

ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER, 12th December 2021

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Third Sunday of Advent

There is a clear note of rejoicing in today's liturgy. (This is known as Gaudete Sunday. The word Gaudete means rejoice!) The basis for this rejoicing is the nearness of the Lord. As we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, the Lord is very close to us.

Theme of the Weekend Readings: The day of the Lord's coming is near. We rejoice.

First Reading: The prophet wants us to be happy, to shout for joy.

Second Reading: Be happy, says St. Paul, and be tolerant.

Gospel: John the Baptist announces the good news of Christ's coming.

Weekend Masses

Sunday 19th December: 9:30 am Mass in Mullinarrigle
11:00 am Mass in Rosbercon

Weekday Masses:

Wednesday 15th December: 10:00 am Mass in Rosbercon

Friday 17th December: 10:00 am Mass in Rosbercon

All Masses will be streamed live through our webcam on www.rosberconparish.ie

Christmas Masses

Rosbercon

Friday - Christmas Eve, Vigil Mass 8:00 pm

Saturday - Christmas Morning: 11:00 am

Mullinarrigle

Friday - Christmas Eve, Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm

Tullogher

Saturday - Christmas Morning: 9:30 am

Months Mind

Fr. Michael Norton, Rosbercon

Anniversaries

Pat O'Neill, Tinneranny

Michael, Eileen and Catherine Cashin, Shanbogh

Margaret (Peg) Ryan, Guilcough

Nora Woods, Ballymartin

Catherine Gannon, Ballyraggett

Maise Gaule, Mullinarrigle

We welcome into our Christian Community **Olivia Amanda Prendergast**, daughter of Dean and Anita, New Ross, who was baptised in the Church of the Assumption, Rosbercon, on Saturday 4th December 2021.

Christmas Reconciliation Services: Confessions for Christmas will be heard after the weekend Masses in Rosbercon and Mullinarrigle on Saturday/Sunday for the remaining weekends of Advent. These will be held in the Sacristies to allow for social distancing.

A Message from Fr Dan: The Crib, the wonder of God's love. The Nativity Scene or the Christmas Crib is first of all a beautiful Christmas decoration. But, of course it is much more. Its origins go far back in history. St Francis of Assisi, on a visit to Rome, had been struck by the mosaics, showing the birth of Jesus, in the Roman Basilica of Saint Mary Major. Francis had earlier visited the Holy Land and the caves in Greccio in his native Italy reminded him of the countryside around Bethlehem. His dream was to recreate in his native Greccio the wonder and awe which he experienced in Bethlehem. He also hoped that this experience could be made available to the local people of Greccio.

Fifteen days before Christmas, Francis asked a local man named John to help him to bring to life the memory of the baby born in Bethlehem. He wished the baby to be lying in a manger, upon a bed of hay, with an ox and an ass standing by. His friend prepared the stable in a cave and on December 25th, friars came to Greccio together with people from the local farms. They brought flowers and torches to light up the scene. When Francis arrived, he found a manger full of hay, with the ox and donkey in place. All those present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the first Christmas Crib.

The priest then celebrated the Christmas Mass over the manger, showing the bond between the birth of Jesus and the Sacrifice of the Mass. At Greccio there were no statues; the nativity scene was acted out by the people present. In this way the first Christmas crib became part of the process of passing on the faith to the people. Beginning with the childhood of Jesus the people learned to experience God's love for them at every stage of Jesus' life.

At Christmas, in the Crib, we see and experience God's love for us. We see and we feel that God is with us and that we are with him. We realize that true happiness lies in the knowledge that we are loved. Like Saint Francis, we open our hearts to this simple scene. We thank God, Jesus, and the Blessed Virgin Mary whose love accompanies us every day of our lives.

From the Ennis Parish Newsletter (Adapted)

December is the month of the Birth of Our Saviour; it is the month of mid-winter, the month of the shortest day of the year. It is the last month of the calendar and the month of gift giving. During the month of December, we pray to come close to Jesus in our lives and in our prayer.

To make you Smile: Family Ties - There was a car accident in a small town. A crowd surrounded the victim so that the newspaper reporter couldn't get close enough to see. He hit upon a bright idea: 'I'm the father of the victim', he cried, 'please let me through.' The crowd let him pass so he was able to get right up to the scene of the accident, where he discovered, to his embarrassment, that the victim was a donkey.

Fr. Brian Darcy

*This weeks newsletter is kindly sponsored by
Meal on Wheels, New Ross*

**Mass Intentions for the Saturday/Sunday, 18th/19th
December 2021**

Mullinarrigle: Sunday 19th December at 09:30 am
Stephen Mullally, Ballyconnaught
James Ryan, Ballyconnaught
Julia Murphy, Brownsford

Rosbercon: Sunday 19th December at 11:00 am
Patrick Scarff, Garrenbehy
Catherine James, and John Rice, New Ross
Ned and Mary Mernagh, Assumption Terrace

Collection of Parish Funds 4th/5th December 2021:

Offertory Collection: € 268.00
Weekly Envelopes: € 857.00
Parish Debt on 9th December 2021: € 41,848.85

Rosbercon Parish Draw will take place next Sunday, 12th December 2020, at 4.00pm in Rosbercon Church at the end of the Mass for the Senior Citizens. Please return ticket stubs and money in time for the Draw. Many thanks to all who have contributed so generously. **The Christmas Offering Envelopes for the Priests of the Parish and the Boxes of Weekly Envelopes for Parish Funds for the coming year** will be available next weekend. Many thanks for your loyalty and generosity to the Parish and to Fr. Dan.

Rosbercon Parish Pastoral Council have sent twenty-four Christmas Cards and Greetings to parishioners who have emigrated from the parish down the years. We thank those who gave us the names of their family members and we will remember our emigrants at our Parish Christmas Masses.

Parishioners who wish to make their contributions to the Parish/Priest of Rosbercon for 2022 by **Standing Order** can do so by giving their name to Fr. Dan. People may find this facility useful as it eliminates envelopes and also simplifies parish administration.

Many congratulations to Listerlin Tidy Towns Committee who have made such a wonderful contribution to the appearance of the village and Listerlin Church. The Christmas Tree and the Christmas decorations and lights look wonderful. So well done to all concerned.

Reflection

There is a clear note of joy in today's Readings.

Joy is a blend of laughter and tears

It consists of having a love affair with life.

It is having a heart aglow with warmth

for all one's companions on the road of life.

It is looking for the happiness that comes in small packages, knowing that big packages are few and far between.

It is making the most of the present,

enjoying what is at hand right now.

Joy is love bubbling over into life.

And it coexists with pain.

Joy is the flag we fly when Christ, the Prince of Peace

Has taken up residence in our hearts

Wisdom: "Better to be the one who smiled than the one who didn't smile back".

Rosbercon Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Brid Vereker, Millbanks Close and Anne O' Sullivan, Ballykenna. If you have a Safeguarding concern, contact Brid or Anne.

ROSBERCON 1824

Rosbercon at this time appears to have been rather a quiet village with no mention of traders apart from the three local pubs, Miss Molloy's, James McGraths, and Pat Whites known as the Man and Horse. The local gentry were recorded as Miss Molloy and the Rev Thomas Wallis then resident as Jamie's Funeral Home, which was first constructed in 1812, no mention of the poor P.P. Not being happy with the local pubs you crossed the bridge and visited any of the following pubs; The Beehive in North Street, The Fowler, on the Quay, The Coopers Arms in South Street, The Wheat Sheaf or The Plough both in Bridge Street, The Cat and Bagpipes or the Black Bull in Irishtown, The Red Cow in North Street. Not being satisfied with any of these pubs you had a choice of thirteen others who did not have fancy names.

◆ **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Rosbercon Community Employment Scheme has the following vacancy for a Groundsman/Caretaker for Tullogher Rosbercon GAA Club. For further information please contact: 051-425093 or 086-3642592. Email:rosberconparish@gmail.com

Department of Social Protection, Community Employment Terms and Conditions Apply. See (<http://www.welfare.ie>)

◆ **ST. MOLINGS CHAPTER ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
ROSBERCON TULLOGHER**

Our Annual Christmas Collection will take place as usual within the coming month of December. Due to COVID-19 restrictions special St. Vincent De Paul blue coloured envelopes will be placed on the tables in all of our Churches to facilitate parishioners wishing to donate, the envelopes can be returned in the usual Sunday Collection boxes. It is important to note all donations received without exception go strictly to the relief of parishioners in genuine need. Due to COVID-19 related unemployment there has been a greater demand on our limited resources which is financed primarily by your Christmas donations. Our Chapter has been present within our parish now in excess of seventy years operating in the strictest confidence. To assist us in our charitable work we are requesting any parishioner who becomes aware of genuine urgent need amongst neighbours or friends, please let us know by calling us on either our special help line phone no: 087-7140112 or by contacting any of our following committee member; Richard McElwee, Mary B Conway, Seamus Waters, Catherine Cotterell, Bríd Vereker, Margaret Saunders.

◆ **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**

Campile Hall Committee are running a Christmas Craft Fair on Sunday December 12th from 10 am to 4 pm; Eircode Y34DT10 with lots of great crafts on offer on the day. We are also running a Christmas Raffle in conjunction with our Craft Fair with a 1st Prize of € 200 cash and 2nd prize a Christmas Hamper valued at € 100 and lots of other prizes to be won, tickets are on sale from Committee members, draw to take place at the Craft Fair.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Christmas is the season of joy, of gift-giving, and of families united.

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