



The true Christmas tree tradition can be traced to 16th-century Germany, where Christians began to decorate trees—or, if times were tough, simple pyramid-shaped stacks of wood—inside their homes. The tradition of adding candles to the tree branches is most commonly attributed to Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation movement in the 1500s. (Legend suggests he was inspired by the stars in the night sky and wished to re-create the scene in his own home using candlelight.)

Those We Remember | Sat 24 Dec - Sun 1 Jan

St Mary of the Rosary

Thur Dec 29th 11.00am

Jim O Sullivan (1st A)
Pierce O'Brien (A)
Sean Doyle (A)
Martin & Elizabeth Ray (A's)
& deceased members of
Ray Families.

Fri Dec 30th 11.00am

Neil Malone (A)
Patrick Walsh (A)
Eileen Ryan (A)
Noel & Maureen Clifford
(A's)
Mark Griffin (A)
Martin Hogan (1st A)
Bernadette Slattery (1st A)
Marguerite Mc Grath (A)
Annie & Jack Ryan (A's)
Nancy Sheehan (A)
Bridie & Margaret
Mc Loughlin (A's)

Sun Jan 1st 12.00noon

St John the Baptist

Sat Dec 31st 7.30pm

TJ Ryan (A)

**Nenagh Parish...the year that
was!**

**We opened the newly-restored
St John the Baptist Church**

**We said 'see you down the road' to
old friends....and welcomed new
ones!**

**We celebrated the 125th anniversary
of St Mary of the Rosary and the
50th anniversary of St John the Baptist**



Nenagh Parish

**Christmas Day
2022**



**A FEW LITTLE
MOMENTS**

The moment the angel appeared
Mary grew worried - and yet
The moment she first heard the news
Was a moment she'd never forget.
The moment she left on her journey
Mary grew worried - and yet
The moment Elizabeth hugged her
Was a moment she'd never forget.
The moment Joseph said
'Bethlehem'
Mary grew worried - and yet
The moment he said, 'I'll be with you'
Was a moment she'd never forget.
The moment the keeper said 'No
room',
Mary grew worried - and yet
The moment yon little lamb bleated
Was a moment she'd never forget.
The moment her baby first cried
Mary grew worried - and yet
The moment her baby first smiled
She thought, 'This is the best
moment yet'.

Čestit Božić
Veselé Vánoce
Häid jõule
Joyeux Noël
Priecīgus Ziemassvētkus
Linksmų šv. Kalėdų
Wesołych Świąt!
Crăciun fericit
Feliz Navidad
Веселого Різдва
and Merry Christmas to all our
Indian Friends

Happy Christmas | Nollaig Shona

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time of renewal. At the heart of this new beginning is the birth of a baby in impoverished conditions in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago. Each year we come together to honour this event, a moment that at that time went unnoticed but somehow changed the course of human history.

As we think of Mary and Joseph, alone and scared in a strange place seeking shelter ahead of the birth of their child, we are reminded of the parallels with our contemporary world.

How many families have been driven from their own land during the past year? In the greatest Christian tradition, many of you have opened your homes, your hearts and your doors to those terrified families who never dreamed a year ago that *they* would spend this Christmas alone and scared, strangers in a strange land. You have helped to make *their* new beginning possible.

As we reflect on those we have lost since this time last year, we strive to comprehend what our lives will be like without these loved ones. We will shed tears for them today. Like Mary at the foot of the cross thirty-three years later, we will trust that they have entered God's kingdom where, having completed their earthly journey, they enjoy his eternal rewards.

Embracing this part of our faith, however difficult, is part of *our* new beginning.

As we consider where we are now, we give thanks for the opportunities that have come our way in the year gone past. Some of us have been given new challenges, a place to lay down new roots. We pray for the strength to fulfil the expectations of those we serve and who rely on our counsel. We are reminded of the awesome responsibility that John must have felt when he was asked to baptize Jesus in the Jordan. May *this* new beginning be filled with God's love, with joy and possibility.

As we take a moment to ponder the year ahead, we pray that we can be the best version of ourselves. As they faced a life without the physical presence of Jesus, the apostles were filled with fear and apprehension for their new beginning. Yet, God empowered them to face those first days, armed with a message of love and hope. As we look toward 2023, we ask God to enrich us with the tools to love, care for and cultivate the people and the world around us. This will be our new beginning together!

We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a New Year filled with joy and happiness. And most of all, like Mary and Joseph, we have faith and hope that God is walking with us every step of the way.

God Bless,

Fr Pat, Fr Michael and Fr Raxon



A Blessing of the Crib in the Home

This blessing can be prayed when the crib is being put in place in the home. When the final figures are ready to be put into the crib, the family might gather around it and recite the following blessing:

All make the sign of the cross

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love:

When our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, Bless all who look upon this manger. May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

A Christmas Blessing on our Animals

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. On the fifth and sixth days of creation, you called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all animals his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless our animals this Christmas season. By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! **Amen.**



Over 700 years ago, St Francis of Assisi told the Christmas story in a way it had never been told before.

Many could not read, so he set up a stable scene in a cave near his home. He used real people & animals to help him tell the story. As people gathered, he told them how Jesus was born in a stable as there was no room anywhere else in the town. He also told them how angels appeared to the shepherds with the Good News of Jesus' birth. St Francis' idea was such a good one that it quickly became an important part of Christmas celebrations all over the world.