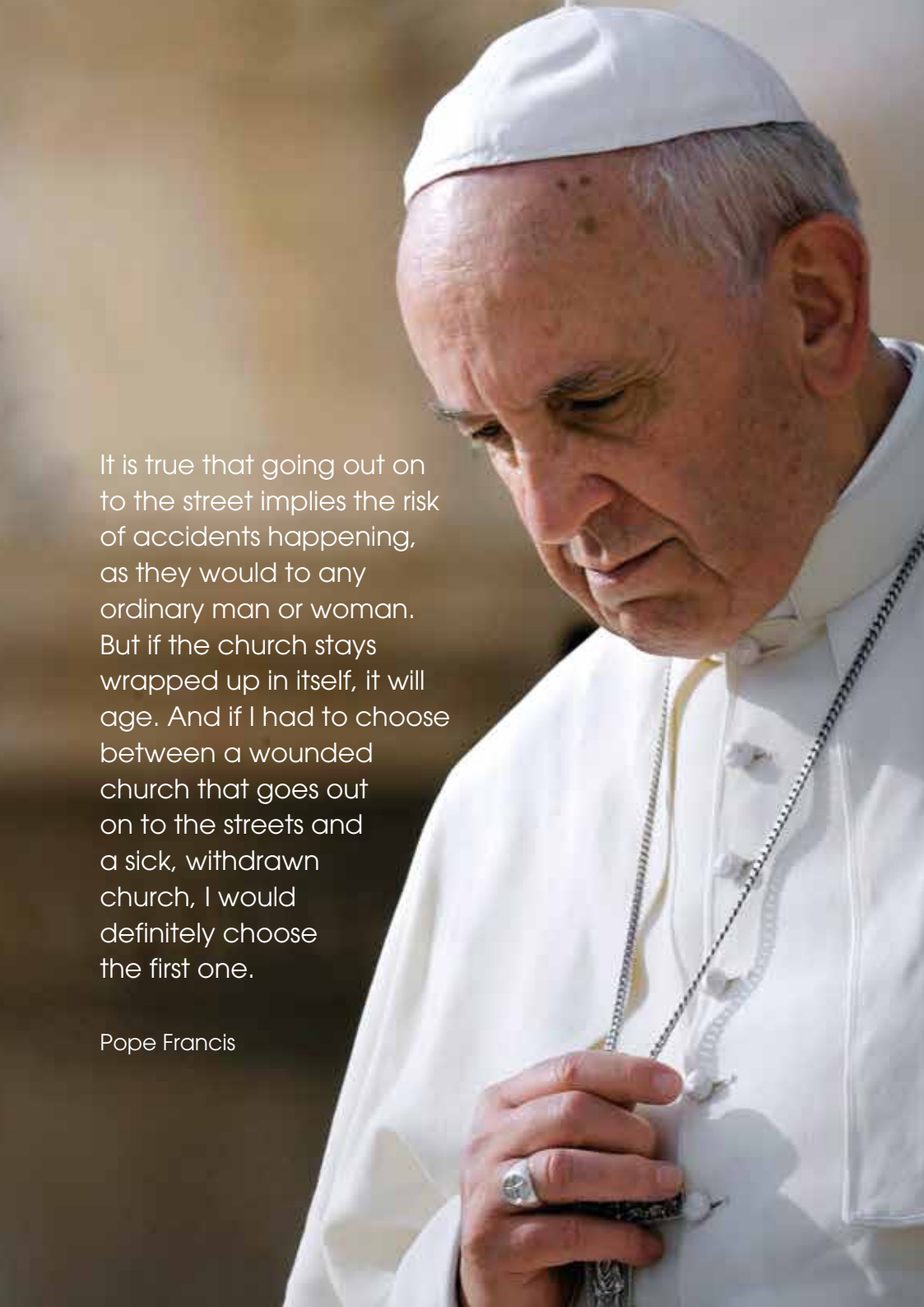




The Place of our calling



**DUHALLOW
SLIABH LUACHRA
PASTORAL AREA**



It is true that going out on to the street implies the risk of accidents happening, as they would to any ordinary man or woman. But if the church stays wrapped up in itself, it will age. And if I had to choose between a wounded church that goes out on to the streets and a sick, withdrawn church, I would definitely choose the first one.

Pope Francis

Welcome



**DUHALLOW
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The purpose of this little booklet is to give you greater awareness of how we will experience life within the local Christian Community in the coming years.

Presently, our primary interaction is through the parish, and that will continue to be the case. However, the level of co-operation between parishes will increase, and priests and parish personnel will be organised on a Pastoral Area basis. Lay ministry will also be greatly enhanced, not with the intention of allowing people to do more, but to rightly accord to all people the calling that is theirs by virtue of Baptism. Furthermore, following the urgings of Pope Francis, not only will we seek to gather the congregation together, we also need to become a church that reaches out.

The recently renamed Duhallow Sliabh Luachra Pastoral Area, seeks to capture our common identity as we move forward. The area encompasses Millstreet and Rathmore Towns, and the villages of Rathcoole, Cullen, Boherbue, Kiskeam, Ballydesmond, Knocknagree, Gneeveguilla.



It stretches from Kilquane in the West to Kanturk and Banteer in the East; northwards to the source of the Blackwater; and bounded on the south by the beautiful 'Paps, Cagherbarnagh, and Clara Mountains. It comprises of the parishes of Dromtariffe, Ballydesmond, Boherbue, Millstreet and Rathmore.

Our new logo contains the Kerry and Cork colours, the blue represents the river Blackwater which, connects all the parishes. The people are gathered together to symbolise the spirit of collaboration between clergy and laity.



Pastoral Clergy



Dromtariffe
Fr. Tom Leane



Boherbue
Fr. Jim Kennelly



Millstreet
Fr. John Fitzgerald



Rathmore
Fr. Pat O'Donnell



Ballydesmond
Fr. Joe Tarrant

How does the Pastoral Area Operate?

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Each Parish has a Parish Pastoral Council made up of the Priest and representatives from various parts of the Parish.

Area Pastoral Council (APC) Representatives from each Parish Pastoral Council meet together on a regular basis to promote greater co-operation between the Parish groupings and to be a genuine support for each other.

Parish Offices

Ballydesmond: Office 064 77 51104 ballydesmond@dioceseofkerry.ie

Boherbue: Office : 029 76151 boherbue@dioceseofkerry.ie

Millstreet: Sharon (Secretary): 029 70043 millstreet@dioceseofkerry.ie

Dromtariffe: Evelyn (Secretary): 029 78096 dromtariffe@dioceseofkerry.ie

Rathmore: Kathleen, Josie and Janice (Secretaries): 064 77 61669
rathmore@dioceseofkerry.ie

Further information on all parishes can be accessed through the Kerry Diocesan website - www.dioceseofkerry.ie

Signs of Change



Greater diversity among the people who live in the area.

- More people working from home.
- Many shops have closed, but a small number have also opened some representing our wider cultural identity.
- In terms of convenience the closure of a bank and a number of Post Offices in the area has particularly affected the elderly
- Many elderly farming families not having someone to carry on the tradition.
- There are quite a number of unoccupied houses. This is greatly offset by the number of new houses being constructed throughout the area.
- It is a beautiful area with the hills, mountains, rivers and lots to attract us into the world of nature. Wherever you go and in whatever season you can see the evidence of God's hand. In spring and summer it's obvious with the blooming hedgerows, the birds singing and busily building nests, the young animals in the fields. In autumn, the beautiful changing colours on the trees, the reds and yellows and golds. The farmers busy gathering in the crops for the winter ahead.

Even winter has its own stark beauty. The leafless trees against a grey skyline, sometimes it's blue. Add a dusting of frost to the scene and it really is magic.

Thankfully the development of walks and trails has greatly enhanced our access to the beauty the surrounds us.

Signs of Hope



- New nationalities and integration in schools.
- The energy of various Community Development Groups.
- Peoples response to COVID-19: offers of help/ food delivery to elderly/ fundraising by young people.
- Lots of activities for children and adults: dancing, Traditional Music Sport/ Men's Shed/ Active Retired/
- When there is a social purpose or good cause, people respond enthusiastically.
- Increased online presence (including streamed Masses) which connects people and events at home and abroad
- TY activities in schools are very inclusive parish life: including hospital visits, fundraising, and some volunteer as helpers on the Lourdes Pilgrimage.
- There is an ever-increasing awareness of the need of care of the environment and lots of volunteer work by all ages.
- People appreciate the outdoors: people of all ages out walking, jogging and cycling. *"Some days your walk can be solitary. With COVID-19 it is often the only way to have a socially distanced conversation"*
- The presence of God can be seen in community spirit. This especially evident when there is a death or tragedy. Neighbours gather with offers of help, food, or just a comforting word.
- Even though people live busy lives and we may only meet each other in passing; but you know that if needed they will be there for you in a heartbeat.
- Pre Covid, people were so busy with family life care of parents, driving children to sports and hobbies etc; that there is often no time left for spiritual nourishment. Covid has helped us slow down.

Signs of Need



- Some areas have poor broadband access, which in Covid times negatively effects working life and education.
- The areas 'appears' have no obvious needs however, as in other places there are indications that we have not escaped the drug culture in the last 15 or 20 years - though not an obvious, noticeable problem, there have been some deaths directly related to drugs, mainly with young people.
- There have also been some suicides (old and young) that would pose serious questions about what we have to offer by way of mental health support. As it is tremendously difficult to ascertain need in this area being of its nature hidden and secretive, maybe training and education are the answer, and more advertising of easily discernible help.
- People living alone in rural, isolated areas.
- People coping with ill-health (both mental and physical), bereavement, caring for family members with disabilities.
- People experiencing difficulties in relationships within and outside of family, suffering the effects of disputes with neighbours and/or relatives.
- Some schools will experience loss of teachers because of a reduction in numbers attending.
- Abuse of alcohol can be an issue.
- Unemployed people and others struggling to make ends meet.
- Those who are new to our area finding it difficult to adjust to their new surroundings.
- Transport is a huge issue if you have no car.
- This is an ongoing need in modern life, and has probably led to the open door of hospitality in previous years being discarded.
- We may not know our neighbours as well as we did in previous years . (The fact that people are walking more during COVID has been a great help in this regard.

our Opportunities



- For the most part, ours is a community that is very open to the faith, and that faith has a positive impact on personal, and community life. True, the nature of religious practice has changed, but this should not be taken a sign that people are oblivious to the faith.
- Our communities are characterised by a togetherness and a genuine caring for each other, ... people like being together.
- A caring Christian Community where people mostly know other people by name.
- The Pastoral Area is family orientated, and makes a genuine effort to support family life.
- A friendly community, welcoming to newcomers, interested in the well-being of the 'stranger'.
- A safe environment for children, Church/Sporting and Community Groups have good Safeguarding Procedures backed up by Garda vetting for helpers and volunteers
- Care of the elderly is well facilitated through local Hospitals, Care Homes Day Care Centres, Home Help/ Active Retired Groups / Transportation.
- Church is especially valued around the significant moments in life ... birth, marriage, and death. People especially turn to us in time of illness.
- Parishes of the past were established under the banner: "Build it and they'll come". This is no longer the case as church communities we are more aware of the need for outreach. We seek to go out more and meet people where they are on the road of life.

our Community



There is a wonderful community spirit; sense of care and concern for others, and good communication of needs. St Vincent De Paul Society, Samaritans, Community Development Associations, Cultural and Sporting Groups, Friends of the Children of Chernobyl, Rathmore Social Action Group; all of which are enabled and supported through the generosity of wonderful volunteers.

- A lot of good work quietly administered, by the, St Vincent de Paul, Meals on Wheels, St Joseph' Day Care Centre Rathmore; Canon O'Donovan Centre Millstreet, Ballydesmond Day Care Centre.
- Our cultural and musical heritage is celebrated and nurtured in centres such as Tureencahill Community Centre, Teach Failte Gneeveguilla, Millstreet Comhaltas and the Maurice O'Keefe weekend in Kiskeam.
- Community groups are revitalising their areas and are doing much to harness a real community spirit. Much work is being done on village environments and the development of a Community Hubs.
- There are Community Halls in Kiskeam, Boherbue, Dromtariffe, Knocknagree, Gneeveguilla, Rathmore, Ballydaly, Millstreet, Cullen, and Ballydesmond, which provide wonderful focus for community activity.
- The GAA provides a healthy outlet for young and not so young with football hurling and handball
- Soccer Clubs
- Pipe Bands in Cullen and Millstreet
- There are playgrounds in several areas where young families can gather.
- Basketball Clubs
- Athletic Clubs
- Lots of walks and trails: Walks on Clara Mountain, Shrone Lake, and various Duhallow Trails, O' Sullivan/ Beara walk etc
- There are playgrounds in several areas where young families can gather.

our Pastoral Area



People/Groups

While there are five parishes, Community identity is frequently defined by church areas:

- Millstreet
- Ballydaly
- Cullen
- Boherbue
- Kiskeam
- Rathmore
- Gneeveguilla
- Shrone
- Knocknagree
- Ballydesmond
- Dromagh
- Derringree

Religious Orders

- Presentation Sisters Rathmore
- The Sisters of the Infant Jesus Millstreet

National Schools

1. Rathcoole NS
- 2 Derrinagree NS
- 3 Dromagh NS
- 4 Ballydesmond NS
5. Millstreet Presentation NS
6. Millstreet Boys NS
7. Cullen NS
8. Cloughoula NS
9. Holy Family Rathmore
10. Shrone NS
11. Meentogues NS
12. Gneeveguilla NS
13. Hollymount NS
14. Knocknagree NS
15. Kiskeam NS
16. Boherbue NS

Secondary Schools

1. Boherbue Comprehensive School
2. Pobal Scoil Sliabh Luachra, Rathmore
3. Millstreet Community School

Preschool & Crèches

- Millstreet
- Rathmore
- Knocknagree
- Dromagh
- Rathcoole
- Derrinagree
- Boherbue
- Ballydesmond

Our places of Christian Heritage

Millstreet:

Tubrid Well: Annual Mass on the last Friday of May

St John's Well: Annual Mass celebrated on June 24th.



Rathmore:

The City (Shrone): Annual Mass (1st Sunday of May) and place of pilgrimage.

Token Fire Mass Rock(Lisnagrave): (Mass celebrated for the Summer Solstice).



Dromtariffe & Boherbue:

The three local saints / holy women associated with our Pastoral Area are **Lasair of Killasseragh** in Boherbue, **Iníon Bhui** in Dromtariffe and **Laitieran** in Cullen. We are told they were sisters.

Well Day in Dromtariffe is on May 6th and Mass is celebrated and people also visit privately.

Laitieran Sunday is the Sunday nearest to July 25th. Feis Laitieran brings competitors from near and far.



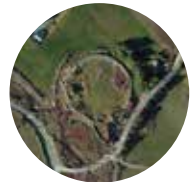
Ballydesmond:

Source of the Blackwater. Meenganine is associated with Fr. Maurice McKenraghry, chaplain to the Earl of Desmond. He was captured here by Lord Roche in the 1580's and martyred. In September 1992 he was beatified by Pope John Paul II.



Our Marian Grotto's:

Rathmore, Gneeveguilla, Leam, Tureencahill, and Shinnagh Cross, Mountcain, Cullen, Rathcoole, Boherbue, Kiskeam, Millstreet.





DUHALLOW SLIABH LUACHRA PASTORAL AREA

Church Services

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---|
| Saturday: | 6.00pm | Rathmore |
| | 6.30pm | Millstreet |
| | 7.30pm | Knocknagree or Gneeveguilla Kiskeam, Derrinagree |
| Sunday: | 9.00am | Shrone, Ballydaly |
| | 10.00am | Knocknagree or Gneeveguilla |
| | 10.15am | Cullen |
| | 10.30am | Dromagh |
| | 11.00am | Boherbue, Ballydesmond |
| | 11.30am | Rathmore, Millstreet |