

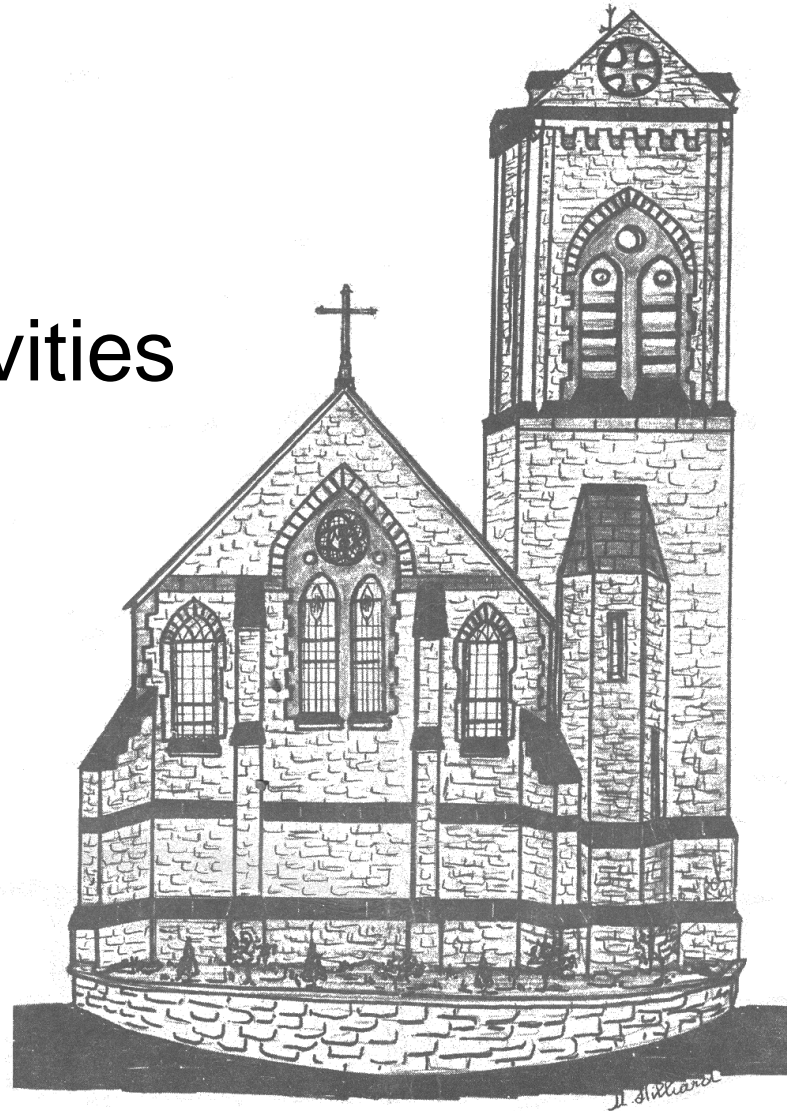
# **St Mary Magdalene Monaleen**

**Welcome to our Parish**



# Main points to be covered

- Where is Monaleen?
- Our History + Growth
- Our Pastoral Council + Activities
- Our Community
- Sports in Monaleen
- Education
- Effects of Growth
- Sense of Community



# Parishes in our Area

St Mary Magdalene, Monaleen

Our Lady, Help of Christians, Milford

St John's, Cathedral Place

St Michaels, Denmark Street

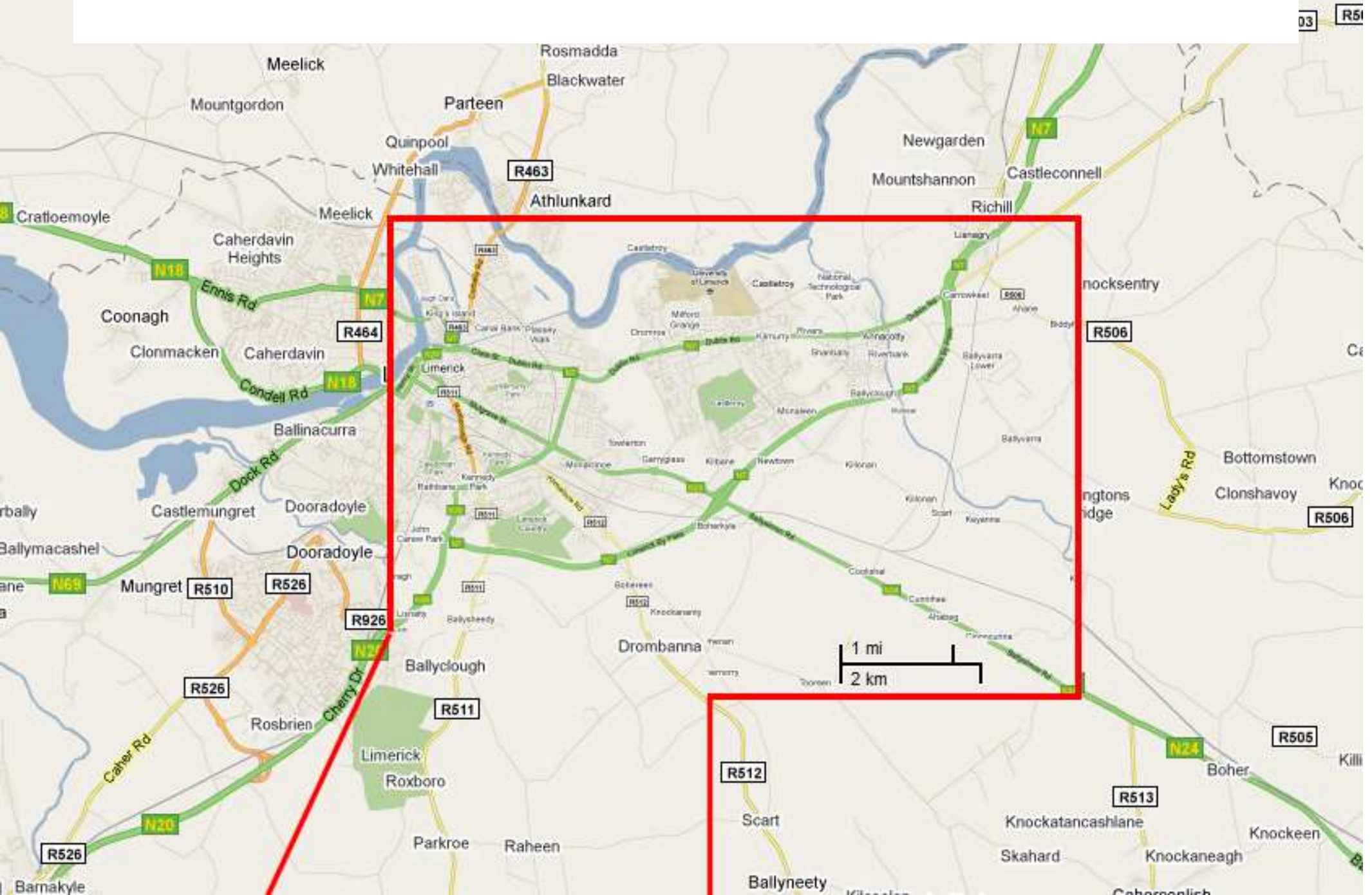
Donaghmore and Knockea

Holy Family, Southill

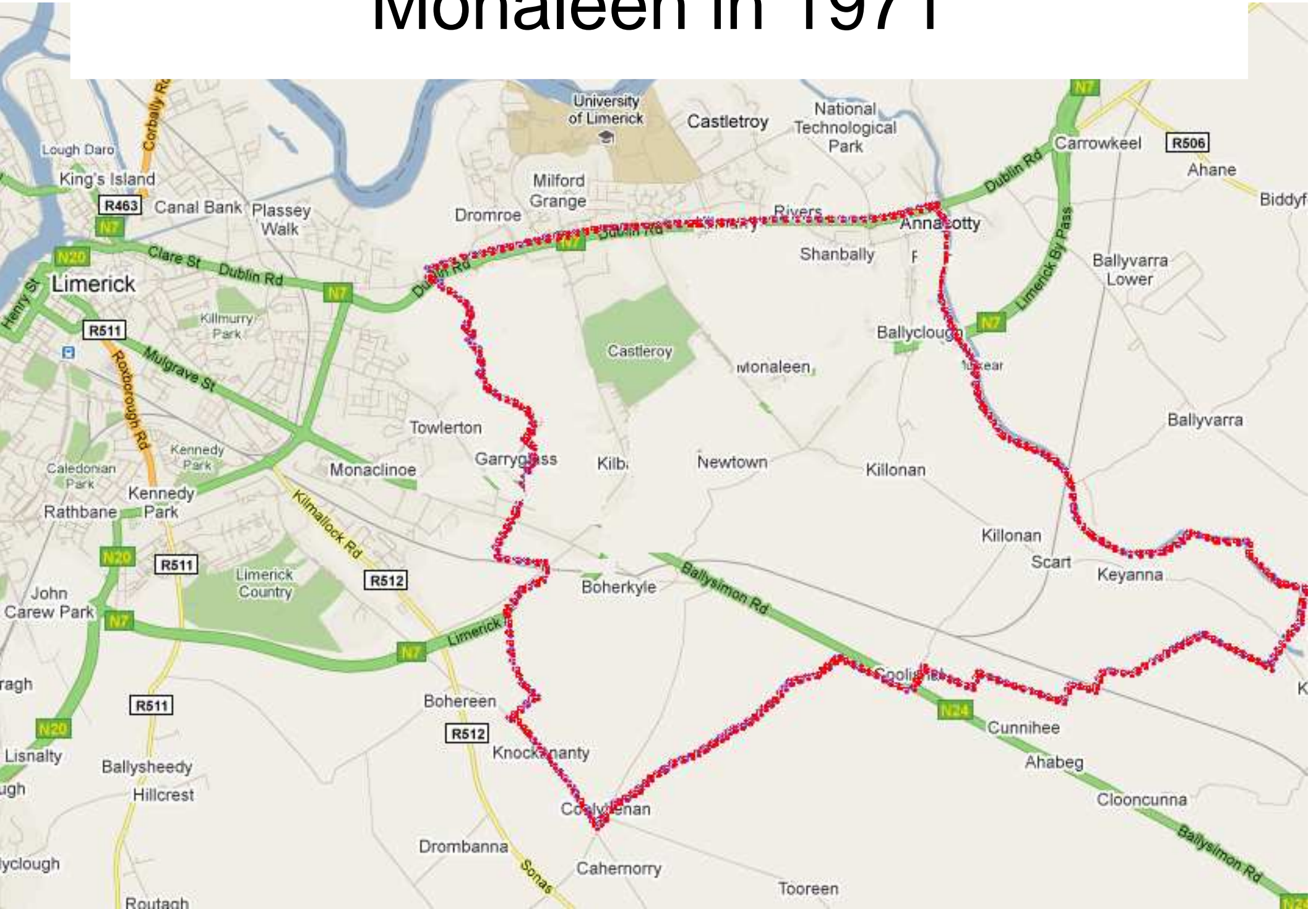
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Janesboro

St Patricks & St Bridgets, Dublin Road

# General Location of Area Parishes



# Monaleen in 1971





# History

- St Mary Magdalene's is a small chapel built in 1879 to serve the most rural part of the city parish, St Patrick's. It replaced an older church.
- The new parish of Monaleen was created in June 1971; with probably 380 homes, mostly farming. Annacotty was the only village.
- Just three suburban estates gave an insight into the future development of the parish.
- The 2010 population is approx 9000, with 3,800 homes, mostly concentrated in  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the area.

# Benefits of this growth

Modern primary school (570 pupils) plus a Gaelscoil.

New community college with 1080 pupils

Large active successful GAA with 450 juveniles

New neighbourhood park is ideal for childrens' recreation

This surge of growth has brought some problems  
– see later

# Monaleen Pastoral Council

Formed in 2003 after a period of reflection guided by Sr. Betty Baker. For the most part, founding members had served on previous Parish Councils. Membership has gradually changed.

*Vision: We seek to create an inclusive community, where people feel at home, where we share our gifts and respond to pastoral needs in a spirit of service participating in the Ministry of Christ.*

Meets for one hour monthly except in summer.

# Council Membership

Between ten and twenty members depending on response; currently twelve members.

Priests of the parish are members automatically.

Membership changes bit by bit, as members must retire after three years and new members join.

Former members can rejoin after one year away.

Over 30 members have served, each for up to six years between 2003 and 2010.

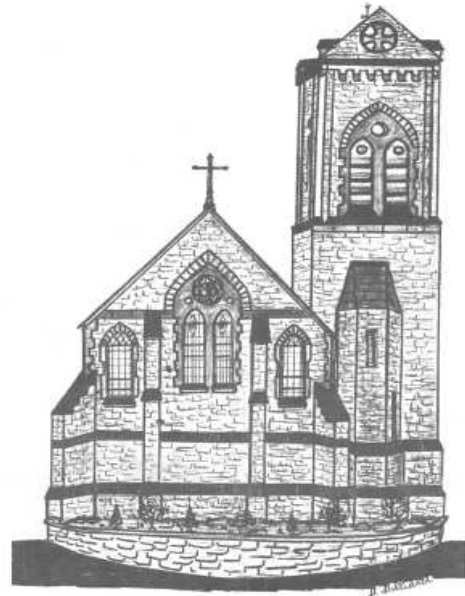
# Pastoral Activities

Main pastoral activities include

- Parish Directory booklet
- Visitations of new homes
- Trinity of Sundays
- Church Safety team
- Child protection support
- Weekly newsletter covering all parish, social and sports activities

# Parish Directory

As a visitation gift for  
each new home  
Updated every year  
Names & phone nos for  
Church activities  
Sports & Recreations  
Schools  
Health and Garda  
Postal services  
Template available



St. Mary  
Magdalene  
Monaleen

Parish  
Directory

prepared by the Pastoral Council of Monaleen Parish

We seek to create an inclusive community,  
where people feel at home, where we share our gifts  
and respond to pastoral needs in a spirit of service  
participating in the Ministry of Christ.



All are welcome in the House of God

# Visitations of new homes

2000 newly-built homes visited since 2004

Two visitors present booklet and welcome newcomers to our parish. Highlight relevant content.

Brief training – always welcome the person, ignore abuse, no questions, not a census.

Six to ten teams each year; 20 to 40 homes per team; maximum two attempted visits.

Response is 99.5% appreciative; often delight.

Visitors enjoy the task and volunteer next year.

# Church Safety Team

Safety Policy established in 2006

Four members – PP, sacristan, nurse & engineer

Safety Statement in church, full policy on website

Initially monthly audits and much corrective action

Now audits quarterly. New concerns continue to arise, now mainly tripping hazards

Policy reviewed annually and revised as needed – most recently September 2010

Template available to all parishes

# Trinity of Sundays

Parish Retreat between Easter and Whit Sunday

Spread over three consecutive Sundays  
incorporating 12:30 Mass

Different visiting speaker each Sunday:  
well-known with theology background

Tea and cakes on lawn after Mass (treasure hunt  
for children)

Response was great – increased attendance,  
much interest

# Pastoral Occasions



Christmas, 1st Communion  
Baptisms  
Bereavements



# Child Protection Implementation

Policy created in 2006 by Council and parish

All documents displayed in church and school

All documents & forms downloadable at website

Reviewed annually by CP team, updated if needed and date shown on displays

Sign-in and other records secured in sacristy

Applied to all extracurricular events in the school

Available for use by parishioners operating child-centred activities outside school

# Other pastoral activities

Liturgical group: design and settings for liturgies

Altar server training; 2 choirs & another planned

Eucharistic ministers – rota of abt 30 volunteers

Ministers of the word – rota of abt 30 volunteers

Cleaning teams – rota of 20 volunteers

Cash Tellers – rota of 12 volunteers

Envelope distributors – about 45 volunteers

Website: [www.monaleenparish.org](http://www.monaleenparish.org)

Leanbh Infant Memorial Garden – October Mass  
& Book of Remembrance

# Our Community

Most voluntary activities listed in Parish Directory

Adult & Juvenile sports: GAA, tennis, golf, soccer

Scouts, community games – two speakers

Active retirement, Bridge

Farming Community, Castletroy ICA – more later

Two primary schools, Community College

Monaleen Cancer Support

[www.monaleencsg.ie](http://www.monaleencsg.ie)

Roseville Nursing Home

# Juvenile Sports

Strong focus on juvenile teams

Community games - athletics

Aisling Annacotty soccer

Junior Tennis, Junior Golf

Juvenile GAA, UL-Bohs Rugby



# For Older People

## Active Retirement Club

Weekly meeting with a theme

Several tours abroad annually

Credit Union: 1st community activity in Monaleen

Golf Club – popular social centre

Twice-weekly 45 cards

GAA Clubhouse – popular social centre

Twice-weekly 45 cards

Bridge weekly – and travel to challenges



# Education



Many pre-school and crech facilities

Montessori infant schools; Naíonra

Monaleen NS: 570 pupils 30 teachers

Gaelscoil since 2001: 210 pupils, 10 teachers

Castletroy Comm College: 1080 pupils, 100 staff



# Growth brings social challenges

2000 newly built homes occupied since 2003

Some of these are now worth less than they cost

Approx 200 vacant houses ready to occupy

Some developments are incomplete, one  
previously so

Newcomers may find it hard to integrate without  
school or sporting links

# Child & Youth Challenges

Need to extend National School

Waiting for a long time for permanent GaelScoil

Teenagers slow to become involved in church

Space in church is not adequate nowadays

Close to capacity at Sunday Masses

Christmas and Easter liturgies full to doors

Lack of any meeting place for more than a dozen

# Sense of Community

From the visitations we learned that most newcomers feel welcome in Monaleen Parish.

Many people who move into existing estates refer to the sense of community they find here.

They say that they feel at home and become part of our community very easily, especially when they join in sports, leisure or parish activities.

They make new friends through school and street-neighbours if they have children.

Most but not all new arrivals settle in quickly.

# Main points again

Monaleen on the map!

Parish history and growth

Our Pastoral Council, and our council projects

Other activities in our parish

Focus on juvenile sports

Adult social facilities

Effects of growth – a) housing, b) youth

Overall, a strong sense of community