

GLENCORRIB & SHRULE PARISH NEWSLETTER – 28th NOVEMBER 2021

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 – 19)

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/>



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) MASS DATES, TIMES & INTENTIONS

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, SHRULE - Dedicated 1832

Sat	27 th Nov	8.00 pm	Padraig Derrig , Gurteen	1 st Anniv
Sun	28 th Nov	11.00 am	Mary & Jack Craddock , Shrule	26 th & 23 rd Anniv
		3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 3pm to 4pm	
Mon	29 th Nov	9.30 am	Jimmy Kelleghan and his parents Bridie & Michael Kelleghan , Mary & Michael Kelleghan , Mary's brother Paddy Burke and DM of the Kelleghan family & Burke families ,	34 th , 29 th & 50 th Anniv Anniv & Deceased
Tue	30 th Nov	9.30 am	Paddy Kyne , Cahereevagh, Shrule	RIP 22/09/2021
Wed	1 st Dec	9.30 am	Ray Walshe , Ballynulty, Kilmaine	RIP 02/10/2021
Thu	2 nd Dec	9.30 am	Patricia Cummins ,	
Fri	3 rd Dec	7.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 7.00pm – 7.55pm	
		8.00 pm	Tony Barry , Blackrock, Dublin	RIP 28/10/2021
Sat	4 th Dec	8.00 pm	Billy Daly and Margaret & Patrick Daly , Michael & Anne Corbett and John, Paddy, Conal Corbett , Paddy, Chrissie & Tom Burke , Ardmore Sean McEvaddy , Brodella	Anniv & Deceased 43 rd & 43 rd Anniv & Deceased 8 th & 10 th Anniv 3 rd Anniv
Sun	5 th Dec	11.00 am	Conor & Kathleen Bohan , Carramore and their daughter Josephine Sheridan , Mocollogan Pete & Nell Higgins & DM Higgins family , Dalgan	18 th , 1 st & 3 rd Anniv 35 th & 20 th Anniv & deceased
		3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 3pm to 4pm	

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, GLENCORRIB - Dedicated 1876

Sat	27 th Nov	6.30 pm	Noel Meyler , Glencorrib & Wexford Johnny Mohan , Glencorrib & his son John David Mohan , Essex UK	RIP 29/09/2021 RIP 30/04/2019 & 9 th Anniv
Sun	28 th Nov	9.30 am	Thomas & Bridget Byrne & DM of the Byrne family , Woodpark Paddy and Mary Flanagan and their daughter Veronica and the DM of the Flanagan family , Rusheen, Clonbur	37 th & 48 th Anniv & deceased 32 nd , 2 nd 12 th Anniv & deceased
		3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 3pm to 4pm	
Wed	1 st Dec	10.00 am	Dick Cahill , Cloonbanane	RIP 11/10/2021
Fri	3 rd Dec	6.30 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 6.30pm – 6.55pm	
		7.00 pm	Tom & Bridget Flood , Ballynalty	18 th & 13 th Anniv
Sat	4 th Dec	6.30 pm	Megan Langley , Valley, Nebraska, USA	RIP 19/02/2021
Sun	5 th Dec	9.30 am	Dominic & Maureen Garvey , Kilroe	21 st Anniv
		3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 3pm to 4pm	

DECEMBER 2021

SHRULE

GLENCORRIB

IN BOTH OUR CHURCHES

EUCCHARISTIC	Vigil	Geraldine Casserley	Nellie Hogan	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon. All are welcome
MINISTERS	Morning	Carmel Heneghan	Dan Shaughnessy	
LAY READERS	Vigil	Sharon Hughes	Bridie Biggins	
MINISTRY	Morning	Philip Duddy	Mary Devins	

**9 DAY ROSARY
NOVENA FOR
IRELAND**



We are inviting you to join in a **9 Day Rosary Novena** beginning **Tuesday 30th November** and ending on **Wednesday 8th December**.

People all over Ireland will pray the Rosary together each evening at 9pm. On the final evening at 9pm on Radio Maria the Primate of All Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin will lead the final Rosary live.

If you are gathering to pray in groups we encourage you to gather safely adhering to local Covid 19 regulations. You can tune into Radio Maria via your pc via <https://www.radiomaria.ie/> or download the app from the mobile app store or SAORVIEW Channel 210

RANDOM ACTS OF

KINDNESS


- Reach out to someone lonely
- Introduce yourself to your new neighbours
- Compliment people, family, friends, and strangers, they all need to hear good things!
- If your friend or co-worker is having a hard time, bring them a coffee/tea tomorrow
- Call your parents and tell them you love them.
- Send your friend a letter just because
- Give up your seat to someone.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES!

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Dara was excited about the task -- but, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

A LESSON TO BE LEARNED:

While putting her 4-year-old daughter to bed one evening, a mother read her the story of the Prodigal Son. They discussed how the young son had taken his inheritance and left home, living it up until he had nothing left. Finally, when he couldn't even eat as well as pigs, he went home to his father, who welcomed him. When they finished the story, she asked her daughter what she had learned. After thinking a moment, she quipped, "Never leave home without your credit card!"



Be humble. Speak little of yourself and never praise yourself before anyone. He who praises himself, even if he has real merit, risks losing the good opinion of others. He who seeks only praise and honors is sure to have an empty head fed only by wind... will have no peace of soul and will be unreliable in his undertakings.

St. John Bosco

OH, LORD, WHEN I GROW WEARY please help me to remember each and every day.
To count my blessings and not my crosses;
to count my gains and not my losses;
to count my laughs and not my tears;
to count my joys and not my fears;
to count my health and not my wealth;
and most of all...
to count on God and not myself.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR EIRCODE?

Do you know that in an emergency, a First Responder or an Ambulance can attend to you much quicker, if you know your Eircode. You can find your Eircode at www.eircode.ie. Ask someone to help you get it, if you have no access to technology. It can save a life.

DEAR GOD,
Please give me strength when I am weak.
Love when I feel abandoned
Courage when I am afraid
Wisdom when I feel foolish.
Comfort when I am alone.
Hope when I feel rejected.
And please when I am in turmoil.
Amen. *Author unknown*

PLEASE REMEMBER
Don't be impressed by money, followers, degrees and titles.
Be impressed by humility, integrity, generosity and kindness.

THANK YOU: Shrule & Moyne cemetery committees would like to thank all those who were involved in the prayers for the deceased in both cemeteries last weekend and for tidying the graves. Donations are still being accepted for the upkeep and care of both cemeteries

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER to open and close Shrule church at the weekends only. Please contact Fr. Vivian if you can help out. Thank you.



The bend on the road is not the end of the road unless you refuse to take the turn...

**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
Mc Donagh	Martin	Scardane	27/11/1924	68	Shrule
Meah	Patrick	Tubbersharave	27/11/1944	75	Shrule
Gallagher	Brigid	Shrule	27/11/1947	74	Shrule
Gavin	Ellen	Cnocfada	27/11/1949	91	Shrule
O'Sullivan	Agnes	Parks	27/11/1952	68	Killursa
Biggins	Mary	Rostaff	27/11/1962	70	Moyne
Biggins	Michael	Glencorrib	27/11/1986		Moyne
Geraghty	Thomas	Corrinreedra	27/11/1995	58	Moyne
Lane	Pat	Cloonbanane	27/11/1996	68	Cargin, Claran
Walsh	Michael J.	Ballybockagh	27/11/1996	84	Shrule
Walsh	Brigid	Ramolín	28/11/1918	73	Shrule
Cahill	Brigid	Cloonbanane	28/11/1931	62	Shrule
Higgins	Sara St. Leger	Shrule	28/11/1953	86	Shrule
Ryan	Martin	Dalgan	28/11/1957	70	Shrule
Greally	John	Cloonbanane	28/11/1963	69	Shrule
Mullen	Margaret	Shrule	28/11/1979	88	Shrule
Frehan	Delia	Shrule	28/11/1982	84	Shrule
Sullivan	John	Glasbally	29/11/1920	71	Killursa
Davin	Sara	Brackloon	29/11/1921	59	Shrule
Naughton	John	Brodella	29/11/1963	85	Shrule
Keleghan	James	Dalgan	29/11/1987	34	Shrule
Daly	Rena	Ballisnahina	29/11/1991	48	Moyne
Kelleghan	Bridie	Shrule	29/11/1992		Shrule
Nolan	Nora	Rostaff	29/11/2001	90	Shrule
Crampton	Terence	Birmingham & Shrule	29/11/2008	87	Shrule
Tedders	Brigid	Shrule	30/11/1923	70	Shrule
Garvey	John	Shrule	30/11/1953	81	Shrule
Tully	Luke	Dalgan (Kilmaine)	30/11/1953	88	Kilmaine
Crampton	Patrick J.	Shrule	30/11/1973	87	Shrule
Flaherty	Michael	Brodella	30/11/1983	65	Shrule
O'Connor	Kathleen	Boula	30/11/1993	56	Killursa
Moughan	Paddy	Cahernabruick	30/11/1995	76	Shrule
Dooley	Michael	Ramolín	01/12/1918	11	Shrule
Molloy	Mary Anne	Ballycurrin	01/12/1918	26	Killursa
Garvey	Margaret	Gorthbrack	01/12/1924	60	Killursa
Carey	Margaret	Shrule	01/12/1928	72	Shrule
Monaghan	Margaret	Ballycurrin	01/12/1989	74	Killursa
Bohan	Conor	Carramore	01/12/2003	80	Donaghpatrick
Lydon	Sarah	Parks	02/12/1915	34	Killursa
Nohilly	Mary	De Clifford St.	02/12/1919	90	Shrule
O'Rourke	Winifred	Shrule	02/12/1921	76	Shrule
Langan	Michael	Alacca	02/12/1922	82	Moyne
Corbett	John	Scardaune (Kinlough)	02/12/1957	83	Shrule
Keady	Michael	Dalgan/Brackloon	02/12/1976	72	Shrule
McDonagh	James	Ramolín	02/12/1987	75	Shrule
Creaven	Fr. John A.	Glencorrib.	02/12/2008	91	Cork
Miller	Barry	Dalgan	02/12/2018		
Blake	Mary	Glassvalley	03/12/1915	90	Killursa
Hart	Thomas	Mount Henry	03/12/1918	67	Killursa
Morrin	Edward	Ballynalty	03/12/1924	70	Moyne
Mangan	Michael	Boherbee	03/12/1926	72	Shrule
Murphy	Martin	Gortatubber	03/12/1979	61	Cross
Reddington	Margaret	Gortbrack	03/12/1989	84	Killursa
Hogan	Mary	Rostaff	04/12/1920	90	Moyne
Mellett	Michael	Cloonbanane	04/12/1989	78	Shrule
Farragher	Padraic	Kille	04/12/2008		Shrule
Mullin	Canon Noel	Shrule	04/12/2009	71	Shrule
McEvaddy	John	Brodella	04/12/2018		Shrule

"Nothing is ever really lost to us as long as we remember it" - *Montgomery*

Happiness is the new rich. Inner peace is the new success. Health is the new wealth. Kindness is the new cool.



PLEASE REMEMBER WITH A PRAYER THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Paddy Varley, Mochara. Funeral Mass for Paddy took place at The Immaculate Conception, Glencorrib on Friday last 26th November. RIP

Una Martyn (née McDonnell), Shrule and formerly of Killernan, Kilmaine. Funeral Mass for Una took place at St. Joseph's Church, Shrule on Saturday 27th November. RIP



WE SAID GOODBYE to two 'elderly stalwarts' of the parish on Wednesday last with the passing of Paddy Varley (92), Mochara and Una Martyn (90), Shrule. Both Paddy & Una were a familiar and friendly presence for many years in this area Paddy with 92 years in Mochara, Glencorrib and Una spend the last 60 years in Shrule. And there is no doubt that their presence in the Church was well noted. Paddy was a kind, warm and gentle man. Una with her beautiful radiant smile, always with a good word and b forever appreciative and thoughtful. God had always been good to them both, blessing them with good health and surrounding them with people who loved and cared for them. On Wednesday last 24th November, the Lord saw it as His duty to take them home to heaven to be with Him for eternity. RIP

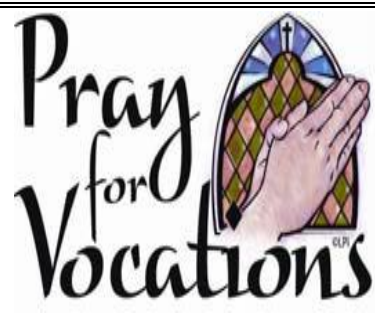
PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus Christ,
gentle shepherd,
you know your sheep and
You know how to reach their hearts.
Give to the people of the
Diocese of Galway,
hearts that are open
to the call of the Holy Spirit.

Speak to the hearts of the young men of our Diocese, that they may hear your call to follow you and serve your people as priests of our Diocese.

"Here I am Lord, send me"

- St. Joseph, pray for us**
- St. Coleman, pray for us,**
- St. Fursa, pray for us.**
- St. John Vianney, pray for us.**



ON PASSING A GRAVEYARD

John O'Donohue
May perpetual light shine upon
The faces of all who rest here.
May the lives they lived
Unfold further in spirit.
May all their past travails
Find ease in the kindness of clay.
May the remembering earth
Mind every memory they brought.
May the rains from the heavens
Fall gently upon them.
May the wildflowers and grasses
Whisper their wishes into light.
May we reverence the village of
presence In the stillness
of this silent field.

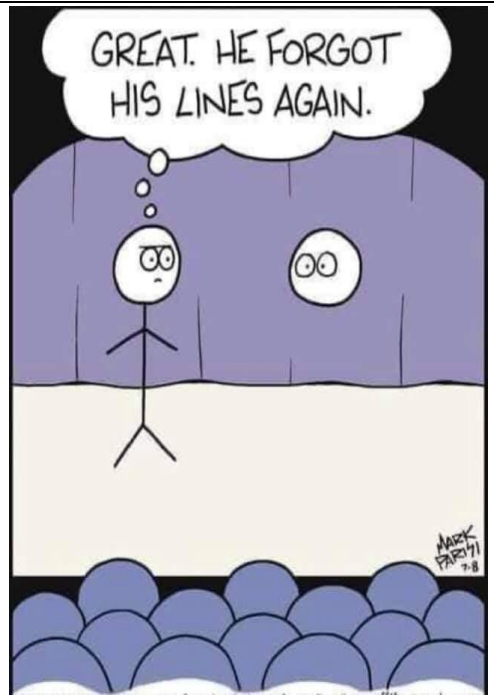
PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

are available at all weekend Masses until the Sunday before Christmas. Just €2 each. The new cards featuring the church will be available shortly.



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

WESTDOC: From November 1st the new Westdoc phone number will be 0818 360 000. Please save the new number to your mobile phone or keep it near your landline. Please remember when phoning Westdoc to have your Eircode close to hand and your Medical Card Number if applicable.



A bad attitude is like a flat tyre, you can't get very fast until you change it.

Everybody has the power to make someone else happy. Some do it by entering the room, while some do it by leaving.

If you light a lamp for somebody, it will also brighten your path...

JUST A THOUGHT- POKING HOLES IN THE DARKNESS

Robert was in poor health for much of his life suffering serious bronchial trouble and was in the care of a nurse during his youth in Edinburgh. The story is told how one night his nurse found him with his nose pressed against the frosty pane of his bedroom window. Many of you can no doubt identify with that as a child. The nurse naturally tried to get him away from the window afraid he would catch his death of cold. Robert was staring our mesmerised as he watched the old lamp lighter slowly working his way through the black night lighting each gas street lamp along the way and pointing to the scene Robert Said "Look there's a man poking holes in the darkness "a wonderful image of a cold dark foggy night in Edinburgh lit up over 150 years ago. And yet this is an image we can claim and adapt for ourselves as we make our own journey through the great season of Advent. We've just lit our own first Advent candle.



Advent is an enduring proclamation that in Christ and through Christ light overcomes the deepest darkness. We welcome Christ our light into the centre of our being and we are invited to share his light his goodness with family, friends and community wishing to receive it. One of the outstanding images of is that of the Advent wreath. Its circular shape with no beginning and no end symbolises the eternity of God. In the midst of the winter bleakness, its evergreen reminds us of the everlasting life we have in Christ. While any pine cones in the wreath reminds us of new life and Resurrection. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent and purple is the colour of prayer and penance.



Like Robert Louis Stevenson looking out his frosty bedroom window all those years ago at the lamplighter as he said "poking holes in the darkness" so our wreath this Advent will also poke holes in the darkness as its light builds over the course of the weeks while we make our Advent pilgrimage. **As winter leans deeper into darkness we are ever invited to lean deeper into the light, Christ the light of the world.**

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"



PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Shrule - Parochial House every Tuesdays 10.30am to 12 noon

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



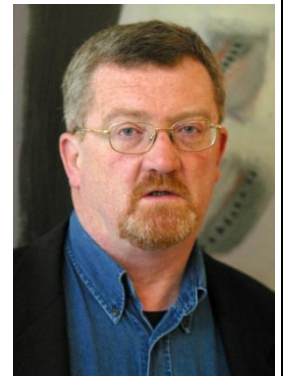
PLEASE REMEMBER WITH A PRAYER THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Fr. Patrick (Pat) O'Brien

P.P. of Caherlistrane and formerly Claremorris.

Funeral Mass for Fr. Pat

takes place this weekend, Sunday 28th November at St. Joseph's Church, Caherlistrane. RIP.



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.



He visited his daughter's kitchen and left an honest review



I been waiting on my order to get done for 45 minutes, and I'm the only customer here. She was making good progress at first, then she stopped for 20 minutes to go watch Paw Patrol... Overall the customer service could be better, but the cook is a cutie; so I'll give her another chance.

AWAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man." - Pope Francis

All-Night Vigil - Tuesday 7th December

the feast of the Immaculate conception, we will celebrate our traditional All-Night Vigil at Knock Basilica. The theme for this year's vigil is 'Into the Light', beginning with Confessions at 10pm and Vigil proper from Midnight.

Vigil Programme

10pm - Midnight: Confessions in the Chapel of Reconciliation

Vigil proper will take place at Knock Basilica as follows:

Midnight - 12.30am: Rosary

12.30am-1am: Testimony from a member of the Cenacolo Community, Knock

1am - 2am: Stations of the Cross

2am - 3am: Holy Hour

3am - 3.30am: Break for private prayer

3.30 - 4am: Reflections

4am: Mass

THANK YOU

As November draws to a close Fr. Vivian would like to thank you for your attendance at the cemetery prayers and Novena of Masses for the dead during the month. We are also grateful for the contributions you have made by way of the **Weekly Envelopes** (offerings form part of the income for the church) **and Dues Envelopes** (income that pays the priest's salary) These offerings are very much appreciated. Thank you.

HOW 'DAD' ARE YOU?

"Guess it's free then."

(When a cashier has trouble scanning an item)

"Found it!"

(After pointing a stud finder at your chest)

"Looks like we'll have to amputate."

(When a kid has a minor injury)

"Let's rock and roll"

(When it's time to leave)

"Did you fall in?"

(When a kid takes too long in the bathroom)

"No, your OTHER right"

(Whenever someone mistakes left for right)

"What's the damage?"

(Before looking at the bill)

"Can you do mine next?"

(When a neighbor is washing their car)

"I was just resting my eyes"

(After falling asleep on the couch)

"Guess they'll let ANYone in here"

(When seeing a friend in public)

"I'll turn this car around!"

(Whenever there is roughhousing in the car)

"Go and ask your mother"

(Whenever a tough decision is about to be made)

"Enough is enough!"

(When the dad is tired of debating or to end a tussle)

"Don't use that tone with me!"

(When parental authority is being parceled out)

"Glad we're not going THAT way."

(When traffic in the other lane is heavy)

"Can't get very far without these!"

(After forgetting the key-fob)

"Look, horses!"

(Every time you drive past horses)

"I'm not paying to heat the whole neighborhood."

(Whenever anyone leaves the door open)

"It's not heavy, just awkward."

(When carrying something heavy)

"People don't know how to drive in this town!"

(In every town you drive through)

"Well, we need this rain!"

(Every time it rains)

"That's how they get you."

(After declining additional warranty protection)

"Back already? How was it?"

(When someone comes back inside because they forgot something)

"Well, THAT'S not going anywhere!"

(After tying something down)

"I'm not made of money!"

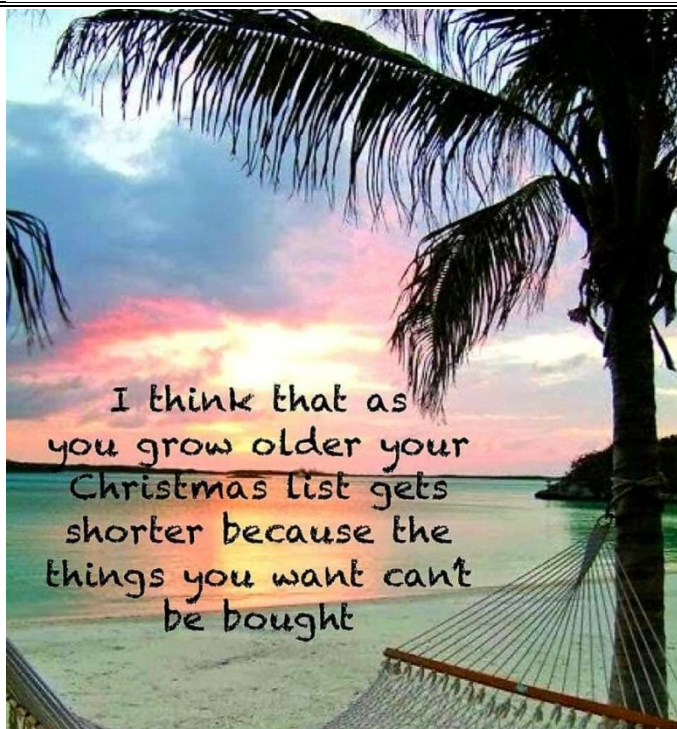
(After anything having to do with money)

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

Helping Families in our own Community

We invite people from Headford/Claran, Caheristrane/Kilcoona, Shrul/Glencorrib to donate non-perishable food to the appeal – The food can be placed in boxes in many of the shops in the area or can be left into the following schools Headford Boys N.S, Clydagh N. S, Cloughanover N.S., Claran N. S., Shrul N. S., Glencorrib N.S., Kilcoona N. S., Knockroon N. S. and Presentation College Headford. 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.

When people talk about 30 years ago, I think they mean the 1970s, but they actually mean 1991 and now I need a lie down.



A BEAUTIFUL AND TIMELY REMINDER, BY ELIZABETH GILBERT:

"Some years ago, I was stuck on a crosstown bus in New York City during rush hour. Traffic was barely moving. The bus was filled with cold, tired people who were deeply irritated with one another, with the world itself. Two men barked at each other about a shove that might or might not have been intentional. A pregnant woman got on, and nobody offered her a seat. Rage was in the air; no mercy would be found here.

But as the bus approached Seventh Avenue, the driver got on the intercom. *Folks,* he said, *I know you have had a rough day and you are frustrated. I can't do anything about the weather or traffic, but here is what I can do. As each one of you gets off the bus, I will reach out my hand to you. As you walk by, drop your troubles into the palm of my hand, okay? Don't take your problems home to your families tonight, just leave them with me. My route goes right by the Hudson River, and when I drive by there later, I will open the window and throw your troubles in the water.'

It was as if a spell had lifted. Everyone burst out laughing. Faces gleamed with surprised delight. People who had been pretending for the past hour not to notice each other's existence were suddenly grinning at each other like, is this guy serious? Oh, he was serious.

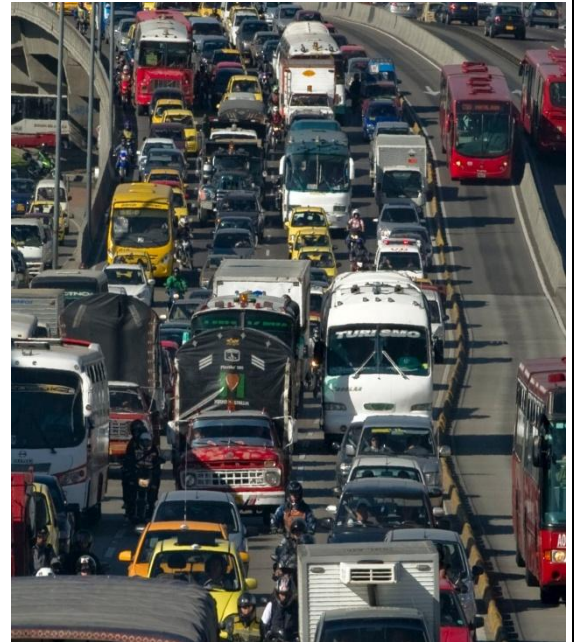
At the next stop, just as promised, the driver reached out his hand, palm up, and waited. One by one, all the exiting commuters placed their hand just above his and mimed the gesture of dropping something into his palm. Some people laughed as they did this, some teared up but everyone did it. The driver repeated the same lovely ritual at the next stop, too. And the next. All the way to the river.

We live in a hard world, my friends. Sometimes it is extra difficult to be a human being. Sometimes you have a bad day. Sometimes you have a bad day that lasts for several years. You struggle and fail. You lose jobs, money, friends, faith, and love. You witness horrible events unfolding in the news, and you become fearful and withdrawn. There are times when everything seems cloaked in darkness. You long for the light but don't know where to find it.

But what if you are the light? What if you are the very agent of illumination that a dark situation begs for? That's what this bus driver taught me, that anyone can be the light, at any moment. This guy wasn't some big power player. He wasn't a spiritual leader. He wasn't some media-savvy influencer. He was a bus driver, one of society's most invisible workers. But he possessed real power, and he used it beautifully for our benefit.

When life feels especially grim, or when I feel particularly powerless in the face of the world's troubles, I think of this man and ask myself, What can I do, right now, to be the light? Of course, I can't personally end all wars, or solve global warming, or transform vexing people into entirely different creatures. I definitely can't control traffic. But I do have some influence on everyone I brush up against, even if we never speak or learn each other's name.

No matter who you are, or where you are, or how mundane or tough your situation may seem, I believe you can illuminate your world. In fact, I believe this is the only way the world will ever be illuminated, one bright act of grace at a time, all the way to the river." ~ Elizabeth Gilbert.



A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR:

A friend of mine says its the law that you have to put your dipped headlights on when it's raining in Sweden. How am I supposed to know when its rasining in Sweden? *Millsym Newcastle, UK*

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR:

ME: *I would like to buy a piano*
YAMAHA: *OK*
ME: *I'd also like to buy a motorcycle. Do you know where I can find a good one?*
YAMAHA: *Your not going to believe this....*