

GLENCORRIB & SHRULE PARISH NEWSLETTER – 9th JANUARY 2022

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 – 26)

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/>



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR C) MASS DATES, TIMES & INTENTIONS

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, SHRULE - Dedicated 1832

Sat	8 th Jan	8.00 pm	Bert Churchward , Gurteen	22 nd Anniv
Sun	9 th Jan	11.00 am	Frank Mortimer , Shrule	1 st Anniv
Tue	11 th Jan	9.30 am	Una Martyn , Shrule and her brother Josie McDonnell , Dalgan	RIP 24/11/2021 RIP 29/11/2021
Wed	12 th Jan	9.30 am 12-noon	Nora Kelly (Née Walsh) Athlone & Headford John Joe Walsh , (RIP 09/01/2022) Kinlough	RIP 10/11/2021 Funeral Mass
Thu	13 th Jan	9.30 am	Mary Langan , Laragan	RIP 11/12/2021
Fri	14 th Jan	7.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 7.00pm to 7.55pm	
Fri	14 th Jan	8.00 pm	Seamus Lohan , Dalgan Road	12/07/2021
Sat	15 th Jan	8.00 pm	Paul Reilly , Killamonagh, Caherlistrane	RIP 06/12/2021
Sun	16 th Jan	11.00 am	Noel Coleman , Cahermaculick Harry Heneghan , Dalgan Road Maisie Kelleghan , Carramore, Shrule Special Intention	1 st Anniv 16 th Anniv RIP 16/12/2021 Special Intention

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, GLENCORRIB - Dedicated 1876

Sat	8 th Jan	6.30 pm	Jim Toher and DM of the Toher family , Glencorrib & Ballynalty	28 th Anniv & deceased
Sun	9 th Jan	9.30 am	Mary Kelly (nee O'Malley) Ballynew, Ballinrobe and her parents Tom & Annie O'Malley	1 st Anniv & deceased
		3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 3pm to 4pm	
Wed	12 th Jan	10.00 am	Gloria Iglesia , Bacolod city, Philippines	RIP 02/10/2021
Fri	14 th Jan	6.30 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 6.30pm to 6.55pm	
		7.00 pm	Mark Halloran , Claran	RIP 24/12/2021
Sat	15 th Jan	6.30 pm	Frances Mohan , Glencorrib	2 nd Anniv
Sun	16 th Jan	9.30 am	John & Annie Newell & DM Newell family , Kilroe Robert O'Sullivan , The Parks	39 th & 30 th Anniv & deceased 20 th Anniv
		3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 3pm to 4pm	

CHURCH ROTAS FOR JANUARY 2022

MINISTRY	SHRULE	GLENCORRIB
LAY READERS – Vigil Mass	Martin Meeneghan	Brid Garvey
LAY READERS – Morning Mass	Breege Walsh	Eleanor Hennelly
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – Vigil Mass	Colette Hughes	Pat Lombard
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - Morning	John Heneghan	Petrina Joyce
USHERS	Dalgan Rd & Cahreen	Glencorrib A
ALTAR SOCIETY	Ramolin	Glencorrib B

- Each church has an altar society that is divided into areas with responsibility for 1 month for the flowers.
- Ushers continue to provide valuable support and assistance, so please continue supporting your community at this time.
- If you wish to volunteer for any of the above ministries, please call into the sacristy after Mass or during parish office opening hours or by email parishofshrule3@gmail.com for more info.

SUNDAY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT resumes in Glencorrib Church on Sunday 9th January @ 3pm. Please feel free to drop in for the hour or 30 mins, 15 mins or 10 mins. **OUR CHURCHES** are open every day not just Sundays. Drop in for some quiet time, prayer and reflection. God wants full custody not just weekend visits.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD: The baptism of Jesus was an extraordinary religious experience for him. Something happened that was a major step forward for Jesus in coming to know that he was the beloved Son of God. We all have events in our lives that are milestones along the road of discovering who we are. **In 2021, 19 families had the privilege of welcoming their child into God's family too.** We welcome them all into our Christian community and congratulate them and their parents on this wonderful occasion: Sienna **Lennon**, Caitlin **Monaghan**, Jordan **McGuinness**, Michaela **Morley**, Ella **Brogan**, Cillian **Gavin**, Iarlaith **McDonagh**, Ryleigh **Madden**, Leon **Mohan**, Samuel **Mohan**, Farrah **Hallinan**, Aiva **Petkevicate**, Elips **Rimeika**, Samuel **Chambers**, Mia **Biggins**, Samuel **Murphy**, James **O'Toole**, Emma **Pergande** and Adam **Daly**. *Some of these young Christians were baptized in 2020*



PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS ENROLMENT 2022/2023

GLENCORRIB NS is now accepting enrolment applications for September '22. Applications will close on **Friday 25th March**. Enrolment forms and all other information can be found on the "Enrolment" tab of our school website www.glencorribns.ie
Thank you.

SHRULE NS NEWS. Enrolment for the school year 2022/2023 is now open for St. Joseph's National School, Shrule. Please email office@shrulens.ie for further information. Thank you.
<http://www.shrulens.ie/>

KILROE NS Enrolment for the school year 2022/2023 is now open. Please email the school kilroeschool@gmail.com for further information. Thank you.
<https://www.kilroens.ie/>

GLENCORRIB KILROE COMMUNITY WALKWAY OPERATION TRANSFORMATION WALKS 2022

Join in for the 5km walks at Glencorrib Kilroe Community Walkway starting on Sunday next 16th January 2022 @ 11 am. For 6 to 8 weeks. Book a place through Eventbrite or WhatsApp. <https://www.eventbrite.ie/.../5-km-walks-operation...> or WhatsApp 087 9627408. ***Spaces Limited**



Christmas is over and I'm introducing new restrictions.

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

There are still a few Christmas Due envelopes 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 Shrule post office as well as donate online. Further information is found on the page attached to the Parish Envelopes 2022

childminder

CHILDMINDER WANTED to look after 2 kids - 3 year old & 1 year old, Monday to Friday in their own home. Flexible hours.
☎ / Text Elaine on 0872399745

BE AT PEACE

Be at peace with your neighbours and love them as yourself.
Be at peace with your family for there lies your greatest wealth.
Be at peace with your friends for friendships cannot be bought.
Be at peace with your enemies for this is what Christ taught.
Be at peace with yourself, and all things shall be well.
Be at peace with God, and within you HE will dwell.

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR

ME: Alexa, can you check my bank balance, and let me know which Apple product I can afford?
ALEXA: Apple Juice.

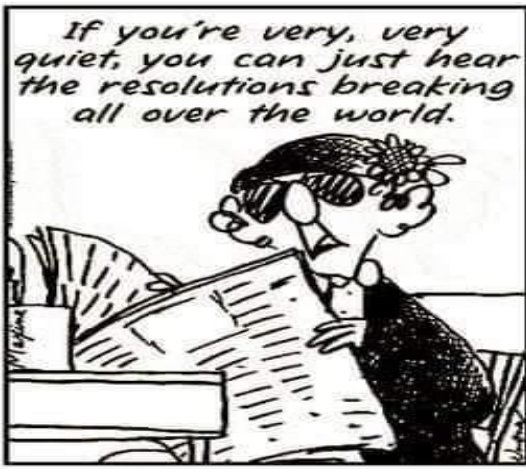
QUOTE: "When you are hanging on by a thread, make sure it's the hem of HIS garment. Amen"

QUOTE: "When God blesses you financially, don't raise your standard of living, Raise your standard of giving."

**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
Murphy	Mary	New Ballynalty	08/01/1925	80	Shrule
Harte	James	Mount Henry	08/01/1960	69	Killursa
Hare	John	Rostaff	08/01/1963	78	Moyne
Keady	Mary	Dalgan Road	08/01/1988	42	Shrule
Martyn	Sarah	Wakefield	08/01/1991	81	Shrule
Flaherty	Frank	Brodella	08/01/1996	47	Shrule
O'Neill	Eugene	Clifden/Dalgan	08/01/2011		Shrule
Davin	Seamus	Dalgan Park	08/01/2021	72	Shrule
Hennelly	Patrick	Glencorrib	09/01/1934	82	Killursa
Gallagher	Michael	Dereen (Kilmaine)	09/01/1939	53	Shrule
Laffey	Patrick	Mohology	09/01/1954	89	Shrule
McGaugh	John	Gortatubber	09/01/1977	71	Killursa
Sweeney	Thomas	Ballycurrin	09/01/1994	74	Killursa
Mohan	Michael	Ballynalty	09/01/1999	74	Moyne
Derrig	Anthony(Tony)	St. Mary's Road	09/01/2004	55	Shrule
Murphy	Joe (Spud)	Dalgan Road	09/01/2018	90	Shrule
Joyce	Mary E.	Parks	10/01/1921	64	Killursa
Tedders	Michael	Shrule	10/01/1940	24	Shrule
Carty	James	Carheens	10/01/1960	82	Shrule
Gavin	Richard	Toorard	10/01/1970	33	Shrule
Mulroe	Martin	Scardaune	10/01/1970	85	Shrule
Quinn	Joseph	Scardaune	10/01/1972	70	Donaghpatrick
Burke	Francis	Cloonbanane	10/01/1987	66	Shrule
Kavanagh	John	Cahernabruck	10/01/2014	92	Shrule
Buckley	Eamonn	Renmore & Kille	10/01/2017	83	Galway
Donohue	John	Ballynalty	11/01/1916	81	Moyne
Gannon	James	New Ballynalty	11/01/1922	82	Cross
Molloy	Elizabeth	Glasbally	11/01/1925	25	Killursa
Corbett	Thomas	Ramolin	11/01/1929	76	Shrule
Prendergast	Margaret	Shrule	11/01/1959	83	Shrule
Egan	May	Shrule	11/01/1998	93	Shrule
Mortimer	Frank	Shrule	11/01/2021	71	Shrule
Mc Donagh	Sara	Ramolin	12/01/1916	69	Shrule
Burke	Brigid	Cloonbanane	12/01/1926	27	Shrule
Gibbons	Catherine Ann M.	Shrule	12/01/1965	2 mths.	Shrule
Craddock	Nancy	Wakefield	12/01/1970	52	Shrule
Mullin	Michael	Shrule	12/01/1977	77	Shrule
Ryan	Patrick(Pa)	Gurteen	12/01/2006	79	Shrule
Gallagher	Helen	Shrule	13/01/1922	49	Shrule
Moughan	Brigid	Brodella	13/01/1923	83	Shrule
McGath	Thomas	Ballycurrin	13/01/1932	76	Killursa
O'Connor	Catherine	Ower	13/01/1932	99	Killursa
Garvey	Margaret	Toorard	13/01/1976	68	Moyne
Hennelly	Nora	Glencorrib	14/01/1932	73	Killursa
Murphy	Margaret	Mochorra	14/01/1968	92	Shrule
Joyce	Peter	Glassvalley	14/01/1970	94	Killursa
Coleman	Noel	Cahermaculick	14/01/2021	82	Shrule
Garvey	John	Gortbrack	15/01/1952	55	Killursa
Garvey	James	Boula	15/01/1968	86	Killursa
Sheridan	Willie	Ballisnahina	15/01/1992	81	Shrule
Naughton	Teresa	Rostaff	15/01/2011	79	Moyne
Gavin	John	Cruchfadha	16/01/1929	73	Shrule
Burke	Julia	Boula	16/01/1941	53	Cloughanover
Keleghan	Mrs.	Dereen	16/01/1941		Shrule
Donohue	Mary	Ballynalty	16/01/1969	88	Moyne
O'Dowd	Delia	Cahernabruck	16/01/1991	79	Shrule
Craddock	Jack	Shrule	16/01/1998	87	Shrule



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.

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:

Shrulle Parochial House
Tuesdays 10.30am to 12-noon
Glencorrib Curates House (Sunny Days) Wednesdays 10.30am to 12-noon.

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.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER

to open and close Shrulle church at the weekends only. Please contact Fr. Vivian if you can help out. Thank you.

PHYSICAL EXERCISES FOR THE NEW YEAR

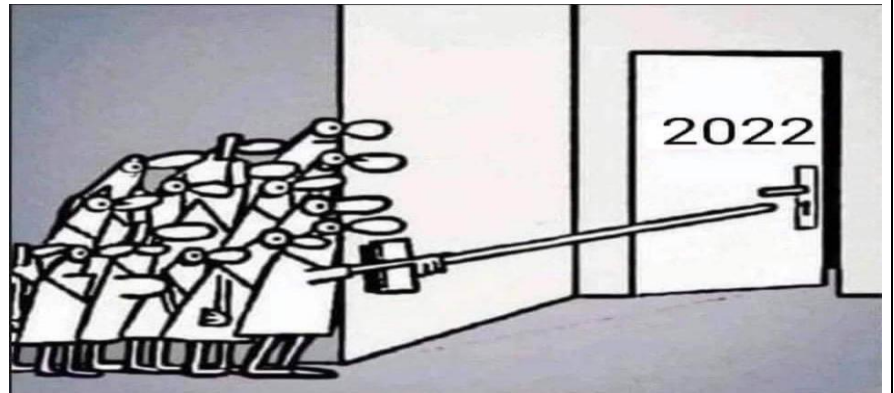
Physical exercise is good for you. I know that I should do it daily, but my body doesn't want me to do too much, so I have worked out this program of strenuous activities that do not require physical exercise. You are invited to use my program without charge.

- 01) Beating around the bush
 - 02) Jumping to conclusions
 - 03) Climbing the walls
 - 04) Swallowing my pride
 - 05) Throwing my weight around
 - 06) Dragging my heels
 - 07) Pushing my luck
 - 08) Hitting the nail on the head
 - 09) Bending over backwards
 - 10) Jumping on the bandwagon
 - 11) Running around in circles
 - 12) Climbing the ladder of success
 - 13) Pulling out the stops
 - 14) Going over the edge
 - 15) Picking up the pieces
- Whew! What a workout! I think I'll exercise my caution now and sit down.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Earth is 4.6 billion years old.

Let's scale that to 46 years. We have been here for 4 hours. Our industrial revolution began 1 minute ago. In that minute, we have destroyed more than 50% of the world's forests. This isn't sustainable.

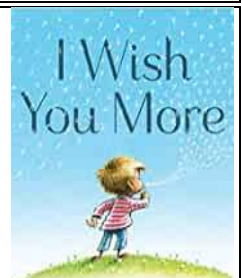


CALLING ALL MEN - NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

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 (17th January 2022 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.

I WISH YOU

- I wish you health so you may enjoy each day in comfort.
- I wish you the love of friends and family and peace within your heart.
- I wish you the beauty of nature that you may enjoy the work of God.
- I wish you the wisdom to choose priorities for those things that really matter in life.
- I wish you generosity so you may share all good things that come to you.
- I wish you happiness and joy and blessings for the New Year.
- I wish you the best of everything that you so well deserve.



TUAM PREPARES FOR NEW ARCHBISHOP: Best wishes to Bishop Francis Duffy who will be installed as the new Archbishop of Tuam in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Tuam on Sunday 9th January 2022 @ 2.30pm. Archbishop Francis succeeds Archbishop Michael Neary who was appointed Archbishop of Tuam on 17 January 1995. The ceremony will be broadcast live on Galway Bay FM beginning at 2.20pm

WORD IN YOUR EAR...

So another Christmas has come and gone. The advertisements are now turning our eyes and imaginations to summer. However, all our dreams and expectations were tempered this year by Covid and its variants. But we still try to look forward, to anticipate that time when this damn plague will be no more! But, irrespective of Covid, we're still great people for looking forward. Having just dispensed with the January sales, anticipation of the Summer holidays will be our next 'staging-post'.



We need to look forward, because today's excitement never quite meets yesterday's expectations. We court happiness in a thousand shapes, and the faster we follow it, the swifter it flies from us. The myth of the gold at the end of the rainbow. When we come near to it, either we fall short of it, or it falls short of our anticipation. It's hard to say which of these is the greatest disappointment. Our hopes are usually bigger than enjoyment can deliver.

People who address depression and addiction, like the Samaritans and Simon, tell us that the immediate post-Christmas period is their busiest time of the year. And God knows, we had our fair share of darkness for the last two years! Could any of us have any idea of the disaster that was about to descend upon us two years ago? Every aspect of our domestic, social and economic life ground to a halt.

Perhaps we're all left with a sense of anticlimax, a sense of unfocused disappointments. If so, these disappointments match that of the people who waited for Christ's birth two thousand years ago. They hoped for a political Messiah to drive out occupying forces, or for a heavenly power to wrap up history like a tablecloth and whisk the people of God to paradise. But God had other ideas!

The Messiah they got was unrecognisable as such: a baby in a stable. But some were led there by heavenly visions and signs, and we're told that shepherds and kings, rich and poor, knelt in homage and were changed, while the mother of the child pondered these things in her heart.

We have all encountered people and circumstances that led us to question the incarnation. If the incarnation were truly 'effective', would the innocent still be suffering? Would minds be so perverted and twisted that they would inflict violence on their fellow human beings? Even simple visits to the sick and the housebound leave us with much to ponder. We have all in our time met with people who had been stripped of everything to which we so often look forward - a home, a family, good health, and a happy Christmas.

Everything changes; everything passes; everything to which we aspire disappoints us - everything except God's love. Only that love, offered to us in the birth of a child to a woman who held heaven in her womb, only that remains. Such love never dies, is never killed or overcome, shines always even in the darkness. Love like this is our bedrock and our salvation, our strength and even the font of life itself.

Once we admit the possibility of love like this, we can stop looking forward to future excitements and accept the gift which is given to us here and now. Don't look away from Christmas just yet - the child has only just been born.

-Fr. Dick Lyng OSA

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"**



"QUOTE, UNQUOTE."

"Fanaticism consists of redoubling your efforts when you have forgotten your aim." - George Santayana

"I predict that exact reproduction through cloning will not become popular. Too many people already find it difficult to live with themselves." - Jeanne Dixon



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, Shrle 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 **Shrle Church:**

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

o **Glencorrib Church:**

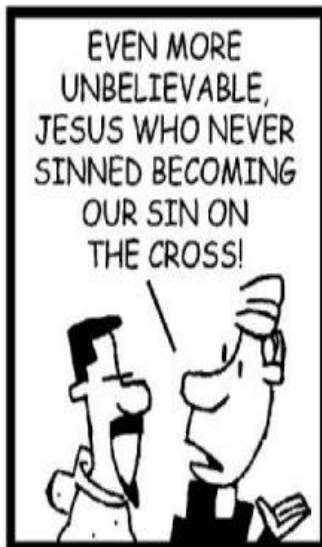
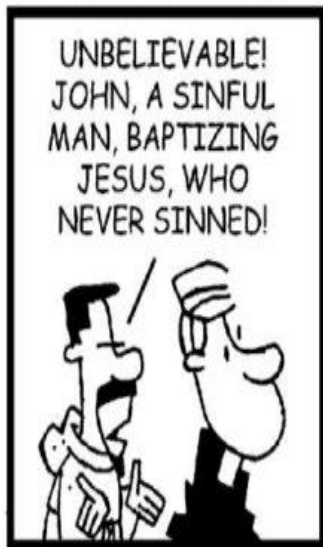
• Bank: Ulster Bank Ireland DAC
Account Name: Shrle Glencorrib Church:
IBAN IE97ULSB98525010138153 and BIC: ULSBIE2DXXX

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.



BAPTISM OF THE LORD



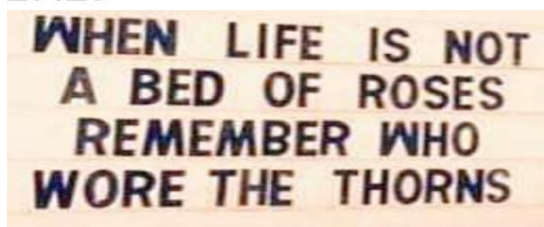
DO YOU WANT TO LEARN COMPUTER SKILLS FROM HOME?

If you are a beginner or want to refresh your skills. National Learning Network's free IT and Business Studies course enables you to learn online from home, do work experience locally, and come into the local Centre for tutor guidance just twice a week. Completing modules such as word processing, spreadsheets, bookkeeping and many others. A free laptop is provided for the duration of the course. If you would benefit from extra support and are registered with the Department of Social Protection you could be entitled to the free training. Flexible start dates, payments are protected, and people under 26 years can receive extra payments. Contact Sharon on 0872909064 or check us out at www.nln.ie

CHRISTIAN MOTIVATIONAL PHRASES:

I lied and said I was busy. I was busy but not in a way most people understand. I was busy taking deeper breaths. I was busy silencing irrational thoughts. I was busy calming a racing heart. I was busy telling myself I am okay. Sometimes this is my busy ad I will not apologise for it.
B. Oakman

" And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! "
Matthew 27:29



2022 HAS ARRIVED AND MAY WE ALL BE ALIVE THIS TIME AGAIN.

Very often we petition God for favours for ourselves and our friends and this is to be recommended but we ought also to praise God for His great love for us. The following are the Divine Praises which we can recite from time to time.

- Blessed be God.
- Blessed be His Holy Name.
- Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
- Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
- Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
- Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
- Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
- Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
- Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.
- Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.
- Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.
- Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
- Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
- Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints.

Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

SEEING YOUR LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL

1. The people were searching and John pointed them in the direction of Jesus. On your life's journey who have been the John the Baptist people for you, people who have pointed you in the right direction?
2. The Baptism of Jesus was a very special moment for him that affirmed him in his identity as Son of God and in his mission. Recall the experiences that affirmed you, either in your sense of who you are, or in relation to the direction you were taking in life.
3. The Baptism of Jesus marks a transition point in his life, and the start of his public ministry. Recall the transition points in your own life. Where did you see the grace of God at work in those times?
4. This experience of Jesus occurred when he was at prayer. What part has prayer played in opening you to being aware of God in your life? What part has prayer played in helping you through a transition point in your life?

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK

A TRUE STORY:

An old fellow came into the hospital almost dying due to an infected gallbladder. After what seemed eons of tests and preparations, the gall bladder surgeon removed the gall bladder without any fuss or problem and had the patient sent up to the post-op ward.

The charge nurse there insisted that all patients be up and walking in the hall the day after surgery, to help prevent blood clots forming in the leg veins. The nurses walked the patient in the hall as ordered, even though the head nurse had to raise her mighty voice, once, and keep her stern gaze on him the first three days as two student nurses half carried, half dragged him up and down the hallway.

On the fifth day they were able to walk him hang in on to only one nurse, and on the tenth day the nurse noticed that the reason he was hanging on now had not much to do with balance and support any more.

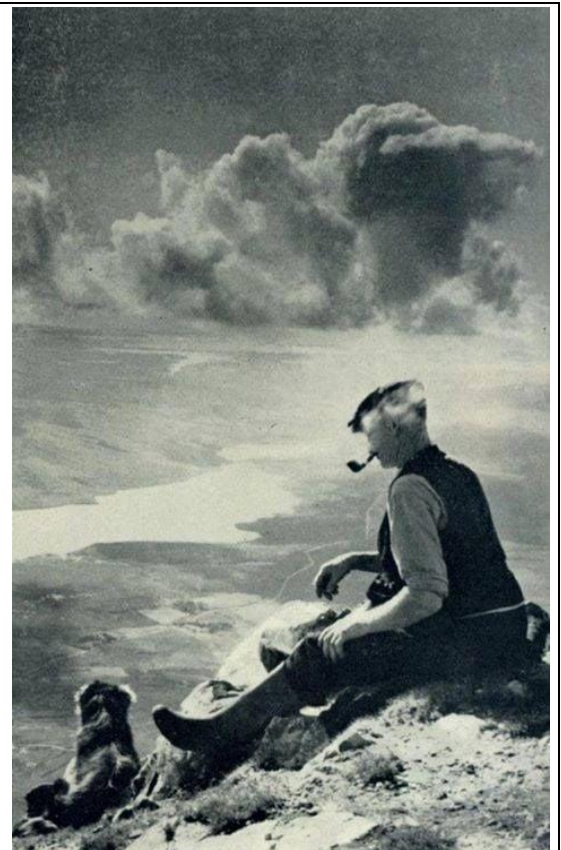
After two weeks the patient was ready to go home. His family came to pick him up and thanked the surgeon profusely for what he had done for their father, telling him he was a miracle worker.

The surgeon was pleased and appreciated the thanks, but told them that it was really a simple operation and they had been lucky to get him into the hospital time.

"Oh no, doctor, you don't understand," they said, "Our father hasn't walked in over ten years.

WHAT A PHOTO

Jimmy Páidí Óg on the top of Earagail, Donegal's highest peak (751-metres) near Gweedore. This photo first appeared in 'The Irish Press' in 1957. The journalist who took the picture climbed up the back of Earagail in the Derryveagh mountain



range and much to his surprise found Jimmy smoking his pipe with his sheepdog by his side, at the summit. He asked him how long he'd been up there, as he had seen no-one in front of him on the ascent. Jimmy replied; 'that's because you walked up the back, and I walked up the front.' Jimmy, who lived in Míin na nGall, was a butcher and delivered meat on his bicycle. Born in 1890, he was 67 when this picture was taken.

THE LEGEND OF THE FOURTH WISE MAN

Artaban lived in the mountains of ancient Persia. On the basis of his study of the planets and stars, he predicted the birth of a great King. He sold all his possessions in order to buy gifts for the King – a radiant blue sapphire, a perfect ruby and a spectacular pearl. He then began his journey to Jerusalem, where he had agreed to meet with three other wise men to seek out the new-born King.

The journey was difficult, with many hold-ups. One day he saw a man, clearly very ill, lying on the path, and, as Artaban turned away, the man begged for help. Artaban hesitated, because if he stayed to help a dying stranger even for a short while, he might miss his three friends. But if he turned away, the man would surely die. In compassion, he took care of the sick man until he began to get well.

"I do not have anything with which to pay you," said the man, "... accept this: our prophets have told us that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, not in Jerusalem. May God guide you there, because you nursed a man who was ill to the point of death."

When Artaban reached the place where he was to meet his friends, he received a message to the effect that they had decided not to wait any longer, and that he should follow them across the desert. Artaban went back to Babylon and sold the sapphire so that he could buy camels and food for the journey.

He arrived in Bethlehem with his remaining gifts three days after the other wise men had found Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and had honoured the new-born King with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In a small house, he met a woman with her son. She told him that Joseph had taken Jesus and Mary, fleeing in secret, because Herod feared the King would take his throne, and was killing all male children. Even as the woman spoke, Herod's soldiers could be heard coming to kill any male children they found. Artaban rushed to the door and held out the ruby to the soldier, who grabbed it, saying to his troop, "March on! There are no children here."

Artaban was sad. "I have spent for man what was meant for God," he said. "Will I ever be worthy to gaze on the face of the King?" Weeping for joy, the woman said, "You have saved my son's life. May the Lord bless you, keep you, and give you peace."

For thirty-three years, Artaban continued searching for the little family from Bethlehem. He was tired, worn out, ill and ready to die, but he kept on looking for the King. He came to Jerusalem. He heard that a great person was to be put to death that day. When people told him of this man's life and teachings, Artaban realised that this man was the King. He made his way to Golgotha, hoping that his splendid pearl might purchase his King's release. Then he saw a platoon of soldiers dragging a girl in chains behind them. "Save me; I am to be sold as a slave."

The fourth wise man knew what he must do. He took the pearl from his purse. Never had it seemed so stunningly luminous, radiant; and he gave it for the girl's freedom. He was immensely sad that he now had nothing to give his King, so sad that he collapsed with grief. Then, in his half-conscious state, he recognised the gentle voice of his King: "Take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Insofar as you did it to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me" (Matthew 25: 34, 40).

Artaban's journey was over. His gifts were accepted. He had found his King

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Epiphany blessings to you. May we all be the fourth wise man or wise woman.

