

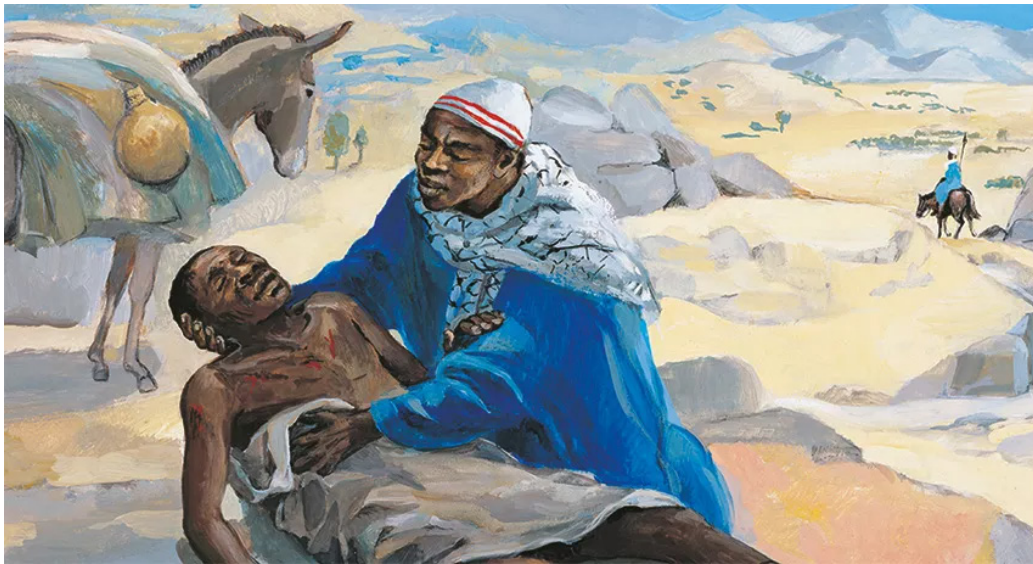
## Nenagh Parish News

21 January 2024

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Fr Pat Gilbert  
Fr Rexon Chullickal  
Fr Lorcan Kenny

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18 - 25 January 2024



The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the best known passages of Scripture, yet one that never seems to lose its power to challenge indifference to suffering and to inspire solidarity. It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family. In choosing this passage of Scripture for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the churches of Burkina Faso have invited us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis. Communities in the British-Irish context may be less vulnerable to acts of mass violence than in Burkina Faso, but there are still many living with the memory and/or the threat of serious violence, centred on issues of identity and belonging. There are also groups within communities, including people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people seeking asylum, who feel particularly vulnerable to violence or being displaced by the threat of violence. Our neighbours in Burkina Faso call us to reconnect to God's dream for us – a dream of a unity formed of ties of love and compassion. This challenges us not only to reflect on the learning from our ecumenical journey so far, but to widen our vision. What can we learn from people of other faiths, from those whose backgrounds are most different from our own, and what do we need from each other? The reflections encourage us to consider the perspective not only of the one who showed mercy, but also of those who passed by. Many of us will have been unaware of the threat faced by communities in Burkina Faso before reading this material. It is a powerful reminder of the many neglected conflicts that continue to destroy lives and devastate communities around the world, when only a limited number can capture, and fewer still can hold, the attention of the world's media. The Church is called to be an advocate for those caught in these forgotten conflicts, and to amplify the voices of those who feel forsaken. In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity the Church is being challenged to stop and tend to the wounded and, in so doing, to recognise our own wounds as churches and as communities. Facing the reality of our own brokenness helps to connect us to the suffering of others from a place of humility and deep empathy, creating a sacred space of encounter inspired by Christ's healing love.

Dr Nicola Brady | General Secretary | Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

**Mass Times**  
**St Mary of the Rosary**  
**Weekend Masses:**  
Liturgy of the Word with  
Holy Communion | Saturday 10am  
Saturday Vigil Mass | 6.15pm  
Sunday 8am | 12 noon | 6pm  
**Weekday Masses**  
8am | 11am  
**Adoration** | Weekdays 5-7pm  
**Confessions** | Sat after Liturgy  
**Parish Radio:** 106.2FM  
**St John the Baptist, Tyone**  
Saturday | 7.30pm  
Sunday | 10.30am  
Polish Mass | Last Sunday Each Month | 1pm

#### Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, Help me to face this day quietly,  
easily  
To lean upon Your great strength  
trustfully, restfully  
To wait for the unfolding of your will  
patiently, serenely  
To meet others peacefully, joyfully  
But to face tomorrow confidently,  
courageously  
I make this prayer through Christ Our  
Lord,  
**Amen**

#### Preparation for Marriage Courses 2024

Grásta is a voluntary group of Married Couples based in Ireland, who for over 25 years have been facilitating Pre-Marriage Courses for couples getting married in the Catholic Church (formerly based in Esker Monastery, Athenry, until its recent closure).

We also organise courses for Married Couples and Families.

We work in partnership with other lay people, clergy and the team at the beautiful De La Salle Pastoral Centre in Co. Laois to offer enriching residential courses in a peaceful and welcoming environment.

Our Grásta Preparation for Marriage Courses consist of a residential weekend course, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, for couples to focus on their relationship and what is important for them as a couple planning their married life together.

The courses are run with the approval of the Diocese of Ossory and Bishop Niall Coll.

**Weekend residential courses available**  
26-28 April and 20-22 September 2024.  
Details: www.grasta.org or at info@grasta.org

### This Week We Offer A Special Prayer For ...those fleeing from danger

Almighty and merciful God,  
whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;  
look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger,  
homeless and hungry.  
Bless those who work to bring them relief;  
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;  
and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will  
rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

#### St Mary of the Rosary Webcam Update

The MCN web address will soon change from  
www.mcnmedia.tv to www.mcn.live  
For those of you clicking in through the link on the parish  
website, you don't need to worry about this change.

#### Profile: Saint Sebastian - 20 January

Nothing is known about St. Sebastian's youth other than the fact he may have come from southern France and he was educated in Milan. He joined the Roman Army in 283 AD, ostensibly to be of service to other Christians who were being persecuted by the Romans. St. Sebastian distinguished himself and for his excellent service, he was promoted to serve in the Praetorian Guard to protect Emperor Diocletian.

While serving as a Praetorian Guard, Marcus and Marcellian, twin brothers, were imprisoned for refusing to make public sacrifices to the Roman gods. The brothers were deacons of the Christian Church. During their imprisonment, their parents visited them to implore them to renounce Christianity. However, St. Sebastian convinced both parents to convert to Christianity. St. Sebastian also converted several other prominent individuals, including the local prefect.

This led to his discovery and he was reported as a Christian to Emperor Diocletian in 286. The Emperor, who was already infamous for ordering the deaths of hundreds of Christians, scolded Sebastian and ordered him to be killed by having him tied to a stake on a training field and used as target practice.

Archers riddled his body with arrows, his body was described as, "full of arrows as an urchin." Believed to be dead, the archers left his body for retrieval and burial. He was recovered by Irene of Rome, whose Christian husband was a servant to Diocletian and also martyred. Irene discovered that Sebastian was still living and she hid him and nursed him back to health. Once well, Sebastian went in search of Diocletian to surprise him. He managed to catch Diocletian by a stairwell and proceeded to criticize him loudly and publically for his persecution of the Christians. Diocletian, surprised that Sebastian was still alive, was immediately taken aback, but recovered his composure. This time, he would not permit Sebastian to escape with his life. He ordered his former guard to be beaten to death with clubs, then thrown into the sewers.

His body was recovered by a Christian woman, named Lucina, and she secretly buried him in the catacombs beneath Rome.

Nearly 80 years after his death, around 367, his remains were moved to a basilica in Rome, built by Pope Damasus I. His body, or at least some relics from his body were reportedly removed and shared with a community of monks in France. His cranium was sent to a German monastery where it was placed in a special silver case in 934. The relic remains in its case today in a special reliquary in Ebersberg.

St. Sebastian was commonly invoked as a protector against the plague. According to historical records, he defended the city of Rome against the plague in 680. His association with the plague could be because he survived being shot full of arrows and in pagan belief, pestilence was delivered by arrows shot by the gods above. Even Christian Romans would appreciate this symbolism. That symbolism is even captured in artwork as late as the Renaissance, where artists painted plague victims with black arrows in their body. In artwork, St. Sebastian is depicted with arrows shot into his body, often tied to a post or a tree. His second execution is virtually never depicted.

St. Sebastian is the patron saint of soldiers, athletes, and those who desire a saintly death.

**Those We Remember | Sat 20 - Fri 26 January**  
**St Mary of the Rosary**  
Sat 20th 6.15pm John Guest (MM)  
Sun 21st 8am Christine Finn (A)  
Pat Kelly (A) & deceased members of  
Mooney & Kelly families  
Sun 21st 12noon Malachy Quigley (A) & deceased  
family members  
Ann Ryan (A)  
Frances Kinsella (A)  
Jonathan Willis (A)  
Sun 21st 6pm Michael Hogan (MM)  
Bridget & Pat Gilmartin (As)  
Pat & Betty Moriarty (As)  
Sheila Carter (A)  
Eileen McCarthy (A)  
Tues 23rd 8am  
Weds 24th 11am  
Sat 20th 7.30pm  
**St John the Baptist**  
Sean, Mary & their son, JJ Ryan (As)  
Sean Boyle (A)  
Noelie Tomlinson (A)  
Enda Quinn (A)

#### Our Faithful Departed

Marie Flannery  
**May She Rest In Peace. Amen.**

#### Readers | 27-28 January 2024

**6.15pm** Joan McCarthy  
**7.30pm** Ann Marie McCann  
**8am** Helena O'Gorman  
**10.30am** Donal Mackey  
**12noon** Conor DeLoughery  
**6pm** Alice Darcy

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#### NOTICE BOARD

**Weekly Collection** €3,988

Thank you as always for your ongoing generosity.  
**Parish Office Opening Hours** Mon-Fri | 9am-5pm

#### Parish Office Notice

Parish Office closing at 1pm on Friday 26 Jan for in-house training

#### Medjugorje Pilgrimage

August 28 - September 4 from Shannon to Mostar.  
Deposit before the end of January. Contact 067 32160

