



RAHEEN PARISH LOTTO

Wednesday 18th Dec 2019
 Numbers: 03-20-29-30
NO €11,000 Jackpot Winner 48 match 3s win €42.
NEXT WEEKS' JACKPOT €12,000
 One local Winner; Julie Lawlor c/o Louise Kavanagh
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 18th Dec '19

Top score: Ciarán Breen
 Wishing all our whist players a Happy Christmas & Happy New Year.
 Whist returns on Wednesday 8th Jan 2020.
Thanks for your support.
A Blessed Christmas to all whist players.

DANCING FOR FITNESS AND FUN

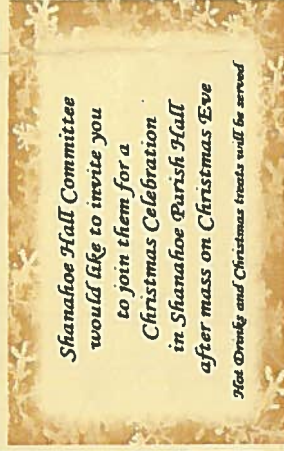
SHANAHOE LADIES CLUB ARE ORGANISING DANCING FOR FITNESS AND FUN IN SHANAHOE HALL. **THURSDAY 9TH, 16TH, 23RD, AND 30TH JANUARY 8PM TO 9PM.**



COST €5 PER NIGHT.
FORMER MEMBERS AND NON MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME.

Colt GAA CLUB- Lotto Results

13/12/2019
 Winning Numbers: 01-13-23
NO Jackpot Winner:
 4 x '20: Dayne Peacock c/o B. Keegan, Chloe Brennan c/o T. Brennan, Louise Moffitt c/o P.J. Theresa Grant Gilligan c/o M. Grant
Next Weeks Jackpot 3,300



Shanahoe Hall Committee would like to invite you to join them for a Christmas Celebration in Shanahoe Parish Hall after mass on Christmas Eve
Hot Drinks and Christmas treats will be served

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A) December 22nd

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2019 Bishop Nulty
There is a signpost on the road from Balinglass to Blessington, it simply reads 'Manger'. As you enter Kilkenny from Carlow one of the early roundabouts you encounter is the 'Hebron Road Roundabout'. And of course, on the road from Carlow to Athy, much closer to Carlow is 'Jerusalem'.

In these days as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ there is for me a very clear realisation that we live on holy ground, this is our holy land, this is our holy place. Our challenge is to create our own Manger because Christ continues to be born amongst us. Sometimes we miss the signs; we are blind to the gift of His presence.

Pope Francis wrote his most recent apostolic letter 'Admirabile Signum' on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene. He signed the letter in Greccio, purposefully choosing the mountain village where St. Francis of Assisi created the first crib scene in 1223. We all love our cribs. Every crib in our churches, our schools, our town squares, our homes is of itself a living gospel rising up from the pages of scripture.

We might debate when the different characters enter the nativity story, and maybe, more importantly, when they are to leave, but we can never underestimate the power of the gospel coming from the crib, any crib. Returning to Pope Francis, he says: "From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalised."

And that's our challenge, to look on the manger, to spend time at our crib, wherever that is, and see the families who are homeless, the families who are refugees, the families who are forgotten by society and simply ask ourselves is there anyone we are forgetting, excluding or leaving behind in these more prosperous times?

The manger challenges us, whether it is empty or full; the crib or creche, as Pope Francis calls it, challenges us whether it exactly reflects the authentic narrative of the first Christmas story. Christ seems to be telling all of us, it is not the first Christmas story we need to fully unpack, it is how we live the Christmas story in our lives, in our world, in our parishes, in our homes.

Once again I take this opportunity of my 'Christmas Message' to thank you all, priests, religious and lay people, for your engagement with the Christmas story, not just at this time of the year, but throughout the twelve months. I pray that your Christmas will be blessed with His gentleness, peace and love this year.

St. Fintan's Parish, Raheen, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois

Priests: Fr. Paddy Byrne P.P. Mobile: 087-9948505

Fr. Michael Kelly SPS: Tel: 057-8731182

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This Weekend Masses 21st & 22nd Dec

Raheen: Saturday 21st Dec. Mass at 7.30pm

Sileen Phelan Foxboro.

Patrick Sinnott, Ardlea and deceased members of the innott Family.

Patrick Holland, Ardlea & deceased members of the Holland family

Rahaneh: Sunday 22nd Dec Mass at 9.30am

Christie Walsh & all deceased members of the Walsh & Virgin families.

Patty Labor R.I.P. whos funeral took place during the week

Weekday Masses this Week

Raheen: Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th Dec. Mass at 10am.

Raheen: Thurs 26th (St. Stephens Day) 12.00pm

Nest Weekend Masses 28th & 29th Dec

Raheen: Saturday 28th Dec. Mass at 7.30pm

Liam & Barry Kavanagh, Coft.

Rahaneh: Sunday 29th Dec. Mass at 9.30am

Weekend Masses 4th & 5th January 2020

Raheen: Saturday 4th Jan. Mass at 7.30pm

Rahaneh: Sunday 5th Jan. Mass at 9.30am

Sincere Sympathy to the Labor family, Shanahoe on the death of Patty Labor. R.I.P

Parish Christmas Draw

RAFFLE in aid of parish funds on **THIS 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.



Notice for Newsletter This weekend will be a double issue for Christmas, Next newsletter will be 4th and 5th January 2020.

List of Gospel Readings For The Week:

Sat Dec 21st Lk 1:39-45

Wed Dec 25th Mt 1:1-18

Sun Dec 22nd Mt 1:18-24

Thurs Dec 26th Mt: 10:17-22

Mon Dec 23rd Lk 1:57-66

Fri Dec 27th Jn 20:2-8

Tues Dec 24th Lk 1:67-79

Sat Dec 28th Mt 2:13-18



Continuation from Christmas Message 2019

I conclude with a prayer seasonally titled

'The Bright Prayer'

"I lie with God

may He lie with me,

God's shade above me,

an angel-girdle around my waist.

Where will you lie tonight?

Between Mary and her Son

between Bridget and her cloak

between Colmcille and his shield

between God and His right hand."



POINSETTIA'S FOR CHRISTMAS

Remember your loved one at the CRIB.

We invite people to donate Poinsettia's

(Christmas Plant) to decorate our Cribs

and Altars in honour of a de-

ceased family member, rela-

tive or a friend.

Thank You.



Wishing all the families in the parish every grace and

blessing this Christmas and New Year.

We will remember you in our Christmas Masses and

prayers. Our sincere thanks to all who helped out in the

parish in so many different ways to build our parish as a

Christian community.

Fr. Paddy & Fr. Michael