



Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

December 15th 2019

RAHEEN PARISH LOTTO

Wednesday 11th Dec 2019

Numbers: 03-05-11-20

NO €11,000 Jackpot Winner 48 match 3s win €21.

NEXT WEEKS' JACKPOT €12,000

One local Winner; Anne Collier c/o J. Delaney

Christmas & New Year Lotto Arrangements:

Wednesday 18th Dec will be final lotto draw for 2019.

First draw for 2020 will take place on Wed 8th Jan 2020.

RAHEEN LOTTO

Gift Vouchers available in the Sacristy or contact any Lotto promoter.

Half a year (25 draws) for €50

Full year (50 draws) for €100

An ideal X-Mass present.

Whist Results 11th Dec '19

Top score: Bride Reilly. **Lady 1:** Mick Kelly and Bernie Cahill. **Gent 1:** Joe McEvoy.

Gent 2: Austin Kavanagh. **Halves:** Frank Fogarty, Nancy Dowling. **Best of three:** Sheila Fogarty. **Raffle:** Billy O'Keefe (2), Nora Breen and Sheila Fogarty.

Thanks for your support. A Blessed Christmas to all whist players.

TOBAR AN LEINN - Carol Singing-

The Girls & Boys from Tobar an Leinn N.S will be singing **Christmas Carols** this **Tuesday night 17th Dec. at 7pm in Raheen Church.** Yummy

Hot Chocolate and treats to be had after in the Old School and a Christmas Hamper to be won on the night. All members of the community are invited to come along for a Festive night.



Colt GAA CLUB- Lotto Results

06/12/2019

Winning Numbers: 01-28-30

NO Jackpot Winner:

4 x '20: *Bkatie Grant Gilligan c/o M. Grant, Shona Walsh c/o E. Delaney, Josie McGill c/o Self, Peter Walsh c/o Sel* **Next Weeks Jackpot 3,100 Christmas Draw next week**



Raheen Community Alert -

Will hold their A.G.M on **Sun 19th Jan at 3pm** in the Old school, Raheen. Note Day & Time!!

Carol Singing

Shanahoe Folk Group will have their Annual Carol Singing for the Irish Heart and Lung

Foundation on **Sunday morning 22nd Dec** after the 9.30am mass.

All support will be much appreciated



Dancing in Abbeyleix Golf Club

Every Sunday night .
Come along - A great night assured.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS



I imagine that there are many beautifully wrapped gifts like this one under your Christmas tree at home. Have you looked at the packages to see how many of them have your name on them? Have you tried to guess what might be in those packages? Do you ever sneak in when mam and dad aren't around and shake and squeeze the packages trying to figure out what might be inside? I must confess that I did that when I was a child. All right, maybe I still do it, but not as much as I once did.

When I was a child checking the presents under the tree, I wasn't the least bit interested in the gifts that had other people's names on them, I was only interested in the ones that were for me. Isn't it pretty much the same with most of us? Much of the time, we think only of ourselves. Is that the real spirit of Christmas?

In the gospel today, we read that many people had heard John calling them to repent of their sins and be baptised so that they would be ready for the coming Messiah. Large crowds of people were coming to be baptized by John. John said to them, "First do something to show that you have really repented of your sin."

"What should we do?" the people asked.

"If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have one. If you have food, share it with someone else." In other words, John was saying, "Stop thinking only of yourself and start thinking about others."

Christmas is only a few days away. How much thought have we given to what we can do for others during the Christmas season? We have been given so much... shouldn't we share what we have with others who may not have as much? What are some ways that we can do that? There are many wonderful organizations which help people who have special needs. (eg. St. Vincent de Paul or P.A.T.H.) We can give to help them help others.

Sharing with others – that's the spirit – the spirit of Christmas. Let's all show the true spirit of Christmas this year!

Our Prayer



Father, as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, help us to remember those who are in need of food, shelter, and clothing. We are reminded that Jesus himself taught us that when we do something to help those in need, it is the same as doing it for him. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

St. Finian's Parish, Raheen, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois
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 Fr. Michael Kelly SPS: Tel: 057-8731182
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This Weekend Masses 14th & 15th Dec

Raheen: Saturday 14th Dec. Mass at 7.30pm
 - John & Mary O'Connor, Tarbert.
 - Jimmy & Maude Palmer, Coole.
 - Eileen Maher, Clonard.
 - Deceased members of the Lalor family, Clonard,
 John, Mary, Mollie, Kathleen, Debra & Eadaie
 - Deceased members of the Maher family Ballyroan,
 John, Mary, Brenda & Pat.
 - John, Mary, Chris & Jim Fennelly, Clonard. Also Jim
 Downey & John Neary.
 - Ellen & Denis Donoghue, Oldknockmay, Portlaoise.
 - Peter Daly, Castletown, R.I.P.
 (Who died during the week)
 Shanahoe: Sunday 15th Dec. Mass at 9.30am
 - Paddy McEvoy & Dan McEvoy.

Weekday Masses this Week

Raheen: Thursday 19th & Friday 20th
 December. Mass at 10am

Next Weekend Masses 21st & 22nd Dec

Raheen: Saturday 21st Dec. Mass at 7.30pm
 - Eileen Phelan Foxboro.
 - Patrick, Sinnott, Ardlea and deceased members of the
 Sinnott Family.
 - Patrick, Holland, Ardlea & deceased members of the
 Holland family
 Shanahoe: Sunday 22nd Dec. Mass at 9.30am

Thank you for your contributions to Parish Funds

7th/8th Dec 2019
 Raheen:
 Offertory Collection: €221.00
 Weekly Envelope: €315.00
 Shanahoe:
 Offertory Collection: €209.00 Weekly
 Envelope: €75.00 (10 H)

Christmas Arrangements

Christmas Eve: Tues 24 Dec
 Mass Times
 Shanahoe Church 4.30pm Vigil
 (Tommy Delaney, Trumera)
 Raheen Church 7.30pm Vigil
 Christmas Day: Wed 25th Dec
 Mass Times
 Shanahoe Church Mass at 9.30am
 Raheen Church Mass at 11.00am -



POINSETTIA'S FOR CHRISTMAS
 Remember your loved one at the CRIB.
 We invite people to donate Poinsettia's
 (Christmas Plant) to deco-
 rate our Cribs and Altars in
 honour of a deceased fami-
 ly member, relative or a
 friend. Thank You.



Parish Christmas Draw

RAFFLE in aid of parish funds on **Saturday 21st December after evening Mass in Raheen.** Numerous hampers to be won. Tickets are available from members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Committee. Anyone else who would like to help sell tickets, please collect the tickets in the Church Sacristies. Donations of prizes would be gratefully received and can be left in at the Sacristy in both churches before or after Mass. Your support for this Christmas Draw would be very much appreciated.



Confessions Before Christmas

During Advent the Priest will be available after the weekend Masses for confessions.



Notice for Newsletter Next weekend will be a double issue for Christmas, any notices or anniversary Masses for Sat 28th Dec & Sun 29th Dec will be included in next weekends newsletter, Please have any notices for the newsletter in by this Wed 18th December 2019

List of Gospel Readings For The Week:

Sat Dec 14th Mt Mt 9:35-10:1. 6-8
 Sun Dec 15th Mt 11-2-11
 Mon Dec 16th Lk 21:23-27
 Tues Dec 17th Mt 1:1-17
 Wed Dec 18th Mt 1:18-24
 Thurs Dec 19th Lk: 1:5-25
 Fri Dec 20th Lk 1:26-38
 Sat Dec 21st Lk 1:39-45



Baptism Dates

Raheen: Sunday Jan 12th & Feb 9th & March 1st - 2020
 Shanahoe: Sunday Jan 19th & Feb 16th & March 8th - 2020

Gaudete Sunday



Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments can be worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

Christmas Card & Gift from Parish & Diocese

You are invited to take home a Christmas Card with greetings from Bishop Denis and from the Parish along with a spiritual gift. Also please take one for families that may not be at Mass in the parish this weekend. The card also contains Christmas timetable and 2020 Calendar.