

Reflection:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to earth as a baby so many years ago. Thank you that He paid the punishment for my sins by dying on the cross. And thank you that He rose again to prove that death was truly defeated. I place my trust in You to be my Savior. Guide me through the dark times of my life and give me courage to live for you.
Amen

Sunday 20th December, 2015

St Mary's

Sat 19th 7.30 Patrick & Brigid Cosgrove AM
Wed 23rd 7.30 Thomas & Nora Keegan AM
Thurs 24th 8.30 Christmas Eve Mass
Sat 26th 7.30 Nora & Terence McTernan AM
Thurs 31st 7.30 Padriag O'Hara & Dec
Sat 2nd Jan 7.30 Mary Brigid Mc Gowan AM
(Holy Hour every Sunday 3-4pm)

St Therese's

Sun 20th 11.30 Andrew McGoldrick AM
Mon 21st 7.30 Joseph & Lelia Meehan AM
Tues 22nd 10.00 James & Mary Ellen Waters AM
Fri 25th 11.30 Christmas Day Mass
Sun 27th 11.30 Seamus & Margaret Walsh AM
1.00 Christening

St Michael's

Sun 20th 10.00 John Francis Kilkenny & Dec.
Christmas Day 10.00 Kathleen McTernan AM
Sun 27th 10.00 Vincent Hannon 2nd AM
Sun 3rd 10.00
Wed 6th 10.00
(Holy Hour every Tuesday 6-7pm)



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December	Liturgy	Collectors	Alter Society
St. Mary's	Mary McHugh	Harry Banks & Breege Fowley	Mary Gallagher & Margaret Kelly
St. Therese's	Eva Delahunt & Lisa McGowan	Michael O'Connor & Larry Kilcolm	
St. Michael's	Eva Ryan	Martin Dolan & Martin Clancy	Eileen & Nuala Gallagher

Sunday 20th December 2015

1. **We Pray for the Happy Repose of the Soul of** Pattie McGowan, Ardakip, whose funeral took place in St. Mary's on Friday. Our sympathy to her husband & family R.I.P.
2. **Congratulations** to Baby Saoirse Foley-MacLean, who was christened in St. Marys on Saturday.
3. **Christmas Message** – On Christmas Eve 1914, the Germans and the English faced each other from trenches filled with mud and rats. In the English trenches letters and cards arrived from home and the soldiers cheered up a little. By midnight some of them even began to sing. Then suddenly a sentry shouted excitedly: "Listen!" They listened and heard that the Germans were singing too. A short while later two brave soldiers, one from each side, met out in the open. More joined them. From a military point of view it made no sense. As soldiers they were supposed to fight each other. To stop suddenly and to be friends just didn't make sense. But there was a greater force than armies at the front that night. When Christmas Day dawned soldiers with smiling faces were strolling around No-man's land. There wasn't a trace of hatred to be seen. They exchanged food, souvenirs and cigarettes. About mid-day as the friendship was growing, a football match between the two sides started up. But it didn't last long. The news had reached the Generals, and sharp orders arrived to put an end to the whole thing. The officers herded the men back into the trenches. It was all over. On Christmas night the war had started up again. If this proves nothing else, it proves the power of Christmas. But peace is not merely the absence of war or dissension. It is something much deeper and richer. The Hebrew word for peace is – *shalom* – conveys a much richer meaning than the English word *peace*. It conveys a sense of completeness, a state of perfect well-being. An essential component of peace is righteousness. So, where there is no righteousness, there is no genuine peace. Hence, there can be no peace for the wicked. Peace is not simple harmony. It is the fullness of wellbeing. It can exist in the midst of a troubled world, and even in the midst of unresolved problems. It is something so deep that it is independent of outer circumstances. Peace is a state of inner calm and designates right relations with God and with other people. Peace in this complete sense, cannot be created by human effort alone. It is a gift of God. It is the gift of Christmas. God reaches out to us in peace, and wants us to reach out to one another. Peace is God's gift to us; our gift to God is to make peace with one another. Peace is communion with God. At Christmas God seems to be very close to us and very loving towards us. May he help us to taste the peace that only he can give. The peace which passes all understanding, which this world cannot give. The peace no one can take away from us.
4. **Word of Thanks and Welcome** – Fr. Vincent would like to welcome home all who have travelled from abroad or other parts of Ireland to our Parish this Christmas. May your time be blessed with family, relatives and friends. Christmas is a time for welcome, a time for hope, love and peace. I would like to say thanks to everyone in the Parish for your generosity, kindness and help in 2015. We have journeyed together in the sad moments and the good moments, and I pray my Christmas Eve/Day Mass for all your intentions. The Parish of Killenummery & Killery is a very active Parish, and together we are a vibrant and wonderful community. Please be assured that whatever I can do for you in the year ahead, don't hesitate to ask. May the baby Jesus fill all of us with faith, hope, peace and love this Christmas and 2016. Thanks for been a great community!
5. **The Clever Elves Table Quiz** - Dromahair Ladies together with Mens Football Clubs are hosting a Table Quiz in The Blue Devon on Monday 28th December at 9.30pm sharp. Proceeds are going towards new Training Pitch. Raffle on the night plus we are auctioning a signed Henry Shefflin 2014 Club All Ireland Jersey. Your support would be gratefully appreciated.
6. **Dromahair's Operation Transformation 2016** - Dromahair Ladies together with Mens Football Clubs are hosting Dromahair's Operation Transformation. Sue McGowan is going to lead The Operation Transformation 6 weeks programme. Operation Transformation starts with a National Walk (Open to everyone) on Sunday 10th January 2016 at 1pm followed by a 6 week programme. Registration for the 6 week programme will take place before the walk at 12.30pm. This is a great opportunity after the Christmas Festivities to change your life in six weeks, get rid of unwanted pounds, regain your fitness and have some fun in the process. This is open to both male and female. So why not make this your New Years Resolution. Please check Naomh Padraig Dromahair or St Patricks Gaa Dromahair facebook pages for more details.
7. **Big Parish Christmas Function** – all roads lead to the Club House this Sunday night for 9.30pm to host John Hogan with a wonderful raffle and a fantastic auction. Entrance fee is only €5, so come early and enjoy this wonderful Parish night. Thanks to all our sponsors, committee members and supporters. Thanks to Patrick Hugh Kelly and the management for the use of the premises.
8. **DVD's of Strictly Come Dancing** will be available on sale next week, at a cost of only €5. This is a worthwhile Christmas gift for yourself or someone else in your family.
9. **First Friday/Thursday Calls for Jan 2016** – will take place on Thurs 31st Dec in Ballintogher and on Fri 1st Jan in Killavoggy/Ballinagar.
10. **Wed 6th Jan is Feast of the Epiphany** – it is a holy day of obligation. Masses are as follows: 10am St. Michael's; 11.30 St. Therese's; 7.30 St. Mary's.
11. **Collections** – 6th and 8th and 13th Dec €2,675
12. **6.5k Fun run/walk** - There will be a 6.5 km fun run/walk on St Stephens day on aid of Ballintogher playground. Registration will be from 11am @ Ballintogher hall with start at 12:00. Tickets 10 euro and refreshments served after. Come and join the fun.
13. **Thanks to all** who were involved with the Roscommon Solstice Choir and to St. Therese's N.S. for a lovely performance last Sunday in St. Therese's Church Ballintogher. Also, thanks to St. Joseph's N.S. for a lovely concert, performed in Ballinagar Hall last Friday. We wish staff and pupils of our three parish schools every blessing for their Christmas break.
1. **25 Card Game** – Thanks to everyone who were involved in the 25 Christmas Card Game in Ballinagar Hall last Wednesday night. Thanks to all who sponsored prizes, and all who supported the card game and throughout the year. Many thanks to all our wonderful helps.
2. **Advent 2015 (Cycle C)** – Fr. Vincent would like to do a Holy Hour each week during Advent in each of our church's. Pope Francis has declared that beginning in December that the year ahead will be a year of mercy. The Advent programme is as follows –
 - Thurs 24th Dec. Christmas Eve Mass @ 8.30pm.
 - Fri 25th Dec – Christmas Day Mass – St. Michael's 10am; St. Therese's 11.30am
 - Thurs 31st Dec – New Year's Eve Mass – 7.30 in St. Mary's
 - Fri 1st Jan 2016 – Wedding St. Mary's 1pm
14. **Ushers for December in St. Mary's/St. Michael's** - Gerard Fowley, Daniel Kelly, Mary Banks & Mary McHugh.
15. **Happy Christmas** and every blessing to everyone in our Parish, all who are visiting, and all our overseas family and relations. Best wishes to all for 2016! *Fr. Vincent*