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Deadline for next issue: **1 Dec**

Nenagh Union of Parishes November 2025

Sat 1 st	11:00am	Ballymackey in Graveyard	All Saints Commemoration
Sun 2 nd	9:30am	Templederry, Holy Communion	
	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Wed 5 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Sat 8 th	11:00am	War Memorial opposite Post Office	Act of Remembrance
Sun 9 th	11:00am	St Mary's, United Service	Remembrance
Mon 10 th	11:00am	Killodiernan, St Brendan the Navigator - Joc Sanders	
Wed 12 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Sat 15 th	7:30pm	Templederry, Family Service	
Sun 16 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Family Service	
Wed 19 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Sun 23 rd	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	Christ the King
	12:15pm	Killodiernan, Holy Communion	
Wed 26 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion	
Sun 30 th	11:00am	St Mary's, United Service	Mental Health Sunday

Parish Prayer List

Andy, Arthur, Avril, Emma, Marjorie



Christmas Tree Festival 2025 St Mary's Church, Nenagh

This is our 10th anniversary and this is a general thank you to all those who have worked so hard to get us here, especially after the woes of the Covid pandemic. This year:

Wednesday 10th December to Sunday, 14th December

Open times: Wednesday to Friday, 1:00pm to 5:30pm

Saturday 11:00am to 6:00pm, followed by Carol Service

Sunday 11:00am to 6:00pm, followed by a short closing ceremony to announce
Christmas Tree Prize winners and raffle prizes

To enter a tree, please contact: nenaghchristmastrees@gmail.com

Proceeds in aid of Nenagh Union of Parishes and North Tipperary Hospice Cancer Support Centre at Suaimhneas, Nenagh



From the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

I think it's fair to say that Ireland has not had a diplomatically stunning year on the world stage. Indeed, friends of mine abroad are telling me that they are being mercilessly teased by members of their host nations for being Irish because of a rotating premiership, the fervent exhibitions of what has become known as 'Paddystinianism', the anger stirred by huge demographic changes and then, to top it all off, a Presidential Election that would seem worthy of an obscure South American Republic where the guy in the uniform with a big moustache always wins.

But, as the Rev'd Henry Lyte said, 'Change and decay in all around I see' in his hymn *Abide With Me*, he couples it with the fervent prayer 'O Thou who changest not, abide with me' teaching us that whatever the circumstances, we will survive if we ask God to guide us. Indeed, if you think about it, the Church saw some of its greatest flourishing under a very unstable late Roman Empire with Caesars of various stripes doing all sorts of odd things and trying their best to assassinate each other!

Which brings me to a thought about Biblical Leadership. We will all have heard of the Book of Judges, early on in the Old Testament but we probably know little about it. Here's a short overview:

It covers the time between the Israelites' conquest of the promised land and the establishment of a king.

It's a book featuring ad hoc leaders. The book gets its name from the "judges" who were military and political leaders, not judicial figures in the modern sense. There are 12 "major" and "minor" judges featured, including Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson.

The book is structured around a repeating pattern:

- 1) Israel sins against God
- 2) God allows an enemy nation to oppress Israel
- 3) Israel repents and cries out for help
- 4) God raises up a judge to deliver them
- 5) The cycle begins again.

So, as you can see the message is simple: Israel fares badly and very much repeatedly when there is no continuity of central leadership and stability only comes with an established monarchy as a symbol of national unity.

As Ireland appears to be becoming more and more fragmented it behooves us to pray for a strong and just Vision for Ireland to take hold of those who govern us.

Talking of elections, a member of the congregation received a rather ranting note, obviously a circular, about how disgraceful it was that a candidate was being attacked for her inability to speak Irish and how this was an anti-Protestant. Albeit a circular, it had been personalised in the margins and appeared to be the work of someone involved with the Orange Order. It was most upsetting for the recipient and I brought the matter to the bishop to gather if such was being circulated in other parishes. Luckily it seems to have been a one-off but it was distressing and I would urge any others who receive such strange missives to let me know so that we can try to put a stop to any such pernicious circulars.

There will be Two Union Services this month:

The Second Sunday, Remembrance Sunday will be a Union Service in St Mary's at 11am. Please also note that there will be an Act of Remembrance at the Nenagh War Memorial opposite the Post Office at 11am on the Saturday before.

The Fifth Sunday, which I am designating Mental Health Sunday will be in St Mary's at 11am. The theme is recognising that we all have mental health, whether it be good or bad and our guest speakers will be from ALONE, a charity that seeks to help older people who feel cut off from society. They will be talking about their work and encouraging us to help their mission.

If anyone can think of any local mental health needs within our community that we can add to our prayers, please let me know. Obviously, farmers, with the burdens on their life and easy access to firearms will be on the list already.

The Christmas Tree Festival is coming and it's our TENTH Anniversary!

Please start to sort out any useable bric-a-brac that you might have at home for the Stall to sell!

Your Friend and Rector, Keith



Girls' Friendly Society

Last month there was a lot of information in Grapevine. Don't forget GFS meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 2-4pm in St. Mary's. If there are any questions or further information, please contact Rose on 087 6758896.

Ireland needs Immigrants

We have recently seen horrific images of violent mobs rioting on successive nights outside the Citywest Hotel in Saggart, Co Dublin. It is the temporary home of some 1,200 Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine, and a similar number of asylum seekers in an IPAS centre seeking international protection from elsewhere. More than 1,000 rioters hurled bricks and fireworks at Garda lines and burned out a Garda van, while chanting anti-immigrant slogans. Thank God the Garda riot squad held the line and pushed the rioters back from the hotel, so that it was not overrun. It is a mercy that no one was killed.

The riots followed reports that a 10-year-old Irish girl in State care was allegedly sexually assaulted by a foreign man from the IPAS centre. These were amplified over social media by far-right racist anti-immigrant thugs, who succeeded in assembling the crowd, and organising them to attack the Gardai. Many of the rioters appear to have been children, engaging in the kind of recreational rioting we used to see many years ago in the North.

This is not the first time we have seen such violence on Irish streets. Back in 2023 we saw something similar in Dublin City Centre. Shops were looted. Buses, Garda vehicles, and a Luas tram were destroyed by arson, and 3 Gardai were seriously injured. In recent years hotels and other buildings have been attacked and burned because it was believed, sometimes erroneously, that they were about to be used to house refugees. And non-European immigrants have suffered increasing racial abuse and attacks on the streets. We can only imagine how frightened all immigrants must be feeling, not just those in Citywest.

Government policies have failed to provide enough houses, school places and health services to meet our country's needs, particularly in deprived areas. Ordinary people, rightly concerned by this, have been easy prey for far-right racist agitators telling them 'Ireland is full' and blaming all their ills on immigrants. These agitators have learned how to use social media to whip up anti-immigrant, racist sentiment, and use it to organise attacks and riots, copying a playbook written by similar agitators in the UK and America.

But the truth is Ireland is not full - our island's population is only just reaching what it was before the famine in the 1840s. The Irish birth rate has fallen below replacement level, the level at which population replaces itself without migration. Without immigration, Ireland would become a rapidly aging society.

Ireland needs immigrants. If we can't recruit doctors, nurses, and nursing home care workers from overseas, our health and elderly care services will collapse. Go to any hospital or nursing home, as I have recently, and you will see how much they rely on immigrants. Our wealth-creating tech and pharma industries also need highly skilled staff recruited from overseas. And we will find it very difficult to build enough houses unless we recruit building workers from overseas.

More than 80% of foreign immigrants come to Ireland to work in jobs that need to be done, or they are their wives and children. The balance are refugees seeking sanctuary from war, persecution or natural disaster, to whom as Christians we owe a duty of care. Our whole society has gained immeasurably from them, not just from the work they do and the taxes they pay, but from the vibrant life they bring to our cities and towns, their culture, foods and music.

We must make immigrants feel safe and welcome, and we must not let far-right racists drive them away. But what can we do? Here are a few things:

- We must support the police and the legal system as they apply the full force of the law against the criminals who organise racist violence on our streets.
- We must call on government to do more to address the real needs of people living in deprived areas, whose desperation makes them easy targets for racist manipulation.
- We can support marches and demonstrations to express our abhorrence of far-right racists.
- And locally, we can get together with churches of other Christian traditions to express our welcome to immigrants in our Nenagh community, perhaps in an ecumenical event like the 'Celebrate Our Nations' event organised by Nenagh Churches Together in St Mary's of the Rosary in 2012.



Garda van on fire outside Citywest

Joc Sanders

November

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

31 Oct	Yvonne Hayes
7 Nov	Helen Leo, Yvonne Hayes
14 Nov	Lyn Kelly, Hilary Percy
21 Nov	Jack Bayly
28 Nov	Lisa and Ciara Drummond



Reader rota:

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

2 Nov	Kirsten Bayly-Parker
9 Nov	Jane Coman, Jack Bayly
16 Nov	Rose Langley/GFS
23 Nov	Ann McKee
30 Nov	John Wallace, Sarah-Jane Clarke

Flower rota:

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

Georgina Jones

Audrey Clarke-Gordon

Killodiernan

Reader rota:

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

23 Nov	Marty Sanders
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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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