimer, Shrule (January 2021)
Noel Coleman, Cahermaculick (January 2021)
Jack Walsh, Brodella (February 2021)
Michael Sweeney, Brodella (March 2021)
Paddy Hyland, Brodella (March 2021)

Fionnuala Meenegan, Churchpark (Mar 2021)
Albert Conway, Killiney (April 2021)
Tony Heneghan, Dalgan Road (May 2021)
Cormac Garvey, Gortbrack (June 2021)
Seamus Lohan, Dalgan Road (July 2021)
Bridie Murphy, Ballycurrin (July 2021)
Mary Ryan, Dalgan (July 2021)
Martin Murphy, Mochara (September 2021)
Martin Molloy, Toorard (September 2021)
Noel Meyler, Glencorrib (September 2021)
Dick Cahill, Cloonbanane (October 2021)

And all your loved ones, family, relatives and friends who passed away during the year.

UPDATE ON PARISH PUBLIC LITURGIES & COVID19 PROCEDURES:

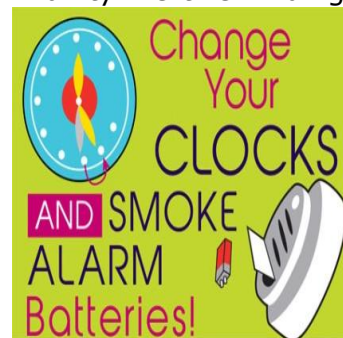
October 22nd was the much herald date where restrictions would be eased. However, as figures show, Covid19 continues to remain a danger and to ensure society can continue functioning as normal as possible, certain restrictions remain in place. While the vaccine has allowed society to largely reopen, increasing numbers along with hospitalizations requires all of us to remain vigilant. It is important to be especially conscious of health care workers who now face into a second Covid19 winter. In this regard, as Churches now return to full capacity, please note the following in regard to public liturgies:

- Face masks are to be continued to be worn in both churches.
- Please use hand sanitizer as you enter/leave the church.
- Hand sanitizing at communion time is now optional & available at sanitizing stations. Clergy & EM's are asked to please remain at their designed station to avoid creating confusion and people congregating. It also ensures the one-way system operates correctly. Those receiving are to maintain 1 metre distance from other groupings. If a person is unable to approach clergy or EM, please notify clergy/EM via relative. Clergy/EM will then give Holy Communion to person when they finish at their station.
- As churches have now returned to full capacity, ushers will no longer direct people to seats. It should be noted however, WHO continues to recommend 1 metre distance between pods. Pews in Glencorrib are currently spaced 1 metre. In Shrule, to maintain 1 metre distance would imply using every second pew. Maintaining of 1 metre distance is at the distraction of people, and not the responsibility of ushers.
- The 'Sign of Peace' will not to be used in liturgies.
- Collection boxes will continue to be used at church doors for weekly, dues and special collections to avoid handling & using baskets across various pods.
- Mass leaflet & newsletter will continue to be distributed by ushers and will be available at church doors after Mass. Please dispose of after use.
- Churches continue to be sanitized on a regular basis, and those attending public liturgies in Shrule are asked to exit via side aisles to avoid congregating in centre aisle.
- Ventilation is considered a key prevention component of Covid19 – for this reason, doors of both churches remain fully open throughout the week and closed only for liturgies. Heating in both churches as a result is curtailed to limited times.

We have moved into a new phase against Covid 19 with a strong emphasis on personal responsibility and mutual respect and awareness of how our actions can/do impact the health/safety of all, including ourselves. We have been extremely fortunate in both Shrule & Glencorrib with the high level of support, help and cooperation from volunteers to the public in keeping our churches safe for everyone over the past 20 months. We can show our appreciation of the effort made by people in doing our part.

SHRULE GLENCORRIB COMMUNITY ALERT REMINDER: Around this time of the year, I'd always get a friendly phone call from Seamie Lohan, chairman of Shrule Glencorrib Community Alert reminding me to mention a few things in the newsletter in relation to the evenings getting darker and to keep an eye on the seniors in our community, our neighbours or anyone who is living alone. I, for one and you all will agree that he had great empathy for the senior citizens and those living alone in the parish. While I have the privilege of producing this newsletter, I hope to continue his special notices that he would write leading up to an event or something that concerned him. Rest in peace, our good friend, Seamie.

- Folks, it's that time of year again where the evenings are drawing in, our community alert are asking us to keep a neighbourly eye for our senior citizens and also anyone who is living alone especially in these Covid times.
- With the time changing this weekend, the committee advises you to change the battery in all smoke alarms on the same day as that way you will remember when they were replaced
- Solas Family Resource Centre in Headford provides a "Meals on Wheels" ☎ 093 36446.
- Please remember to wear your Hi-Vis jacket when out walking, jogging or cycling and if you are cycling make sure your bicycle lights are in working order. It's important to be safe and be seen.
- Also think about getting good outdoor lightings installed or replaced. It's a necessity for the winter evenings ahead. "The scheme is all about us working together for the good of the community."



A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR:

It's finally the end of October! which means, all of the cobwebs and dust in my house just became Halloween decorations.

EXERCISE WITH SALLY: Every Wednesday evening @ 7.30pm in Shrule Community Centre. Body weight exercises for all fitness levels. €10 per class pay as you go. Please bring own mat and water bottle.

DANCEFIT WITH SALLY: Every Thursday evening @ 7.30pm in Shrule Community Centre for the month of November. €10 per class. More information / details, please see our online parish newsletter

SHRULE IFA - AGM

The 2021 AGM takes place on **Wednesday 3rd November** in Cradock's Lounge, Shrule from **7pm to 8pm**. Guest speaker is Roy O'Brien

(1) EXERCISE WITH SALLY.

Body weight exercises for all fitness levels @ Shrle Community Center every Wednesday evening 19:30. €10 per class pay as you go. Please bring own mat and water bottle.

DANCEFIT WITH SALLY

BOOGIE THE WEIGHT AWAY



Shrle Community Centre

(2) DANCEFIT WITH SALLY.

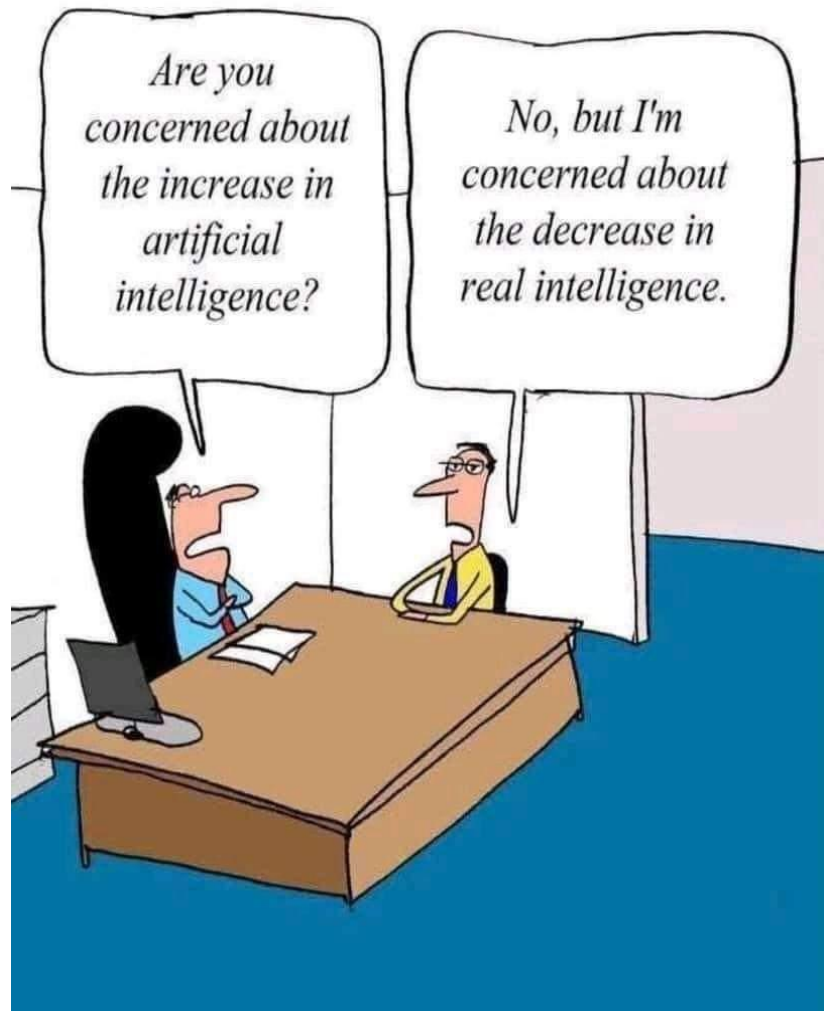
Every Thursday evening 19:30 for the month of November. Shrle Community Center. €10 per class.

Week 1 (5/11) = C'est La Vie;

Week 2 (12/11) = Cico Cico 2;

Week 3 (19/11) = Ciki Ciki Bam Bam

Week 4 (26/11) = Boot Scooting Boogie



CONGRATULATIONS TO SHRLE GLENCORRIB GAA UNDER 14 TEAM WHO WERE VICTORIOUS IN THE MAYO U14B COUNTY FINAL in Ballinrobe on Thursday last 28th Oct 2021. With a scoreline of Shrle/Glencorrib 4-11 (23) Parke Keellogues Crimlin 2-15 (21) in the County Final on Thursday last 28th October in Ballinrobe GAA pitch. We salute and congratulate them on winning the county final. A tremendous achievement for a young team and brings great honour to the club. We also thank the managers, coaches, parents and all the volunteers who helped the young lads in training and transport over the past few months. It was all worthwhile wasn't it!

TIME TO THINK

It was Wednesday last 27th October 2021 as I looked out my kitchen window and saw a lonesome butterfly fluttering outside against the window pane while dodging a nearby cobweb in probably his last flight of the year. Sadly, they only live from 2 to 4 weeks, you know. It reminded me of a poem I had read previously by Pat Ingoldsby, yes the same man of TV & Radio fame who still etches out poems almost on a daily basis on Facebook. *Kevin*

OH DEAR

The main thing
that a butterfly
would really love to do
is make a sound
even a tiny one.
But no,
it zigzags around
all over the place
bumping its shadow against walls
and wooden surfaces
without the slightest hint
of a noise.
Even when it sighs,
there is no sound at all.
Now what could be sadder than that?

Pat, October 2021, Pat Ingoldsby, My poems come out to play



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

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS: **Shrule - Parochial House** every Tuesdays 10.30am to 12 noon and **Glencorrib - Curates House (Sunny Days)** every Wednesday 10.30am to 12 noon

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.

IRISH DANCING CLASSES are continuing in **Glencorrib Community Centre every Friday from 3 to 4pm**. Classes are been taught by World Champion Roisin Naughton T.C.R.G. All Children are welcome. Enrolments are been taken by 📞 Roisin on 087-1133730.

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"

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:
Shrule - Parochial House every Tuesdays 10.30am to 12 noon and **Glencorrib - Curates House (Sunny Days)** every Wednesday 10.30am to 12 noon.

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, Shrul 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

o **Shrulle Church:** Bank: Ulster Bank Ireland DAC
Account Name: Shrulle Church Finance Committee:
IBAN IE10ULSB98525010138070 and BIC: ULSBIE2DXXX

o **Glencorrib Church:** Bank: Ulster Bank Ireland DAC
Account Name: Shrulle 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.

AUTUMN DUES – THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

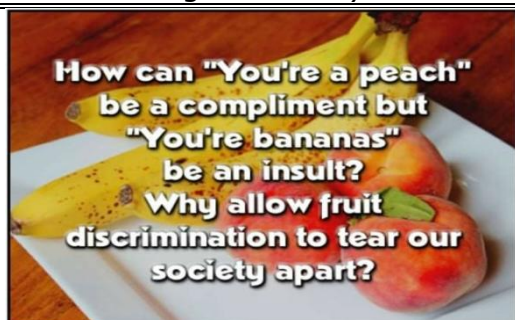
Autumn Dues envelopes are now available at the back of the church for those who do not use the envelope system. If you are using the envelopes available at church, and are planning to apply for charity tax rebate, please write your name and envelope number on envelope.

Weekly offertory collection is for the upkeep and running of the parish. It does not form any part of the priest's income or salary. Thank You in advance for your continued support and generosity in these difficult and challenging times.

NEWS JUST IN: Scientists have today announced that they have invented a car that runs off of parsley. They say next they are going to try a train that will run on Thyme. ☺

I OFTEN WONDER WHO PETE IS AND WHY WE DO THINGS FOR HIS SAKE...

QUOTE: "A SMART man makes a mistake, learns from it, and never makes that mistake again. BUT A WISE MAN finds a smart man and learns from him how to avoid the mistake altogether" Roy H. Williams



A policeman spotted an elderly woman knitting whilst driving
He shouted pullover
She said no a scarf

SAMHAIN - AND A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY: About a thousand years before the birth of Christ, the ancient Celts celebrated New Year's Eve on the 31st of October not the 31st of December! The festival was called Samhain and it was believed that the veil between the spirit world and the human plane was so thin that spirits could return to the "land of the living" for 24 hours!

These spirits expected life to welcome them and to look the same as before, but the living were terrified of the dead returning and their fear propelled them to scare these spirits away! This is where the scary masks and face paintings originated!

The living dressed up to frighten away the spirits! How ironic is that?!

Long before the days of pumpkins, turnips were used to carve out scary faces to frighten away spirits from entering your home!!!

Samhain was also a huge favourite of the Fae (the fairies - known as 'Faeries' in Celtic lore). It was a time that the Fae, would test the humans to see who was worthy of their support or their wrath... they dressed as beggars and went from door to door begging! Anyone who indulged them won their favour - and could expect good luck; anyone who dismissed them, attracted some pesky, mischievousness into their lives! At the very least they could expect a bed full of prickly thorns!!!

Have you a treat? Or do you want a trick?

The Celts also had a deep belief in mysticism and powerful beings in the village like 'an bean feasa' (the wise woman) and Druids and Celtic priests. They believed these individuals could talk to the spirits from beyond the veil and make predictions about the future. Druids would build huge sacred bonfires, and the people would gather and offer sacrifices to the Celtic deities in the hope of winning favour and good luck. Despite your poverty, it was considered inauspicious not to put an offering into the sacred fire. These celebrations and fires were strongly connected with predictions and fortune telling. So many people took massive comfort in knowing what the future held. (Many today, still flock to those they believe can predict the future). When the celebration was over, the locals re-lit the hearth fires in their own homes from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

Some forty years after the birth of Christ, the Roman Empire conquered the Celts and at Samhain, the Romans celebrated their harvest! This is how celebration and play became part of the festival of Samhain, and also how apples became one of the symbols of Halloween as it was the symbol of the Roman festival 'Pomona'. The apple was a symbolism of the fruit of their labour! The Romans brought Christianity (the leaders of the Catholic Church still reside in Rome) and an iron fist desire to stomp out Pagan rituals and anything not in alignment with the "new" faith.

After some 600 years of people refusing to give up their Celtic festivals, the Pope (leader of the Catholic faith), decreed the 1st of November to be known forever more as "All Saints' Day", in a bid to strip the traditional ways from the people by replacing it with something new.

We must remember that some Celts were indeed afraid of the spirit world and without their druids to decipher the messages and advise them, many went along with the new Christian ways. Many others however just celebrated both the saint's day and the spirits of Samhain, refusing to let the old die and not wishing to offend the newcomers at the same time. There are two sides to every story, Christianity seen many of the old Celtic ways as barbaric and wanted to show the people a new way. Whatever you believe, it would be another 200 years before Christianity would triumph over Celtic ways.

In the 9th Century, the Pope allowed people to dress up as saints and holy figures and go door to door offering prayers for the family in return for treats or ale! November 2nd became known as "All Souls Day" - another attempt to satisfy the Celtic need to honour the dead and a last ditch attempt to oust the old Pagan ways of Samhain that were refusing to die.

By the 16th Century, Samhain traditions were so faded that the festival name was rarely used and was instead known as "Old Hallows" (a religious name from middle England meaning "all-saints") - the prominent colours of Old Hallows became Orange and Black - orange for the colour of the leaves and harvest, and black giving a nod to the ancient festival celebrating the death of a season, a year, a person.

Old Hallows Eve eventually became known as Halloween's Eve and later Halloween.

By this time, many Irish were travelling across the pond to America and restarting their traditions there. Pumpkins were far more plentiful in the United States than turnips and eventually the pumpkin overtook the turnip as the main symbol of Halloween! By the 19th Century, America was flooded with Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine and the Irish traditions took on a whole new resurgence in the new land.

In the 20th Century, the scary undertones of death and fear was deemed as psychologically damaging to children by many educated academics and parents were advised to focus only on the pumpkins and fun side of the festival... and less on the whole scary 'death' bit!

Like everything that is forbidden, it becomes very tempting and of course those scary themes refused to die! In recent years they have become more popular and more inventive than ever! However the reasons why it was used in the first place may have been lost.

As the word 'Halloween' is historically a religious name, those who do not conform to any church started to resurrect the original name of the festival, and in recent years the word "Samhain" is back in common use.

All the celebrations that go with the ancient ways of our ancestors are becoming more and more popular with time. Whatever you call it - may you enjoy it

