

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL

ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER, 19th December 2021

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

In a few days we celebrate the birth of Christ. Christ comes most readily to those who believe in him. Let us draw near to him now, bringing with us our needs, our hopes, and our gifts too.

Theme of the Weekend Readings: The celebration of Christ's birth is very near.

First Reading: Bethlehem will be the birthplace of the Saviour of Israel.

Second Reading: Jesus offers his life to God and dedicates Himself to do God's will.

Gospel: Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth.

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 22nd December 10:00 am Mass in Rosbercon

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

Tullagher

Saturday - Christmas Morning 9:30 am

While our stewards will do their best to accommodate as many people as possible in the Church, it is inevitable that some will have to remain outside. We have good outside speakers, and we hope the weather is favourable.

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

Recent Deaths

Peggy Walsh, Hoodsgrove

Anniversaries

Stephen Mullally, Ballyconnaught

James Ryan, Ballyconnaught

Julia Murphy, Brownsford

Patrick Scarff, Garrenbehy

Catherine, James and John Rice, New Ross

Ned and Mary Mernagh, Assumption Terrace

Dick Hennessy, Hoodsgrove

John Sinnott, Raheen

Kevin O'Brien, Ballyknock

Nora and Bill Power, Ballyneal

We welcome into our Christian Community **Ruth Anne Grennan**, daughter of James and Mary, Ballycurran, who was baptised in the Mullinarrigle Church on Saturday 11th December 2021.

A Message from Fr Dan: The Coming of Christ: Over the centuries there have been many powerful leaders in our world. In the last 100 years we have had the Tzar in Russia, Hitler in Germany, Mugabe in Zimbabwe, Idi Amin in Uganda and Mussolini in Italy. Some of these leaders seized power but many of them were elected and were popular in their own countries. They all believed that they knew what was best for their own people and for the world and that their rule would make a difference to the wellbeing of the people. But we know power can corrupt and all of these leaders left their countries in a far worse state than they found them.

Many people get involved in politics believing in the democratic system. If they make it into a position of power, they too feel that they can change things for the better. Many others are believers in the power of Education. They believe that by educating the people, they will change their lives for the better and this will lead to a better, more just world. We are all people of hope, looking ahead, looking to live in better times.

The Jewish people at the time of Christ lived in very harsh circumstances. Palestine was a conquered country and the Jews lived under Roman occupation and all that, that entailed. Invasion and conquest was nothing new to the Jewish people. The Assyrians had conquered and destroyed the Northern Kingdom. The Babylonian armies had conquered Judaea and exiled the whole population to Babylon. The Jews were to spend 70 years in exile. In their darkest hours the people never lost their hope that a Messiah would come and rescue them from their cruel fate. Their Messiah would be a great military and political leader like their greatest kings, David and Solomon.

However, God's way was not man's way. The Messiah, when he came, was not born in a great palace but in a stable, as a helpless child, born to a young woman named Mary. Jesus brought salvation to the world in a way that no one expected or foresaw. His life by any standard was a failure. His few supporters deserted him when he was crucified. His death looked like the end of the road, the end of the Christian way. Yet, the coming of Christ which we celebrate on Saturday has made such a difference to humanity over the last two thousand years. To this day Christ has no political power. He invites us to welcome him into our lives and to show the world how the life of faith can bring salvation and redemption to the people. Christ is with us in the ordinary and simple ways of our daily lives. If we stay with him, he fills our lives with light and life and hope. Despite all the difficulties, his love leads to a happiness and joy that 'no eye has seen or ear heard'. Jesus is our Messiah. It is his birth that we will be celebrating at Christmas time.

*This weeks newsletter is kindly sponsored by
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Collection of Parish Funds 11th/12th December 2021:

Offertory Collection:	€ 370.00
Weekly Envelopes:	€ 1,465.00
Parish Debt on 15 th December 2021:	€ 41,848.85

The Christmas Offering Envelopes for Fr Dan and the Boxes of Weekly Envelopes for Parish Funds for the coming year have now been distributed. Envelopes may be handed in at Mass or to the Parochial House. We thank our parishioners for their continued loyalty and generosity to the Parish and to the Priest. We thank our envelope distributors for their fidelity.

The Rosbercon-Mullinarrigle-Tullagher Christmas Draw took place in the Church of the Assumption on Sunday 12th December 2021. The Draw was very successful and raised € 8,420.00. We thank all parishioners for your generous contribution and your continued loyalty to the Draw and to the Parish. Special thanks to the Promoters, and to those who sold and bought tickets. The level of co-operation and good will shown, is very encouraging. Again, Many Thanks.

Fr Dan and the Parish Finance Committee sincerely thank our generous sponsors of the Christmas Draw: Barrowside Veterinary, Breen Hardware, Crystal Taxis, Harry Dooley's, Doyle's Funeral Home, Eurofarm & Garden Supplies Ltd., Hartley Autobody Ltd., Ille Paper Service (Irl) Ltd, Joyce's Home Centre, Listerlin Fuel & Grocery Store, New Ross Credit Union Ltd., O' Rourke Transport, Rosbercon Parish Hall, Stafford Fuels, Trudie's Catering, Vibe Hair Salon and Waterford Ross Co-operative Marts Ltd.

The prize winners were

1st Prize: €500.00

Jack Handrick, Millbanks

2nd Prize: €200.00

Charlie Gaule, Slievecorragh

3rd Prize: Voucher for Ten Bags of Coal by Stafford Fuels

Brid Áine Lawlor, North Street, New Ross

4th Prize: €150.00

Brian O'Shea, Tinneranny

5th Prize: €100.00

Kathleen Walsh, Garrenbehy

6th Prize: €100.00 Voucher for Listerlin Fuel & Grocery Store

Shane Power, Waterford

7th Prize: €100.00 Voucher for Joyce's Home Centre

Jim Corbett, Cork

8th Prize: €50.00 Voucher for Vibe Hair Salon

Cian O'Donoghue, Tinneranny

Thank You and Good Wishes. Fr. Dan thanks you sincerely for your generosity and loyalty to Rosbercon Parish during 2021. May Christmas be wonderful for you and your family and may Our Lord grant you many blessings during 2022.

Diocese of Ossory Advent Carols: On Sunday 19th of December at 6:15 pm, thanks to the help of our friends at KCLR96FM, the Dioceses of Ossory and Kildare & Leighlin can come together, via the radio, for a reflection of Advent Carols and prayers, led by our parishes, in the company of Bishop Denis Nulty. Why not join us from the comfort of your own home with your family for this short Advent reflection.

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.

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

Reflection: A Star is Born

The Magi were led to Christ by the light of a star.

But they saw the star only because

They were not afraid to travel in the dark.

The fact is, we cannot see the stars

In the bright light of day,

But only in the darkness of night;

And the darker the night,

The brighter they shine.

In a sense, all of us are night-time travellers.

However, we need no longer fear the darkness.

A light has come into the world,

A light that shines in the dark,

A light that no darkness can overpower

Wisdom: "We come to love, not by finding a perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly."

Humour: When a rich king complained that the rough ground hurt his feet, so he ordered the whole country to be carpeted in cowhide. It was his court jester who suggested using two small pads to protect his feet!

◆ EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Rosbercon Community Employment Scheme has the following vacancy for a Groundsman/Caretaker for Tullagher 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.

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