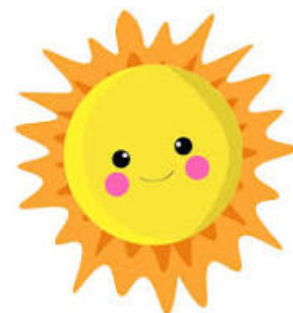


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Deadline for next issue: **25 August**

Nenagh Union of Parishes July/August 2025

Wed 2 nd	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion, S. Thomas, transferred	
Sun 6 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion, Union Service BBQ	
Mon 7 th	11:00am	Killodiernan, St Brendan the Navigator - Joc Sanders	
Wed 9 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Sun 13 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Morning Prayer	
	12:15pm	Killodiernan, Morning Prayer	
Wed 16 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Sat 19 th	7:00pm	Templederry, Family Service	
Sun 20 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Family Service	
Wed 23 rd	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion, S. Mary Magdalene, Transferred	
Sun 27 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
	12:15pm	Killodiernan, Holy Communion	S. James Transferred
Wed 30 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Sun 3 rd	9:30am	Templederry, Holy Communion	
	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Wed 6 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion, Transfiguration	
Sun 10 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Morning Prayer	
	12:15pm	Killodiernan, Morning Prayer	
Mon 11 th	11:00am	Killodiernan, St Brendan the Navigator - Joc Sanders	
Wed 13 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Sat 16 th	7:00pm	Templederry, Family Service	
Sun 17 th	11:00am	Killodiernan, United Regatta Service	
Wed 20 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Sun 24 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
	12:15pm	Killodiernan, Holy Communion	S. Bartholomew
Wed 27 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Sun 31 st	11:00am	St Mary's, United Family Service	



Parish Prayer List

Andy, Arthur, Avril, Marjorie, Mary, Richard



Please check if you are on one of the rotas for reading, cleaning or flowers and if you are, put it on your calendar. We understand it is easy to forget, but please.

From the Rector



Dear Friends in Christ,

Very few of us are aware that the news fed to us is not impartial. Even if the media outlet says that impartiality is one of its values, there is an upstream decision made about what news to disseminate as well as how that news is framed.

You may have an idea that there is still a war ongoing in Ukraine, but how often do you hear about it? It was eclipsed by the war in Gaza and then that was eclipsed by the Israel-Iran conflict. But these wars are still ongoing, as are many more. For instance, how aware are you of the regular killing of Christians by Muslims in Africa?

According to Genocide Watch, a group that aims to predict and prevent mass murder around the world, more than 200 Christian villagers were slaughtered by armed jihadists in Guma County, Benue State, Nigeria on June 13th.

The group reports that witnesses say 40 gunmen stormed the Yelwata village on motorcycles, opening fire on civilians and moving from house to house.

According to a 2023 report by the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law, at least 50,000 Nigerian Christians had been murdered by Islamic militants over the previous 14 years. Human rights groups say moderate Muslims have also been their victims. Tensions between Christians and Muslims in the nation have been rising in recent years.

Islamic militant group Boko Haram's kidnapping of 276 girls, mostly Christian, from a government school in Chibok, Nigeria, in 2014 drew attention from the global media. As of April 2024, 82 of the girls remain missing, according to Amnesty International.

Open Doors, a nonprofit that supports persecuted Christians, reports that more than 380 million Christians around the world face high levels of persecution, up by 15 million in 2024, which was a record.

As you can see, there are protracted conflicts which are also religious wars going on in many places but how many of you were aware of it?

It's all down to editorial decisions. Space on a page, whether it be physical or on a computer is limited, as is the time allowed on air for a broadcast. And, as the media saying goes, bad news sells, good news doesn't. But novelty is also a big seller. Who wants to hear about a long-drawn out war far away when we can be served some new conflict?

Don't let the current media fad take our eyes off the suffering that people of all religions and many nationalities are undergoing today. Barnabas Aid www.barnabasaid.org/ provides useful information and prayer pointers for those who wish to pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

As Christians, we are called to spread good news - The Good News - but we must always bear in mind that it is not all fluffy wonderfulness. Christianity is supposed to be a hard calling, often asking us to do things that are contrary to our emotional instincts and sometimes even putting us in grave danger. We must remember that people are being killed for taking the hard path of refusing to renounce their faith and pray for those who are persecuted even now.

Please remember that Sun 6th July is the day of our Parish BBQ, to be held in the Rectory Garden after a United Service in St Mary's Nenagh at 11 am. BBQ's will be provided and more details will be announced in church closer to the time.

And please also note that there are some changes to our usual worship patterns in the coming two months.

The First Sunday of July will be a Union Service because of the Parish BBQ.

The Third Sunday in August would normally be a service in St Mary's but will instead be the Regatta Service in Killodiernan at 11am. This year's address will be given by Lt Col (Rtd.) Peter Harty, Inspector of Navigation at Irish Waterways.

August has a Fifth Sunday which means that there will be a Union Service in St Mary's at 11am that day.

Your Friend and Rector

Keith

Why, or Why Not?

Some more responses to the question of church attendance came in with a interesting comment: 'We seem to have regressed back into an era when children are expected to sit and listen with no chance to participate, or no age appropriate involvement.'

That certainly isn't true always—our service just past had GFS girls participating in the service and receiving their badges from our guest, Very Rev'd Niall Sloane, Dean of St Mary's Cathedral in Limerick. But it wasn't a usual service.

Another interesting comment, 'We go to church almost every Sunday to support the congregation because we are part of a community.' Are we thinking about supporting our church communities? Do we even know who our communities are?

More than one person noted that rules, regulations, GDPR, etc. are suffocating the joy that we once knew about participating in the church. No response to that one. We just have to realise the rules are there for a reason, but they have certainly changed things from when some of us were young.

Marty



Girls' Friendly Society

What a wonderful evening we had at Evensong in St Mary's with the great choir from St Mary's Cathedral in Limerick. And the GFS girls did us proud as they helped with the service. Part of this was a history of the Evensong service itself.



Thank you so much to everyone who helped with this inspiring service, including the hard-working ladies who prepared our refreshments for afterwards.

Please contact Rose on 087 6758896 for further information on GFS.

The New Friend of the Parish Flew the Coop

The story of Stanley is over or at least temporarily paused.



Liberation day, June 1st. Showed up by the back door Monday morning—we climbed up and fed him puppy food and worms. Always answered calls with a friendly chirp before flying away again.



Tuesday morning, having survived, very hungry, but flew away again. Good-bye and good luck, Stanley. (Two weeks later, Stanley's foster mother went out and called, 'Stanley' loudly. A reassuring 'chirp' came back from Stanley with his (or her) family right above in the tree.) Hurrah for Stanley, a starling with personality.

Mírmeara 2 Autism Class, Kiladangan National School, Puckane

Those of us with a good memory will recall that our charity partner for the 2024 Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's was Mírmeara 2 Autism Class, Kiladangan National School, Puckane, to contribute to the outdoor play area for the older children in the autism class. The new playground is now established and being very well used, with great enjoyment. Notice the one climbing into the barrel. One thing that seemed very popular in particular was to get up on the monkey bars, drop down into the barrel, then have somebody else roll the barrel round and round. Made me dizzy but they loved it. Rev Keith presented a cheque to Avril Mounsey for our contribution with some of us from the Christmas Tree Festival workers looking on. Unfortunately Rose Langley, who did so much, couldn't be with us because of work.



Those of us who were there included Kirsten Bayly-Parker, Hilary Moynan, Cindy Stanley, Deborah Powell, Caroline Hayes, and Marty Sanders



Love your Enemies

Matthew 5:43-48

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

We heard this reading at morning worship with the Community of Brendan the Navigator this week. It is part of Matthew's collection of sayings of Jesus that we call the Sermon on the Mount. It seems particularly relevant for the times we are living through right now. In our own country, we see immigrants treated as enemies by gangs of thugs, and even burned out of their homes. Overseas we see nation states declare each other to be enemies, and attack and destroy each other's cities, while innocent civilians suffer and die. We are all troubled by this pain and suffering, and fearful we might be drawn into it. We can only pray, 'Lord have mercy, is there no end to this?'

'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you', says Jesus.

It is relatively easy to love our neighbours, people like us, people who like us, people to whom we can turn for help in times of trouble. But every one of us must find it difficult to love an enemy, someone who hates us, who has harmed us in some way, or seeks to do so, whatever the reason.

It is important to understand what 'love' means here. In Greek, it is the word *agape*, which means a deep concern for the good of the other that reaches out, even if it receives nothing in return. It is not sexual, physical love (*eros*), nor is it the mutual love of intimate friendship, nor that between marriage partners (*philia*).

Our God is love in this 'agape' sense. He loves us, and desires what is good for us, whether we are good or bad. As Jesus puts it, 'he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous'. Jesus is teaching us that we can only be good human beings, can only be 'children of our Father in heaven', if we imitate God's love, and that includes loving our enemies.

And is it so unreasonable to love, to care for, to have genuine concern for our enemies, and pray for them? My enemy may hate me, but what do I gain from hating my enemy back? Anyone who hates suffers mentally, doing more damage to himself or herself than to the supposed enemy. And if my enemy harms me, they harm themselves as well.

If I have a true Christian spirit, I will reach out in compassion to that person. I will want that person to be healed, healed of their hatred, healed of their anger, so that they may learn how to love. Surely it is much better, and makes more sense, to pray for that person than to hate them back - to bring about healing and reconciliation, rather than deepen the wound on both sides.

What Jesus is asking us to do is not something impossible or unnatural. It is the only thing that can bring peace to me and hopefully, in time, to the person who is hostile to me. As Jesus also said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God'. (Matthew 5:9)

Jesus tells us today, 'Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect'. This is an ideal that we can only reach for with the help of the Holy Spirit. But it is a call to do our utmost to imitate God by extending our goodwill impartially and unconditionally to every single person. This is not just a commandment. When we reflect on it, it is simply common sense, and it is as much in our own interest as it benefits others.

From Martin Luther King:

*Now there is a final reason I think
that Jesus says, 'Love your enemies.'
It is this: that love has within it a
redemptive power. And there is a
power there that eventually
transforms individuals.*

Joc Sanders



July

St Mary's, Nenagh

Cleaning volunteers:

Names currently on list: Jack Bayly, Kirsten Bayly-Parker, Lisa Drummond, Caroline Hayes, Yvonne Hayes, Lyn Kelly, Helen Leo, Hilary Percy, Franny Younghusband

4 July	Lisa Drummond
11 July	Helen Leo, Yvonne Hayes
18 July	Lyn Kelly, Hilary Percy
25 July	Jack Bayly



Reader rota:

Names currently on list: Jack Bayly, Kirsten Bayly-Parker, Audrey Clarke-Gordon, Rose Langley, Lyn Kelly, Ann McKee, Deborah Powell, Franny Younghusband

6 July	Laura Clarke
13 July	Lynn Kelly
20 July	Rose Langley
27 July	Kirsten Bayly-Parker

Flower rota:

Names currently on list: Audrey Clarke-Gordon, Caroline Hayes, Yvonne Hayes, Rose Langley, Franny Younghusband

Yvonne Hayes
Rose Langley

Killodiernan

Reader rota:

Names currently on list: Laura Clarke, Sarah-Jane Clarke, Catherine Lidwill, Deborah Powell, Marty Sanders

13 July	Deborah Powell
27 July	Catherine Lidwill

Templederry

Reader rota

19 July	Frieda Powell
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August

St Mary's, Nenagh

Cleaning volunteers:

Names currently on list: Jack Bayly, Kirsten Bayly-Parker, Lisa Drummond, Caroline Hayes, Yvonne Hayes, Lyn Kelly, Helen Leo, Hillary Percy, Franny Younghusband

1 August	Lisa Drummond
8 August	Helen Leo, Yvonne Hayes
15 August	Lyn Kelly, Hilary Percy
22 August	Kirsten Bayly-Parker
29 August	Caroline Hayes, Franny Younghusband



Reader rota:

Names currently on list: Jack Bayly, Kirsten Bayly-Parker, Audrey Clarke-Gordon, Rose Langley, Lyn Kelly, Ann McKee, Deborah Powell, Franny Younghusband

3 August	Jack Bayly
10 August	Lynn Kelly
17 August	Sarah-Jane Clarke
24 August	Kirsten Bayly-Parker
31 August	Ann McKee

Flower rota:

Names currently on list: Audrey Clarke-Gordon, Caroline Hayes, Yvonne Hayes, Rose Langley, Franny Younghusband

Yvonne Hayes
Audrey Clarke-Gordon
Caroline Hayes

Killodiernan

Reader rota:

Names currently on list: Laura Clarke, Sarah-Jane Clarke, Catherine Lidwill, Deborah Powell, Marty Sanders

10 August	Deborah Powell
24 August	Catherine Lidwill

Templederry

Reader rota

3 August	Frieda Powell
16 August	Jean Mooney

Nenagh Union of Parishes

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NUP website - nenaghunion.com