

## St John the Baptist Church A Timeline

- 1200** Priory lands at Tyone granted to Augustinian Monks by Theobald Walter
- 1231** A priory, mill and hospital open at Tyone. Dedicated to St John the Baptist, it is named Tig Eoin
- 1348** The Black Death strikes Ireland, decimating the monks at Tyone
- 1551** The Pirory is dissolved
- 1841** A workhouse is constructed in Nenagh, admitting the first inmate a year later
- 1881** The Sisters of Mercy take charge of Nenagh Workhouse
- 1923** A group of armed men burn down Nenagh Workhouse
- 1936** St Joseph's Hospital opens on the site of the workhouse
- 1970** St John the Baptist Church opens

### ***For those who cannot come home...***

*We in Nenagh Parish are only too aware that there are many from our community all around the world who are unable to join us at home this Christmas. We need you to know that every single one of you is in our hearts. We miss you. There is a an empty space at the table and in the home. In celebrating the joyful moment that is the birth of Jesus we are filled with hope and certain knowledge of the moment that you will come home again. On that day we will celebrate with unrestrained joy and **hugs!***

### **A SIXTEENTH CENTURY CAROL**

When Christ was born of Mary free,  
In Bethlehem in that fair citie,  
Angels sang there with mirth and glee,  
In Excelsis Gloria.

Herdsmen beheld there angels bright,  
To them appearing with great light,  
Who said "God's Son is born this night,"  
In Excelsis Gloria.

This King is come to save mankind,  
As in Scripture truths we find,  
Therefore the song we have in mind,  
In Excelsis Gloria.

Then, Lord for Thy great grace,  
Grant us the bliss to see Thy Face,  
Where we may sing to Thy solace,  
In Excelsis Gloria.

# Nenagh Parish



## Christmas Gift

On this cold still day  
the platinum sun shines brightly  
in the pale blue sky  
casting long shadows on the grass  
and on the fallen leaves from the cherry trees,  
scattered on the ground beneath,  
trapped and trampled under tyres and feet,  
captured by shrubs in gravel beds  
and left to rot in frost and wet,  
in my neighbour's yard and garden.

To clear it all will take a day  
with rake and brush and spade,  
and who has the time to give,  
now the Christmas fuss is under way,  
and shops blare out the season's songs,  
those temples of consumer throngs,  
where we attune as a type,  
conditioned to the festive hype,  
stressed by our inclusion and exclusion  
assured we do not live in isolation.

Today I take my rake and spade,  
my brush and bins and wear my boots,  
and while my neighbour is away,  
I pick the leaves and sweep the paths,  
reclaim the grass and gravel beds,  
and scrape the mulch from underfoot,  
to bin and compost in its place,  
and leave the yard all swept and clean,  
as this is my Christmas gift to myself  
for the smiles and joy that I receive.

**Cyril McLoughlin**

Happy Christmas  
Nollaig Shona







## Community is Family this Christmas

### Keep Christ at the centre of Christmas

We strongly encourage the faithful to keep Christ at the centre of Christmas this year. Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We wish to remind Catholics that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the pandemic. But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Christmas Masses will also be widely available over webcam and we strongly encourage families to “tune in” from the “domestic churches” of their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in their local churches in welcoming the birth of the Christ-child.

It is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many ways. Our homes can become “little churches” where we invite the Christ-child in. The age-old tradition of having a Christmas crib in the home and gathering there as a family to pray or to sing a carol will be especially meaningful this year. We also invite families or “household bubbles” to pay a visit to their local church at some time during the twelve days to offer a Christmas prayer at the crib and pray together for their families and for those particularly impacted by the pandemic.

We are particularly conscious of those whose livelihoods have been seriously threatened by the pandemic. We keep in mind those for whom Christmas time may bring feelings of sadness – people coping with bereavement, families that cannot be together, those in care homes who can only have limited visits from their loved ones. Christmas can be difficult for Irish emigrants and migrants living in Ireland, who are unable to travel home. We pray that the time will come very soon when sorrow will ease and loving connections can be fully restored.

Statement from the Irish Bishops, 2 December 2020

**For those who cannot go home...**  
*Many who live among us in Nenagh are unable to return to your home countries this year. We want you to remember one thing. When you came to live among us in Nenagh, you came home. You mean the world to us. While it will not be quite the same as spending Christmas in the country of your birth, please be aware that you have a thousand seasonal welcomes with your Nenagh family. While you are sad that you are not able to go home, we are so happy you are here so we can share the celebration of the birth of Jesus together!*



## St John the Baptist Church

1970-2020



### The Architect

#### Seamus C. Shesgreen (1935-1974)

Seamus hailed from Ballybofey in Donegal and studied architecture. His association with Nenagh began when he met and married Ann Corcoran from 32 Summerhill. The couple fell in love with Dromineer village where they built a holiday retreat. Meanwhile, Jimmy Hayes, a resident of Tyone and a farmer who was married to Ann's sister, was very active in his quest to have a church built in Tyone. He introduced Seamus to the then PP, Monsignor Hamilton. Seamus accepted the challenge to design the church and he set to design a building that would not only meet his criteria but he would oversee it to completion for very little in return, with the exception of a continued sense of achievement. His legacy in the town of Nenagh remains. Having not only designed St John's, he also contributed toward the classroom extensions to the Boy's National School and the PE hall and classrooms at the Girl's Convent Primary School. Sadly, on 24 August, 1974 following a boating accident on his return to Dromineer, Seamus drowned. He was laid to rest in Lisboney new cemetery in Nenagh. He was thirty-nine.

Paul Shesgreen (full text will appear on [www.nenaghparish.ie](http://www.nenaghparish.ie))

The building of a new church does not in itself give us this sense of justice and of charity but it does inspire deep confidence that a growing parish is conscious of its great heritage of faith and devotion. Here in the shadow of the ancient church of Tyone – Teach Eogain – we dedicate another church to St John and in doing so we pray that a faith, nurtured and strengthened by many trials over many centuries, may continue to flourish and flower in an age very different from the age in which the first Tyone church was founded and continues to bring forth new treasures from old and deep roots.

**Bishop Michael Harty**

Extract from Homily

Dedication Mass for St John the Baptist Church

31 May 1970