

# Kincasslagh Parish Newsletter, 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

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## St. Mary's Church, Kincasslagh

Day	time	Masses this week
Sat 23	6.30	Gracie Gallagher Mullaghderg
Sun 24	10	Paddy Sally & Mary Gillespie, Braade & the deceased members of the Gillespie family
Sun 24	9pm	Mary Ferry, Keadue
Mon 25	10	Kathleen Stewart Keadue
Sat 30	6.30	Joe Conway
Sun 31	10	Packie and Sheila Bonner Meenmore

## St. Columba's Church, Burtonport

Day	time	Masses this week
Sun 24	11.30	Josie and Nellie O'Donnell, Meenmore
Sun 24	6pm	Children's Mass
Mon 25	11.30	John and Rose Boyle, Perth and Annagry
Tues 26	11	
Fri 29	10	John Coyle, and his son Mark, Meenmore and Glasgow
Sun 31	11.30	Kathleen Murray Ferry

## Recent

Annamay Boner, Glenahilt who was buried on Monday
Andrena O'Donnell, Cois Locha who was buried on Saturday.

## Anniversaries

Lynne Ward, Liverpool and Spain
Martin Gillespie, Glasgow
Michael Donaghy, Arlands
Maureen Sharkey, Belcruit
John Gallagher, Lackbeg
Daniel Clarke

**Welcome Home to family & Friends, neighbours and visitors who are joining us this Christmas.**

## Keadue Rovers Bingo Results 15/13/2023

Winners of the €100 house jackpots were **Daithí Boyle, Annagry/Caroline McGlynn, Lackenagh (Shared) & Anne O'Donnell, Keadue**. No winner of the two Snowballs. Snowballs now stand at €8,000 and €1,400 (on 54 numbers)

**Anam Cara Donegal**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents

on Thursday 11th January at 7:15pm in the Raddison Blu Hotel, Letterkenny Co. Donegal. 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

## ST. COLUMBA'S COMMUNITY CENTRE 2024 Burtonport Festival

Annual night at the races in the Lobster Pot, Burtonport on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10pm Horses available at €10 each. Further info from Tim at the Lobster Pot on 074-95 42012.

**St. Columba's community centre is closed** for Christmas holidays up until 8th January 2024.

**Market/bargain rail** will reopen on Tuesday 16th January 2024 after the Christmas and new year holidays. Many thanks to all who have supported the market and the centre during 2023 we wish all our patrons a happy and holy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

**Would you be willing** to provide companionship or make calls to an older person in your area for 1 hour per week? ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided. If interested, please sign up on <https://alone.ie/volunteers/>. For more information, contact Helena on [Helena.madden@alone.ie](mailto:Helena.madden@alone.ie) or 086 0145829

**Pro Life Campaign**, National Organisation, are holding a Church Gate Collection in County Donegal on weekend of 6/7th January 2024. Your support would be greatly appreciated

## Darren Mills Memorial Run/Walk 2023

1pm on Tuesday 26th December 2023 will see the return of the Darren Mills Memorial Run/Walk to Cruit/Kincasslagh. The event involves a 6km run/walk – with shorter options available for those looking for something more leisurely. Registration at St. Mary's Hall from 12 noon.

This is the 9th year that this event has taken place and to-date it has raised over €20,000 for charity. This year's chosen charity partner is Gemma's Legacy of Hope.

Entry by donation with prize raffle afterwards. Come along and enjoy a bit of festive craic with family and friends in our local area.

**A quick word of thanks to everybody who helped make this year what it was in our**

**Chapels, To Adrian, Margaret Rose, Triona and Martina for their work in the sacristy, to the altar societies for keeping our chapels in good order, for those who decorated for Christmas, the comments are wonderful, to our Ministers of the Word and Eucharist, to our Altar Servers, to our esteemed choirs, to those involved in maintenance, to our adoration groups and prayers, to Roseleen and all she does online and off, to our parish pastoral council, especially for looking after the place so well during my time of recuperation, to all who came to our chapels to sing at weddings and funerals, to Helen for looking after Batman and me! To Margaret and the Community Centre for their kindnesses, for Sheila and those who have kept Kincasslagh hall in order. To Sam for his work in our graveyards, and to Shaun McGlynn and Josie for their assistance and guidance during the year. And to all of you for the prayer and support I have felt over the past three months. To Patrick Kyles for his help in Kincasslagh with the camera. Thank you all, Merry Christmas and a peaceful new year. Apologies if I left anybody out.**

## A gift from the heart of God Christmas 2023

A young woman of faith who is going through a difficult time told me last week that she is really taken with the bible verse; **the loving kindness of the heart of our God will visit us like the dawn from on high**. I asked her why and she explained that there is a lot of loss in her life right now. She said, 'I need hope and I choose to believe that for Christmas the gift of loving kindness is coming for me right from the heart of our God.'

We all need hope. You, as you read this, may be lonely or sad or desolate for many personal reasons. Our world needs hope. Listen to the news from the Holy Land or Ukraine; here in Donegal our towns and villages are awash with drugs and Mica is still a huge cloud over many people's lives; the sacred gift of life is cherished less and less among us. We are a weary world in need of a saviour, a prince of Peace. *The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

Christian hope is not the same as optimism; it does not fear to look troubles in the eye. The Christmas story is about a God, all loving and

all powerful, going looking for trouble. He searched out the poor and the outcast and the lowly and he was born as one of them because he loved them. Because he loves us. "The Shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger." I invite you to make space to contemplate again the timeless tale of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. The shepherds - themselves lowly, miserably types, who were not well thought of - were guided by a heavenly light. They encountered the humble scene and they saw the embodiment of God's love wrapped in rags. The child Jesus - a gift from the heart of our God.

We don't all enjoy the festivities in the same way. If for some reason they drag on you, you can be like one of those shepherds. They were humble and lowly but open to the gift of seeing the presence of God, amazingly at home in the broken and imperfect world that we live in. If, on the other hand - praise God - you delight in the togetherness and the giving and receiving of gifts you can choose to be like Mary. In her quiet strength she treasured all these things and pondered on them in her heart.

Whether you are caught up in the hustle and bustle these days, or not, all of us Christians are invited to be still enough to ponder the extraordinary love that descended from the heavens into a humble manger. Jesus did not come for the people with perfect lives, who have it all together. He came into a broken, war-torn world out of love for the lonely, the disregarded, the refugee, the sinner.

It is my fervent hope that everyone of us will celebrate this

Christmas  
*'the loving kindness of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn from on high.*

**+Bishop**

**Alan McGuckian SJ**

