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 Deadline for next issue: 27 Oct

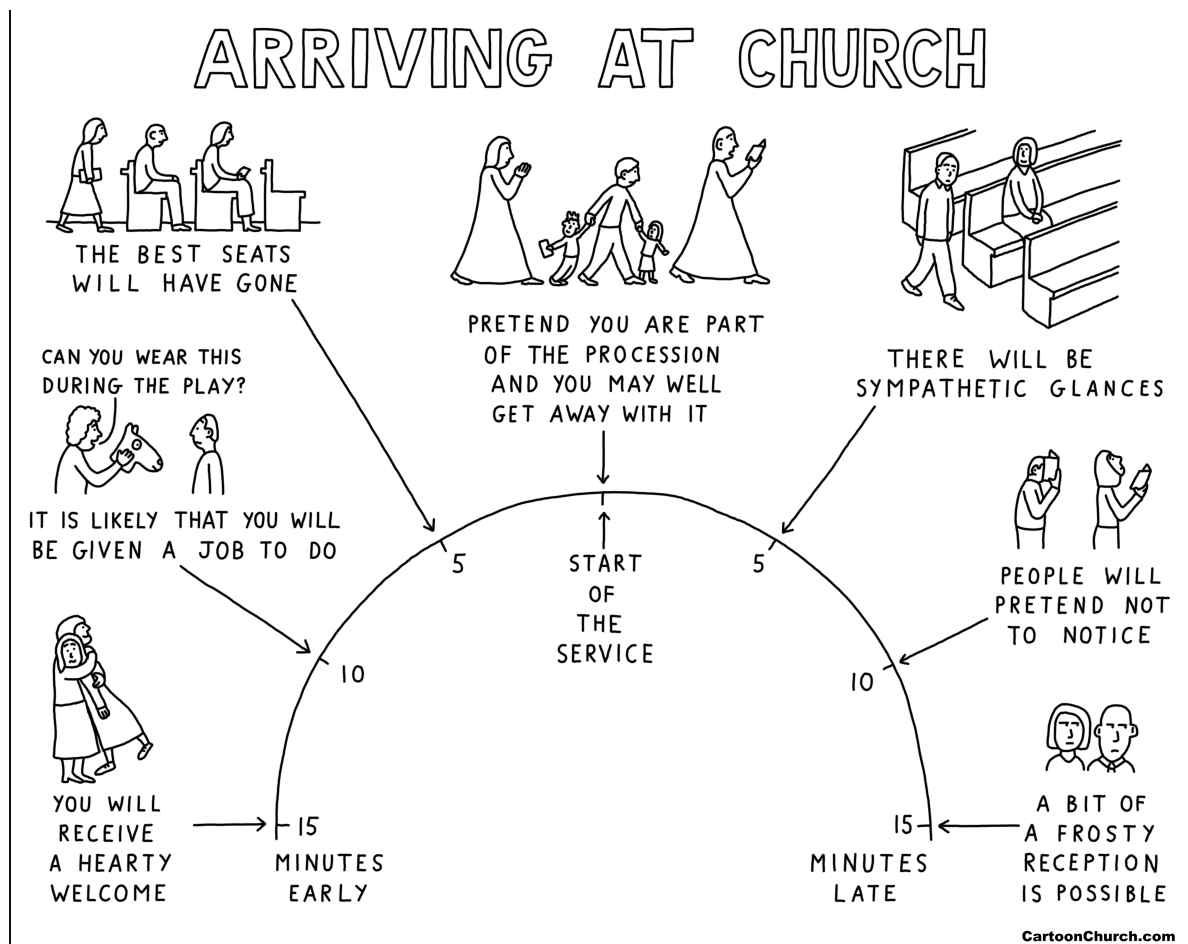
Nenagh Union of Parishes October 2025

Sun 5 th	9:30am	Templederry, Holy Communion	
	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Sun 12 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Morning Prayer	
	12:15pm	Killodiernan, Morning Prayer	
Mon 13 th	11:00am	Killodiernan, St Brendan the Navigator - Joc Sanders	
Sat 18 th	7:30pm	Templederry, Family Service	
Sun 19 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Family Service	
Sun 26 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Morning Prayer	St Luke Transferred
	12:15pm	Killodiernan, Morning Prayer	

Parish Prayer List



Andy, Arthur, Avril, Emma, Marjorie, Mary





From the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

Dan Burmawi, a commentator on Political Theology writes:

'Adolf Eichmann, a high-ranking Nazi and one of the architects of the Holocaust, fled to South America after World War II.

In 1962, he was captured and brought to Israel for trial. During the proceedings, the prosecution brought in survivors from Nazi death camps to testify against him. One of them, Yehiel Dinur, entered the courtroom and came face to face with Eichmann, who was seated in a glass box. The moment Dinur saw him, he collapsed to the ground, shaking and sobbing uncontrollably.

Years later, in an interview with the US TV programme 60 Minutes, journalist Mike Wallace asked Dinur if his reaction had been caused by traumatic memories from the concentration camps. "No," Dinur replied. "It was not the memories that made me collapse. It was the realisation that Eichmann was not a demon. He was an ordinary man."

Hannah Arendt, a journalist for The New Yorker, attended Eichmann's trial and later wrote about it. She noted that Eichmann was not a psychopath, not a man burning with sadistic hatred. He was ordinary.

That is what made him so terrifying. He was a man who followed orders, who did his job, who justified the horrors he participated in without ever questioning them.

All humans have the capacity for evil. We all have within us the ability to justify unspeakable horrors if the conditions are right. The question is not whether we are capable of evil, but what prevents us from committing it?

Most religions restrain human evil. They set moral boundaries, condemning acts of violence, injustice, and cruelty. Christianity, for example, commands its followers to love their enemies, forgive those who harm them, and refuse vengeance. Judaism, despite its history of persecution, never formed a doctrine commanding global conquest or the extermination of non-Jews.'

Our civilisation sits upon our Judeo-Christian heritage of tolerance but tolerance has its limits. It is said that the difference between a medicine and a poison is the dose; for instance, morphine brings blessed relief from extreme pain but too much depresses respiration. In effect, the difference between bliss and death is the dose.

And so it is with our tolerance. Too much toleration sets free the Eichmanns of this world to do things that are repugnant to Western civil virtue, too little stifles the hard conversations that we need to have about matters like the mass immigration into Europe that undermines our traditions and Judeo-Christian culture, driving up property prices and forcing our young abroad.

We need to be aware that such stifling can drive people into the embrace of dark political forces when their concerns are not acknowledged by society at large.

How then are we to tell what is too much and what is too little tolerance? Perhaps a first step is to shed the infantile Victorian idea of 'Gentle Jesus, meek and mild' that has transmogrified into an conception of Jesus as a Hippy-like Pseudo-Buddhist character who would wouldn't hurt a fly. We need to rediscover the Jesus who set standards and was prepared to use physical violence to make a point, the Jesus who ran amok in the Temple Precincts with a whip, overturning tables, the Jesus who went to the desert to do battle with the devil, the Jesus whose influence made his followers proclaim him Lord despite the deeply grisly ends that that would entail.

Now, I'm not calling for us to beat ploughshares back into swords in a physical sense, but I am calling for us to be philosophically and spiritually armed to argue our case in a Western world that seems to be becoming increasingly detached from its Judeo-Christian heritage.

We must always seek to be tolerant, but not at the expense of our destruction. As the fictional Father Duddleswell in the humorous 1970/1980's 'Bless Me, Father' book series opines, 'St Paul bids us be fools for Christ's sake, not blithering idiots!'

Advance Notice

The Christmas Tree Festival will be running again this year from Wed 10th – Sun 14th December. Please start sorting through things in your homes that you might want to unburden yourself from and which would make good donations for the Bric-a-Brac stall to sell. Homemade foodstuffs are always a popular item!

Children's Packs.

Each of our churches now contains Children's Packs, St Mary's has four and Templederry and Killodiernan have two apiece. Each pack contains a whiteboard, erasable markers, a cloth to wipe the board clean and an activity and a puzzle for younger members of our congregation. It also has a note addressed to parents explaining that we welcome children and that they should not be worried about them coming to church with them.

I append the note for your information as to our policy and also that in the hope that you might pass it on to parents of young children who might otherwise fight shy of attending church:



Dear Parents

Children are a gift from God. Jesus welcomed the little children, and so do we. We can more than cope with a little 'joyful noise' in our church; we are excited you're here and believe children's voices are the sound of new life in church.

We understand that children do not instantly know how to take part in worship, and we also acknowledge that things have changed a lot since most adults were children in church. Maybe when you were a child you were expected to be mini adults or to be seen and not heard.

We don't feel that way here. We want to help both parents and their children to feel welcome and affirmed just as they are, whether they're seasoned churchgoers or first time visitors. We also know that when children feel truly welcomed, they are happier to be in church and will want to take part in being full participants in worship.

In our church we provide child friendly packs with a dry wipe board and markers, a cloth to clean the board and a couple of games and activities to engage young minds.

Children learn by watching, hearing, touching, and exploring! If your child wants to explore the building during the service then that's fine with us.

Children make noise. This is part of their being. But when it's your child making the noise in a public place, that noise seems massively exaggerated and your natural instinct is to think that you must remove the child because you think that everyone is looking at you and judging you on your parenting! Take a breath and relax before giving in to the temptation of immediately bundling them out... be assured that the Rector is more than capable of making himself heard over your child!

Rector Keith Barry
Church of Ireland

St Mary's, Nenagh; Killodiernan, Puckane; Templederry

Personal Note

I will be away for the majority of October due to the Annual Diocesan Clergy Conference followed by an event in London to mark the 20th Anniversary of the 2005 Deployment of Task Force Maysan of which I was the chaplain of in Iraq. This represents a difficult period of my life with all the experiences that high-intensity war fighting entails and that left me mentally scarred with PTSD.

If I seem distant, distracted or even downright cantankerous through this period and Remembrance Sunday, I ask your forgiveness in advance!

I will then be taking a period of late-summer leave.

There will be no Midweek Communion Services in October except for the first Wednesday, The 1st of October as a result.

**From an earlier Grapevine
edited by Patrick Rowley-
Brooke, Dec 2011-Jan 2012**

Jesus said 'Except you become
like little children,...'



Here are some definitions of
love from 4 to 8 year olds:

'When someone loves you, the
way they say your name is
different. You just know that
your name is safe in their mouth.'
Billy, 4

'Love is what's in the room with
you at Christmas if you stop
opening presents and listen.'
Bobby, 7

'If you want to learn to love
better, you should start with a
friend who you hate.' Nikka, 8

'When you love somebody, your
eyelashes go up and down and
little stars come out of you.'
Karen, 7

'You really shouldn't say 'I love
you' unless you meant it. But if
you mean it, you should say it a
lot. People forget.' Jessica, 8

Your Friend and Rector

Keith

ST. MARY'S NO. 2 N.S.
OPEN NIGHT - OCT 9TH 6pm - 8pm



Call in to see our
amazing school. We
look forward to
meeting you!
Enrolment forms
available on the night!



@STMARYSNO2NSNENAGH

In our school we have:

- Small class sizes
- Fun learning environments
- High academic results
- Specialised SET teachers
- A quiet sensory zone
- A breakfast club and after schools club
- Free hot lunches
- A huge yard to play in
- Weekly choir lessons
- Our 7th Green School Flag
- Many sports available - soccer, gaelic football, tennis, swimming, zumba, yoga, rounders and athletics
- Well stocked libraries
- French classes
- Project work
- Laptops, tablets and interactive whiteboards
- Our own vegetable garden
- Educational trips and so much more...

Rev'd Keith put this on Facebook a while ago and in case you haven't seen it, here's a reprint.

Reasons I never ~~go to church~~ shower

1. I was forced to shower as a child.
2. People who shower are hypocrites. They think they are cleaner than everyone else.
3. There are so many different kinds of soap, could never decide which one was right.
4. I used to shower, but it got boring so I stopped.
5. I shower only on special occasions, like Easter and Christmas.
6. None of my friends shower.
7. I'm still young. When I'm older and have gotten a bit dirtier, I might start showering.
8. I really don't have time to shower.
9. The bathroom is never warm enough in the winter or cool enough in the summer.
10. People who make soap are only after your money.

And more—

- I get along very well without showering.
- I work hard all week and am too tired to take a shower on the weekend.
- The first bar of soap I ever used gave me a rash, so I haven't gone near soap since.

Food for thought:

In 'Search', a Church of Ireland Journal, Vol 48.1, Spring 2025 is an excellent article by Rachael Murphy, Children and Families Development Officer. It is titled 'Where are the Church's children now?' I started by thinking about all the things we could learn from this article and the more I read, the more I realised we are doing our best with a lot of her ideas. The main suggestions include making the young people part of our services but we do this with Family Services, collections and other things. We might do more in this regard as families and children really do like knowing they have a part in our church services. Probably her most profound statement is: 'Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can.' She suggests several things such as if you have a relationship with the local school, invite classes into the church, let them explore and ask questions, explain what happens during a normal church service and what sort of things people actually do—read the lessons, play the organ, etc.

In our case with the school so close, we would need to co-ordinate activities with what those students are doing regularly. One church promoted a Messy Church on certain Friday afternoons. Another realised how much the young people like working outside in their wellies, planting and weeding. She ends with, 'As a Church, let us stop mourning how things used to be and focus on how they can be today.' I personally am one of those who remember when, but need to get on with it. We all do. Marty



Girls' Friendly Society

First meeting for this year was held on Saturday, 27th September in St. Mary's church.

As part of our Environmental & Nature Study Badge we planted spring bulbs so are looking forward to seeing the results of our work when the daffodils arrive in early Spring.

The other badge for 2025 is Book Lovers Badge and we are looking forward to hearing about all the books girls are reading this year.

All branches in the country were asked to go for a walk on the afternoon of 27th September to celebrate the 150th anniversary of GFS in Ireland. Nenagh girls walked from the church to the castle and back to the church to mark the occasion.

On returning to the church, we enjoyed refreshments and discussed plans for this year's craft completions.

The Bible Study theme for this year is: "Building Blocks of Hope - Every Little Helps". We looked at the story of Jesus Feeds Five Thousand along with the hymn 'The Lord's My Shepherd'.

GFS will meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 2-4pm in St. Mary's. Next meeting is 18th October when we will be doing Tie Dye. Girls are asked to bring a Plain White Tee Shirt and wear old clothes.

Consent Forms need to be returned to Rose Langley prior to the next meeting. If there are any questions or further information, please contact Rose on 087 6758896.



One small **positive** thought
in the **morning**
can change **your** entire day



Harvest Festivals for the Nenagh Union of Parishes

We had an amazing Harvest Festival period with churches full of decorations and families and most importantly, young people.

We started with St Mary's at the end of August, then Killodiernan and Templeberry in September. Thank you so much to our guest speakers, to all who decorated and made the delicious food and in general helped all of us celebrate our bountiful harvest.

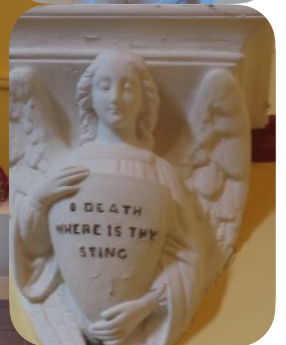
We can thank GFS for much of the beautiful decorating in St Mary's.







For some reason, we didn't get many pictures from Killodiernan (my special photographer let me down) but then ended with a rousing afternoon at Templeberry.



Forgiveness

I suspect few if any of us had heard of Charlie Kirk before his foul murder in America on 10th September. Aged 18, he set up Turning Point USA to advocate for conservative values on school and university campuses around the USA. He became deeply embedded in Donald Trump's MAGA movement, cultivated friendship with many of its leaders, and is credited with encouraging many young people to vote for Trump in 2024. Since his assassination, MAGA is now trying to make him into a martyr for the MAGA cause, justifying persecution of their enemies.

Like most if not all of us, I detest Donald Trump. He claims to be a Christian, but his words and actions make a mockery of it. He is an avowed enemy of the liberal, democratic, socialist views I espouse. He is making our world a much more dangerous place, and blighting the lives of millions, not least in his own country. But Trump is an old man, two years older even than me. His confused and rambling speech, and erratic decision making, suggest he may be developing dementia. He will not last forever. What really concerns me is the MAGA movement he has created, which looks set on establishing an amoral autarchy to perpetuate a US government where might is right, and the purpose of the state is to punish opponents and enrich a coterie of billionaires.

I don't seek to disparage Charlie Kirk's evangelical Christian faith, but I am disgusted by his political views. He facilitated Trump, espousing Christian nationalism, young earth creationism, climate change denial, and islamophobia.

Charlie's wife Erika, however, seems to be made of different stuff. In an emotional eulogy for her dead husband at a memorial service in Arizona before a crowd of more than 100,000, she bravely offered forgiveness to the shooter who killed Charlie, saying,

"My husband, Charlie, he wanted to save young men just like the one who took his life..."

"On the cross, our Saviour said: 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' That man - that young man - I forgive him. I forgive him because it's what Christ did. And it's what Charlie would do."

"The answer to hate is not hate. The answer - we know from the gospel - is love. Always love. Love for our enemies. Love for those who persecute us."

It is well worth watching or reading her speech, which you can find by googling 'erika kirk full speech'.



I am deeply moved by her words. It would have been so easy for her to express her grief through words of hate, riling up the crowd to seek revenge. But she did not, she spoke of love and forgiveness, truly Christian values. Unlike Trump himself, who spoke of hating his opponents. I think her words in that febrile atmosphere may have prevented an orgy of revenge attacks on people the MAGA crowd see as enemies. We shall see, but as the new leader of Turning Point USA, I pray that she will continue to speak words of love, not hatred, and help to bring a bitterly divided USA back to sanity, back to Christian values, back from the brink. May God bless her, may God bless America, and God bless every one of us.

Joc Sanders

October

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

3 Oct	Franny Younghusband
10 Oct	Helen Leo, Yvonne Hayes
17 Oct	Lyn Kelly, Hilary Percy
24 Oct	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

5 Oct	Franny Younghusband
12 Oct	Jack Bayly
19 Oct	Rose Langley/GFS
26 Oct	Kirsten Bayly-Parker

Flower rota:

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

Franny Younghusband

Caroline Hayes

Killodiernan

Reader rota:

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

12 Oct	Catherine Lidwill
26 Oct	Sarah-Jane Clarke

Templederry

Reader rota

5 Oct	Jean Mooney
18 Oct	Frieda Powell

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.

Nenagh Union of Parishes

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Diocesan website - <http://www.limerick.anglican.org>
NUP website - nenaghunion.com