

## 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 12th January, 2025**

**Baptism of the Lord**

**Offertory**: 05/01/25 - €1731

**Shrines**: 05/01/25 - €990

**Holy Day**: 06/01/25 - €295

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK - 11th to the 18th January, 2025

**Saturday, 11th January - 6.15pm - (1) Mary Goold (2) Ann Gallagher**

**Sunday, 12th January - 11.00am - (1) Jim Prendergast (2) Jerry Burke (3)John & Edith Lyall**

**Tuesday, 14th January - 9.30am - Ted Buckley**

**Thursday 16th January - 9.30am - Bridie Stritch**

**Friday, 17th January - 9.30am - Special Intention**

### Diocesan Needs:

Quarterly collection at all Masses this weekend, 11th/12th January, 2025

### PARISH NOTICES

**Tuesday Evening Social Gathering** : Next meeting in Parish Conference room on Tuesday, 14th January at 7.00pm

**Circle of Prayer for Vocations**: Next meeting in the Parish Conference room on Saturday, 18th January at 2.00pm

**Weekly envelopes**: There are still a lot of boxes to be collected from the Sacristy. If you do not wish to have a box of envelopes, **please let the Parish office know so that we do not need to order as many boxes as we do.**

## The origins of Baptism

This weekend marks the beginning of the ministry of Jesus with his baptism on the Jordan River by John the Baptist. From the moment that, as St Luke tells us, the Holy Spirit rests on Jesus, John gradually steps further and further into the background, as he himself foretold. One of my colleagues, Fr Noel O'Sullivan, has written about how our own baptism has developed as a Sacrament from all this. This is what he writes:

The practice of Baptism goes back to the very origins of the Christian Church. First, there was the ministry of John the Baptist. The ritual washing at that stage was only a prefiguring of the Christian sacrament. John's ritual was all about forgiveness of sin in order to escape the anger of God at the end of the world, which many people at the time thought was coming soon. Jesus was baptised by John to identify with sinful humanity, although he was without sin himself. As a result, from then on, the ritual began to have a new meaning. The heavens were opened; the Father spoke; the Holy Spirit descended: the ritual was radically changed: the presence of the Father, Son, and Spirit showed the fullness of God.

The basic reality of Baptism lies in the fact that people are not born Christian; they have to become Christian. Baptism is the beginning of that process. It is not a once-off, an end in itself; it is the gateway to Christianity and the door of the Church.

St Paul gives us a profound and mysterious notion of the grace of Baptism. For the Apostle the death and resurrection of Christ form the watershed from which all the graces of salvation come to us (Romans 4:5). Our Baptism is our first immersion into the death and resurrection of Christ. As Paul understands it, we share in Christ's death by dying to our old selves, and we are said to rise with him by coming to share in the graves of his risen life. There is further evidence of this in what Paul says further: 'When you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead' Colossians 2:12. Full immersion in water is the symbol of entering into the death of Christ and rising with him. The word itself is taken from the Greek baptizein, meaning to immerse, to plunge.

And so I leave you with this meditation. It is our hope that, in the future, we will have a suitable preparation time with parents as they contemplate Baptism.

**Fr Donal**



**Parish App: Check the Parish App for the prophet Isaiah.**

**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.