

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

Christmas Eve 6.30pm Rathdowney:

Tommy & Mary Murphy, Urlingford
Michael Campion, Lisduff and his parents
Michael and Johanna Campion, Clonmeen.

Christmas Eve 9.00 pm Errill:

William Delaney, Rossmore

Christmas Day 10.30 am Rathdowney:

John Peters, Mooreville
Brendan Walsh Errill Village

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

RATHDOWNEY

St Stephen's Day Mass at 11 am:

Jack & Frances Flanagan, Tullaccommon.

Tues to Friday: Mass at 10 am

MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

Errill at 8.30pm:

Rathdowney at 10.30am

Recent Deaths:

Jim Corby, Shanavaughy, Clough.

Margaret O'Connor- Murphy, Bunclody, Co Wexford sister of Anne Creagh

Anniversaries at this time:

Abe Kavanagh, 1st Anniversary; Ballybrophy;

Grace, Donie & Austin O'Malley & all Deceased members of the O'Malley Family, The Square;

Annie Doran, Mill Street; John Whelan, Ballyedmond;

Peter & Bridie Daly, High Street;

Michael & Máire O'Colmáin, Dublin;

Felix & Josephine Quinn; Dublin;

Bridget Holohan, Middlemount; Dickie Whelan, Mooreville;

John Gorman, Gowran.

Collections Weekend 17th/18th December 2022

Weekly Envelopes €617.00 Offertory €121.80

Adoration

There will be no Adoration in Rathdowney until Thursday 12th Jan 2023 or in Errill until Friday 13th Jan 2023.

Rosary will continue each evening

Monday to Friday at 5.30 pm available on the Webcam

Rathdowney Parish Newsletter

24th/25th December 2022

Christmas Eve / Christmas Day

Parish Office

Darina Ní Cholmáin / Maureen Guilfoyle

Contact: 0505-46282.

www.rathdowneyparish.ie

Email: rathdowney@ossory.ie

Fr. Martin Delaney 086 2444594 - Sr. Anita O'Leary 087 4301072

St. Colmcille's N.S. Enrolment 2023/2024

Applications for enrolment for the 2023/2024 school year will be accepted from January 5th 2023 to February 3rd 2023. Forms will be available from January 5th 2023 in the school (0505 44228) or may be downloaded from the school website at www.errillns.ie.



We welcome into our Parish Community
Saoirse Lily O'Brien
Naiose Mary O'Brien
who will be baptised during this week



SAFEGUARDING

Designated Liaison Person

Kathleen Sherry —085 8021633

safeguarding@ossory.ie

Gardaí 1800 555 222

TUSLA – Laois/Offaly 090 648 3106

Parish Representatives

Helen Campion & John Casey

Contact: 0505-46282

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Assumpta Casey; Helen Campion; Josephine Campion;

Fran Doyle; Maureen Guilfoyle; Oliver Kennedy;

Mary Nolan; Mary O'Dea; Josephine Ryan;

Sr Anita O'Leary; Fr. Martin Delaney

Rathdowney GAA Lotto Results

No jackpot winner. Numbers drawn: 6, 8, 10, 27.10 winners of €15: Liz Dowling, Brophy Family, Brendan Behan, Eddie Dowling, Mgt Rafter, Lucy Ryan, Matt Fitzpatrick, Alan Killeen, Cillian Stenson, Mick Maher. Christmas raffle €50 Philomena Sinnott, €30 Noel Gorman, €20 Katie Smeaton. We would like to wish all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Thank you for all your support in 2022

Errill GAA Lotto Results

No Jackpot Winner. Numbers drawn: 9 – 10 - 20 - 27

1 Match 3: John Keane,

Next Draw 9th January Jackpot €13,500.

Christmas Draw: €50 Conor O'Dea, Clonmeen; Roisin Bowe, Rathdowney & Margaret Keane, Brockery.

Anam Cara

Anam Cara Midlands, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 11th January at 7:15pm in the Mullingar Park Hotel. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. For more info call 01 4045378

PARISH OFFICE

WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL 3RD JANUARY

A Story for Christmas 2022

2022 has been dominated by the dreadful war in Ukraine. Russia and its leaders have isolated themselves in the eyes of the world. I want to share a true story from that part of the world which both highlights a painful reality and also captures something beautiful from the Christmas message.

In 1994 two Americans answered an invitation from the Russian Department of Education to teach morals and ethics (based on Christian principles) in a number of public schools and a large orphanage. About 100 boys and girls who had been abandoned, abused, and left in the care of a government-run program were in the orphanage. They relate the following story in their own words:

‘It was nearing Christmas, 1994, time for our orphans to hear for the first time the traditional story of Christmas. We told them about Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem. Finding no room in the inn, the couple went to a stable, where the baby Jesus was born and placed in a manger. Throughout the story, the children and orphanage staff sat in amazement as they listened. Some sat on the edges of their stools, trying to grasp every word.

Completing the story, we gave the children three small pieces of cardboard to make a crude manger. Each child was given a small paper square cut from yellow napkins I had brought with me.

Following instructions, the children tore the paper and carefully laid strips in the manger for straw. Small squares of flannel, cut from a worn-out nightgown an American lady was throwing away as she left Russia, were used for the baby’s blanket. A doll-like baby was cut from tan felt we had brought from the United States.

The orphans were busy assembling their manger as I walked among them to see if they needed any help. All went well until I got to one table where little Misha sat—he looked to be about six years old and had finished his project. As I looked at the little boy’s manger, I was startled to see not one, but two babies in the manger.

Quickly I called for the translator to ask the lad why there were two babies in the manger. Crossing his arms in front of him and looking at his completed manger scene, the child began to repeat the story very seriously. For such a young boy who had only heard the Christmas story once, he related the happenings accurately—until he came to the part where Mary put the baby Jesus in the manger.

Then Misha started to ad lib. He made up his own ending to the story as he said, “And when Mary laid the baby in the manger, Jesus looked at me and asked me if I had a place to stay. I told him I have no mammy and I have no daddy, so I don’t have any place to stay. Then Jesus told me I could stay with him. But I told him I couldn’t, because I didn’t have a gift to give him like everybody else did. But I wanted to stay with Jesus so much I thought maybe if I kept him warm that would be a good gift. So, I asked Jesus, “If I keep you warm, will that be a good enough gift?” And Jesus told me, “If you keep me warm, that will be the best gift anybody ever gave me.” So, I got into the manger and then Jesus looked at me and told me I could stay with him—for always.”

As little Misha finished his story, his eyes brimmed full of tears that splashed down his little cheeks. Putting his hand over his face, his head dropped to the table and his shoulders shook as he sobbed and sobbed. The little orphan had found someone who would never abandon nor abuse him, someone who would stay with him—for always.