

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

Sat 8.30pm Errill:

Jim Somers, Church Quarter
Sam Grogan, Knockardgannon
Eddie Kelly, Village View

Sun. 10.30 am Rathdowney:

Bill & Margaret Ryan, Church Street
John Bowe, Mooreville
Maura Sheedy, Ross & deceased members of the
Sheedy Family, Cullohill, Knock, Roscrea.

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

RATHDOWNEY

Tuesday 10am: Peg & Val Williams, Rossmore, Errill

Wed 10am: Mary & Paddy Carroll, The Conoboro

Thurs Mass at 10 am

Friday 10am: Michael & Mary Kennedy, Rossmore & Co Meath

MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

12 Noon in Rathdowney:

Martin Delaney, Clonburren Months Mind

Sat 8.30pm Errill:

Sun. 10.30 am Rathdowney:

Caroline Bowe, Grogan
Mary Scott, Coolkerry

Michael Murphy Graigueavalla & his parents Michael and Agnes

Recent Death:

John Bowe, Newtownperry.

Anniversaries:

John Ryan, 6 Ossory Terrace
Lily Phelan, Gloscha
Timmy Williams, Knockiel
Tom Mockler, Thurles

Collections Weekend 16th/17th July 2022

Weekly Envelopes €730 - Offertory €334

The Monument

The Wayside Cross in Errill, known locally as the Monument will be 400 years old on 29th July 2022. There will be a prayer service at the Monument on the evening of the anniversary.

There will also be a tree planted, and prayers, at the site nearby of Saint Kieran's Holy Tree on the same evening.

All are welcome to attend.

Rathdowney Parish Newsletter

23rd/24th July 2022

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Office

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Fr. John Mark Cheitnum RIP

Sad News From Fr Sylvanus

KAFANCHAN DIOCESE: THE HARVEST OF 13 AND THE LOSS OF ONE

The Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan which happens to be my diocese located in northern Nigeria had last Thursday 14th July experienced a bumper harvest of 13 young men (Seminarians) who were ordained into the priesthood and a week later, Thursday 21st July buried one of our priests, Fr. John Mark Cheitnum, who was kidnapped and killed.

Fr. John Mark, was ordained 10 years ago and was 44 years old. He was the Communication Director of the diocese, a Parish Priest, a Vicar Forane, and also a visiting Theology Lecturer in our Diocesan Seminary where we worked together as colleagues. The sad event happened on Friday a day after the ordination, at about 5:45 pm, when Fr. John Mark and one other priest Fr. Cleopas Donatus were on their way to another parish to deliver a sermon at the first mass of one of the newly ordained priests when they were abducted by Fulani terrorists inside the rectory in one of the parishes along the road. Despite hopes that they would regain freedom, unfortunately, four days later the gruesome news came to us that Fr. John Mark was killed the day he was kidnapped, while the other priest managed to escape miraculously from the den of the terrorists on Tuesday morning 19th of July.

His death once again highlights the precarious security situation that we have found ourselves in Nigeria and in particular in Southern Kaduna. More worrisome is the seeming obsession that kidnappers and bandits have with some of our priests due to our vulnerability. Such an unfortunate situation. Though there are terrorist or bandits attacks in different parts of the country, that of southern Kaduna, where my diocese is located is taking the form of ethnic cleansing by the Fulani Jihadists, to conquer and dominate the inhabitants who are mostly Christians. Consequently, our hearts and that of many Nigerians have grown despondent with the endless news of either killings or kidnappings that we are facing daily.

As the remains of Fr. John Mark Cheitnum were laid to rest on Thursday 21st July in the priest's cemetery in the Cathedral, in Kafanchan, I joined millions of other well-wishers to sympathise with the Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, his aged mother, families and friends, may God grant him a merciful judgment and eternal rest. Amen. He is gone, but he will always be in our hearts. Therefore, it is right to say that though the Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan did experience a rich harvest by the ordination of 13 seminarians into the priesthood last Thursday (14th July), a week later (Thursday 21st July) it found itself burying a priest that was kidnapped and killed, indeed life is full of ironies.

Please pray for peace and security in Nigeria.

Fr Sylvanus