

## Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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### CONTACT DETAILS:

Fr. Donal Cotter: (021) 4347815

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### Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil: 6.15pm : Sunday: 9.00am & 11.00am Weekdays: Mon- Fri. 9.30

Saturdays: 10.00am Holydays: As Announced

Bulletin 22nd December , 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

Offertory: 15/12/24 - €2091

Shrines: 15/12/24 - €455

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK - 21st to the 28th December, 2024

Saturday, 21st December - 6.15pm - (1)Mary Meade, (2)Denis Healy,(3)Donal King

Sunday, 22nd December - 9.00am - (1) John & Kathleen Ruddy(2)John Gleeson

11.00am - (1)Nora & John Healy (2) Jane Murray

(3) Tony Canty (4) Ollie Moloney (5) Dr. Kay Flynn & May Gleeson.

Monday, 23rd December - 9.30am - Pat & Rose O'Sullivan

Tuesday, 24th December - 9.30am - Elizabeth (Betty) Daly

6.15pm & 9.00pm - People of the Parish

Wednesday, 25th December - 9.00am, 11.00am & 12.30pm - People of Parish

Friday, 27th December - 9.30am - Joe Browne

### N.B. CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses is one of only two collections taken up for the Priest's income in the year, the other being at Easter. All other church collections are for the maintenance of the parish. We thank you in advance.

**PARISH BULLETIN** The Parish Bulletin is available weekly on the Parish Website: or can be e-mailed by forwarding your e-mail address to the Parish Office.

### Extraordinary People

Every year about this time I visit an extraordinary woman. Rose has now lost her two children, both of whom with a disabling syndrome, as well as her husband; all within a period of four years or so. We all got to know her and her family through visits to Lourdes. You could say they grew up in our company, year after year, celebrating with Our Lady. She fundraises and puts together every ounce of energy to travel with our group called CASA. You may have seen references to our group in this Bulletin from time to time and referred to Rose also. Even now, after their deaths, she and her friends and family go fundraising events for the organisations they got involved with, including COPE. When I visit, I always want to see her Winter Wonderland; so important for Mary Rose and Christopher. Every year her husband and herself would put hundreds of lights, castles, lanterns, figures of all kinds lit up; the ceiling and floor flashing with light. In their memory she puts it all together again. Year after year, room after room. Every room is special. Her faith is not forgotten; the Our Lady of Lourdes statue is festooned, the Crib is full of moving figures and, right in the middle of it all is an elaborate figure, dressed in finest cloth which was her mother's. It is of a man, woman, child and donkey; it is the Flight into Egypt.

And so we see more extraordinary people; this little family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is true that Saint Francis is responsible for the idea of putting together the figures in the Manger which forms our Crib scene every year. But there are other ways of conveying the Christmas story. One of these was Joseph's Workshop which was installed one year in Saint Peter's Square. Another could well be the Flight into Egypt. When you think of how this young couple had to come to terms with the unusual and unique circumstance of this birth, the sudden interest of everyone in the birth itself, how far away they were from home, and to realise they are in danger and must run away; Joseph's dream. Think also how many have been Fleeing to Egypt over nearly two years past from Gaza; men, women and children; history repeating itself.

A third little group of extraordinary people: Elizabeth, Zechariah and John. They are surely another entire story for Christmas. And this weekend their two worlds meet; Mary and Elizabeth blessed three times in each other's company as they contemplate their future. Each woman blessing and lifting each other in their shared moment. All these extraordinary people change our world and help us understand the extraordinary nature of our own lives! How we have coped, struggled, raised, consoled, celebrated, mourned all these years.in the words of St Luke...'nothing is impossible with God.'

Father Tom and our neighbour Fr Dan join me in wishing you a joyous Christmas.

Fr. Donal



### PENITENTIAL SERVICE - Today, Sunday, 22nd December at 5.00pm.

You are very welcome to next Sunday's Penitential Service in preparation for Christmas. This year it will be held in the Sacred Heart Church, Western road. All the Priests of the four Parishes will be there and we look forward to seeing you.

### PARISH NOTICES

**Weekly collection Envelopes:** There are still a lot of boxes for 2025 to be collected from the Sacristy or the Parish office. Please take your box so that it can be used for the start of January.