

# RAHAN PARISH COMMUNITY

## KILLINA, MUCKLAGH AND THE ISLAND

Fr. Martin Carley PP 05793 55917; 087 9774828 email: frmartincarley@gmail.com Parochial House, Rahan, Tullamore.

Fr. Frank Guinan Priest in Residence 05793 21892 Parochial House, Mucklagh, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Parish Secretary Suzanne. At the Parish Office Call in or ring 05793 21892, Thursdays 9.30am-5.30pm.

Parish Website Address: [www.rahanparish.ie](http://www.rahanparish.ie) : Parish Email Address: [rahanparish@gmail.com](mailto:rahanparish@gmail.com)

**Feast of the Holy Family 27<sup>th</sup> December 2015.**

Today's Gospel is both an ordinary and extraordinary family story. A missing child is something that happens to most families at one stage or another. "I thought (s)he was with you! Is the usual panicked exclamation. Returning from Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph assumed Jesus was with the caravan. Panic ensued when he couldn't be found among their family and friends. There is a dash back to Jerusalem – a whole day's journey away, and it takes three long days to find him. They must have been beside themselves with worry, thinking they had lost their son forever. We are told they were 'overcome' when they found him in the Temple – as well they might be.

### KILLINA

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 10.30pm:

Mass for Michael & Ronnie Grennan, Murrough.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm:

**Ecumenical Carol Service, St. Carthage's Church of Ireland Rahan.**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm:

Mass for Rose & Pat Molloy, Cornalaur.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> 9.00am:

Mass in the Convent

New Year's Day 1<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm: **Feast Day of Mary Mother of God & Mass for all those on the List of the Dead And World Day of Peace**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am:

Mass for Michael Kearney, Tully.

### THE ISLAND

St. Stephen's Day 6.00pm:

For William & Mary B. Kinahan & their sons Harry & Peter & Henry O' Rourke, Kilpatrick

New Year's Day 6.30pm:

**Feast Day of Mary Mother of God & Mass for all those on the List of the Dead And World Day of Peace**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.00pm:

-----

### MUCKLAGH CHURCH

St Stephen's Day 7.30pm:

-----

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 9.00am:

-----

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 12noon:

Mass for Breda & Pat –Joe Conroy, Ballard.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> 9.00am:

-----

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm:

-----

New Year's Eve 9.00am:

-----

New Year's Day 7.30pm:

**Feast Day of Mary Mother of God & Mass for all those on the List of the Dead And World Day of Peace**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm:

Mass for Peter & Mary Geraghty, Killurin

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 9.00am:

-----

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 12noon:

Mass for James & Lily Flanagan, Adam's Villas

**Perpetual Adoration:** of the Blessed Sacrament takes place:-

**Killina Church**

- every Monday from 3pm to 10pm.

**The Island**

- **postponed until further notice.**

**Mucklagh**

- every Thursday from 9.30am to 8.00pm.

**Holy Hour** Convent, Killina - every Thursday - from 2pm to 3pm.

**Offertory/Plate:**

Killina €165.00

The Island €160.00

Mucklagh €775.00

**Dev Fund:**

Killina & The Island €280.00

Mucklagh €490.00

**Eucharistic Ministers on Duty in the Island for January:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan: M. Minnock, 6<sup>th</sup> Jan: G. Minnock, 9<sup>th</sup> Jan: A. Minnock, 16<sup>th</sup> Jan: K. Looby, 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan: M. Minnock, 30<sup>th</sup> Jan: G. Minnock.

**Ecumenical Carol Service:** An Ecumenical Carol Service will take place in St. Carthage's Church of Ireland, Rahan on the 27<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00pm. All are very welcome to attend this Carol Service and to make it a special evening of prayer and song.

**Christmas Offerings:** Frs. Martin and Frank would like to thank you most sincerely for your generous Christmas Offerings and for all the other collections throughout the year. These offerings form a major part of the priest's salary. Thank You to all.

**Mucklagh Community Development: Lotto:** draw 22/12/2015, the numbers drawn were 8, 12, 14 & 16. No jackpot winner, 4 match 3 winners, Carmel Healion, Catch Grogan, Freda Spain and Mrs. McIntyre. Happy Christmas everyone and thanks for the continued support.

**Buy A Brick' for Mucklagh Community Centre:** Any one who wishes to 'Buy a Brick' for Mucklagh community center may do so by email: mucklaghd@ [gmail.com](mailto:mucklaghd@gmail.com), or you may phone: 086 836 4523, 087 635 5409 or 087 944 8623. Thank you for your continued support.

**Ballykilmurray Community Presents Operation Transformation:** in association with Edgewater Clinic. An 8 week individual programme, with group secessions. Medical Screening on first night with GP. Body Fat analysis, individual weigh ins, food plans and exercise plans each week along with group secessions. Open to all ages. Cost: €100 per individual, €200 per family. All funds raised will go towards Ballykilmurray Community Centre. Commencing on 06-01-2016. For more information contact 087 994 2571.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome: August 19<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>:** Enclosed please find a poster with details of the diocesan pilgrimage to Rome from 19-27 August 2016 which you are asked to publicise in your parish.

**Dochas Offaly Cancer Support Group:** Offaly St, Drop In Centre. Mon-Thur 10am-2pm . Phone Support 9328268.  
**Shamrocks Notes: Lotto:** The numbers drawn were 1,6,7,31. There was 1 match 3, €200. Well done Alan Connolly c/o T. Connolly. Jackpot will be €6800 next week and the draw will take place in Kelly's at 7.30pm, one hour earlier due to quiz.  
**Table Quiz:** Please keep the 28<sup>th</sup> of December free as the players are organising a table quiz in Kelly's Roadhouse at 8pm followed by music afterwards. Teams of 4 people at €10 each.  
**Church Gate Collection:** The Shamrock's Minor board are holding a Church Gate collection on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of December. All support would be greatly appreciated.

**Christmas shines the light of God's Mercy: A message from Most Reverend Michael Smith, Bishop of Meath:** As I write these few words, I am conscious of one of the headlines I heard on the radio news this morning. It told that a record number of people would pass through Dublin airport during these days. Many of the tens of thousands of people who left our shores for other lands are coming home to be with their families for the celebration of Christmas. Families reuniting are among the happier stories over these days. It mirrors what St Luke tells us in the Gospel, that a census brought Joseph and Mary "home" to Bethlehem at the time of Christ's birth. Christmas and homecoming go hand in hand. A reading from the prophet Isaiah is read at Mass on Christmas night. It tells us that the Jewish people never lost their hope and expectation of a Saviour who would unite the family of God's chosen people. The Jewish people had long wandered far from home. Sadly we have witnessed in this past year the tragedy of forced migration and all its consequent suffering. Who would have thought that, despite all our claims of progress, we would see migrants flee again from the Middle East and North Africa, children washed up on the southern shores of Europe, carnage in the streets of Paris, as well as countless Christians murdered in their native lands because of their faith in Christ? It's with chilling reality that Pope Francis has spoken of a third world war taking place in the 'bits and pieces' of human suffering and oppression. This Christmas, I hope we can learn something from what the Scriptures tell us about the migration of the Jewish people. At various times, the people lost their way. Yet never once did God abandon His people or refuse them His mercy. Through the prophets, God's word was always spoken. And never was God's word more eloquent than on the night our Saviour – "the Word made flesh" – was born. The birth of Jesus points to a hope that reaches beyond ourselves, reaches into the heart of God. This is not simply an emotional or sentimental matter. It reminds us that every human life is touched by God. Every human life, whatever one's nationality or race or creed, is graced by God. God desires to pitch His tent among us. We glimpse the merciful love of God most vividly as He lays on the manger, surrounded by those who heard the voice of God and believed. Today I opened the Holy Door in the Cathedral as part of our celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Francis invites us to open the door to the mercy of God and to become beacons of God's mercy in the world around us. Our response in faith to the suffering of humanity we have seen these past 12 months is to reach out to offer the gift of God's mercy and compassion to others. There is no other way. Peace can only be born when we respect the God-given dignity of every human person. Unless we shine the light of God's mercy, even the crib is a darker place. But when we pray and gaze upon the crib with eyes of faith, then we see what is truly at the heart of Christmas. Here is God, in the form of a child, who never abandons His people. He was born for us 2000 years ago and, what is more, He is born again in our lives each day when we open the door to His mercy. I hope that the families who are reunited this Christmas time will enjoy the warmth and love they so desire. And I pray that, in the year ahead, our faith will remind us that the darkness of human suffering need not go unchallenged. God's mercy at work in us has the power to shine a light of compassion and peace for all who suffer – but He needs us to put it into practice.