

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The celebration of Christmas can bring very mixed emotions to this time of year. It's a time of family get togethers, the returning home of those who have been away, missing those who can't get home and indeed, especially for our parish over the past year, the deep searing pain of remembering those who have gone home to the Lord.

In the course of all of this with the frenetic activity of preparing with presents and food etc... it's a wonder any of us can survive the day itself! But survive we do and celebrate we do because deep down it's about the birth of Hope into a world gone slightly (tongue in cheek here) ... mad! No more than at the time of the Lord's birth, our world is fraught with war and division. We need to believe that somehow, all will be well. We need to believe that reason, civility and understanding of the other person can be achieved. That Hope comes in the person of a little child who transformed the world into a better place. Our faith recognises God becoming one of us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth – He walks with us still because He is risen. It is my prayer for all of you that you keep this hope alive in your hearts and lives for 2025, a Year of Jubilee the motto of which is we are all "Pilgrims of Hope".

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all of you for your support in my work as PP and Rector, for your patience, goodness and good humour, which we all need!

Every blessing and may Our Lady of Knock, St Joseph, St John and the Lamb of God be your guide and inspiration.

Fr Richard

'CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT'

takes place at Knock Basilica on Sunday, December 22nd at 8pm. Join us for an evening of Christmas carols and festive favourites. All are welcome.

ADVENT CANDLE REFLECTION

The fourth candle of Advent is purple and represents love. It is called the Angel's candle and is lit on the Sunday before Christmas Day. All four candles will be lit on our Advent Wreath giving us a full circle of light. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel. We are invited to experience the love of Christ, to share that love with one another and be loving towards the stranger, oppressed and marginalized. A central white candle known as the Christ candle is lit on Christmas Day.

Knock-Shanvaghera parish-pastoral council.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE:

9am, 12 noon and 3pm in Parish Church. 7.30pm and Midnight Mass in Basilica

12am: Midnight Mass in Knock Basilica

CHRISTMAS DAY:

9am: Parish Church. 10.30am and 12noon Basilica

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY AND DECEMBER 27TH:

12 noon and 3pm in Parish Church

Normal Schedule of Mass Times resume on Saturday, December 28th

CONFESSIONS:

Christmas Eve: 10.30am to 3pm

The Chapel of Reconciliation will close from Christmas Day until December 30th inclusive and will re-open on New Year's Eve from 10.30am to 4pm

KNOCK ANNUAL ST. STEPHEN'S DAY WALK

Please join us after 12 noon Mass on St. Stephen's Day at the gates of the Old Church for a walk around the Shrine grounds with family, friends and neighbours. All proceeds in aid of St. Vincent De Paul and UNICEF. Fr. Richard will lead the walk again this year. Everyone is invited back to the newly-refurbished Knock Community Centre afterwards for tea / coffee and a bun! We hope to see you there and a very Happy Christmas to all.

6 JANUARY - FEAST OF THE EPHIPANY

Masses: Sunday: 5 January: 9.00am, 10.30am Parish Church. 12noon and 3.00pm Basilica and 7.30pm Parish Church.

Masses: Monday 6 January: 9.00am and 10.30am Parish Church, 12noon and 3.00pm Basilica. 7.30pm Parish Church.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jack Byrne who died in London. Brother of Brian Byrne, Ballyroe.

Joe Rochford, Gurteen, Ballyhaunis and formerly of Caldragh. Brother of John Rochford, Caldragh and Eileen Rochford, Ballyhowley.



St. Anne's Church, Shanvaghera & Church of St. John the Baptist, Knock

**Newsletter Sunday 22 December, 2024. Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas 2024**

Fr Richard Gibbons, P.P. tel: 094 93 88100

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

KNOCK:

Saturday 21 December:	7.30pm	Eamon Morley, Faughill. 2nd Anniv.
Sunday 22 December:	10.30am	Brian, Nora and Paddy Kearns and the Kearns family, Kilgarriff.
	12noon	Brian McHugh, Cloonfaughna.
Monday 23 December:	12noon	Nora & John Higgins & deceased Family. Cloonfaughna. Anniv.
	7.30pm	James Hyland, Ruane. Anniv.
Tuesday 24 December:	12noon	Tommy & Mary Morley & dec Family, Cloonfaughna/Manchester
	7.30pm	Brian and Mary Egan and deceased Family, Carramore.
Friday 27 December:	12noon	Sean Burke and deceased Burke Family, Cloondace.
Saturday 28 December:	12noon	Mary Commins, Cloonlee. Anniv.
		Des McCaffrey, Glasgow/Knock.
	7.30pm	John and Catherine Power and deceased Family.
Sunday 29 December:	10.30am	Billy Larkin, Cork and formerly of Ballyroe.
	12noon	Pio Flatley, Knock. 1st Anniv.
		Patsy Curry, Rooskey. 20th Anniv.
Monday 30 December:	12noon	Karen Campbell, Shanaghmoyle.
	7.30pm	P.J. and Kate Brady and deceased Family, Liscat.
Tuesday 31 December:	12noon	Phyllis Hall, Cloonfaughna. Anniv.
Wednesday 1 January:	12noon	Katie, Andrew, Tom and Maureen McHale, Lispatrick, Kathleen Enser, Sally Kirwan and deceased members of the McHale and Waldron Families.
Friday 3 January:	12noon	Phyllis Cunnane, Coogue North. Anniv.
Saturday 4 January:	12noon	Johnny, Mary and their son Vivian Coleman, Knock. Anniv.
	7.30pm	Helen Higgins, Cloonfaughna. Month's Mind.
Monday 6 January:	12noon	Paul McHugh and parents Michael and Teresa. Anniv.
Tuesday 7 January:	12noon	John and Mary Costello, Joe and Jim Costello and Sr. Bridie and Sr. Lily and Kathleen Carlos, Caldragh.
Friday 10 January:	7.30pm	Catherine, Billy and Joe Rochford, parents Marie and William, Caldragh.
Saturday 11 January:	12noon	Con and Mary Fahy and deceased Family. Anniv.
	7.30pm	Mary Burke, Wingfield. Month's Mind.
Sunday 12 January:	12noon	Mary Grimes (nee Lee) Liscat. 2nd Anniv.

SHANVAGHERA:

Sunday 22 December:	10.00am	Alo Kneafsey, Shanvaghera. 80th Birthday.
Sunday 29 December:	10.00am	Sean Cunnane, Adrigoole.
Sunday 5 January:	10.00am	Phyllis Heneghan, husband Alo and son Enda, Carramore.