

ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 10th December 2023

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Parish Secretary: 051—421515 Office Hours: Mon –Thurs 10:30 am—2:30 pm

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As Christians, we are people who walk in the light of the Lord. May this be even more true of us during this season of Advent.

First Reading

God's people are invited to prepare a way for the Lord.

Second Reading

St. Peter tells us that we are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.

Gospel

St. Mark invites us to 'prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'.

Weekend Masses

Saturday 16 th December	No Mass in Rosbercon
Sunday 17 th December	9:30 am Mass in Mullinarrigle 11:00 am Mass in Rosbercon

Weekday Masses

Rosbercon	
Wednesday 13 th December	10:00 am Mass
Friday 15 th December	10:00 am Mass

Christmas Masses

Rosbercon	
Sunday - Christmas Eve, Vigil Mass	8:00 pm
Monday - Christmas Morning	11:00 am

Mullinarrigle

Sunday - Christmas Eve, Vigil Mass	6:00 pm
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Tullagher

Monday - Christmas Morning	9:30 am
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All Masses from Rosbercon Church will be streamed live through our webcam on www.rosberconparish.ie

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.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel every Wednesday morning from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

There will be a **Special Mass with Anointing of the Sick** for the 'Over 55s' of the parish in Rosbercon Hall on Sunday 10th December at 3:00 pm. followed by refreshments. The Mass and Reception will be followed by the Parish Draw at 4:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

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.

Anniversaries

Dick Hennessy, Hoodsgrove
Fr. Andy Walsh, Galway
Pat O'Neill, Tinneranny
Martin and Johanna Hennessy, Glensensaw
Maise Gaule, Mullinarrigle
Nora Woods, Ballymartin
Peggy and Wally Walsh, Hoodsgrove
Margaret and George Dooley, Hoodsgrove

A Message from Fr Dan: The coming of Christ: We remember with great affection the people who made a real difference to our lives. We are forever grateful to them for their kindness. As we look to Christmas, we reflect on the difference that the coming of Christ makes to the world. I like to reflect, in particular on two gifts Christ brings us. One is the gift of new life and the second is the gift of peace.

Like to-day, the world of the Roman Empire, into which Christ was born, was a world that had grown tired of itself. We have all seen tree stumps, in varying stages of decay, in paddocks, beside streams and on barren hillsides. Sometimes when we stop to look, we see a green shoot; new life emerging from the old and abandoned stump. Is it possible, that we see ourselves as stumps in the winter of our lives? We've done our bit. Yet, this dead wood can become green again. We can still contribute. The coming of Christ encourages us to find a new and more life-giving way of being. Along with nature we too can bloom again in spring.

The Old Testament Jews looked to the coming of the Messiah as the dawn of a new era of peace and harmony in the world. They looked forward to a time when the animals of forest and the animals of the plain would come together in peace and companionship. The wolf and lamb would lie down together. The lion and kid would be friends with the weak offering hospitality to the strong. The cow and the bear would be neighbours and the calf and the lion cub would browse together.

The use of animals as metaphors, invites us to think about our relationships. These images point to a wonderful reconciliation that the coming of Christ brings. The way forward for nations and peoples will not be through power, but through playfulness, or a creativity that allows all to participate as equals. Advent is a call to the inner child in us to recapture the spontaneity, the trust and truthfulness that are the gifts of the Child Jesus. May we find new life and energy this Christmas and may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding be in our hearts and minds.

Methuselah's Christmas Menu

Methuselah ate what he found on his plate,
And never as people do now'
Did he note the amount of the calorie count;
He ate it because it was chow.
He wasn't disturbed as at dinner he sat,
Devouring a roast or a pie,
To think it was lacking the right kind of fat
Or a couple of vitamins shy.
He cheerfully chewed each species of food,
Unmindful of troubles or fears
Lest his health might be hurt
By some fancy desert;
And he lived over 900 years.

Home—G. K. Chesterton

To an open house in the evening,
Home shall all men come,
To an older place than Eden,
And a taller town than Rome.
To the end of the way of the wandering star,
To the things that cannot be and that are,
To the place where God was homeless,
And all men are at home.

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE SATURDAY/SUNDAY

16TH/17TH DECEMBER 2023

Mullinarrigle: Sunday 17th December at 9:30 am

Stephen Mullally, Ballyconnaught

Jim Ryan, Ballyconnaught

Margaret "Peg" Ryan, Guilcough

Rosbercon: Sunday 17th December at 11:00 am

John Sinnott, Raheen

Ned and Mary Mernagh, Assumption Terrace

Paddy and Mary Ann Grace, Rosbercon

Tom and Eileen Stevenson, Rosbercon

Patrick Scarff, Garrenbag Lodge, Rosbercon

Collection of Parish Funds 2nd/3rd December 2023

Offertory Collection € 387.00

Weekly Envelopes € 673.00

Parish Debt on 6th December 2023 € 22,353.61

Support for the Parish

I wish to thank you so much for your support of the Parish. Every year our Parish Draw is a great boost to our morale and to the parish finances. I would ask for your support for this year's draw which will take place on Sunday next, 10th December at 4:00 pm. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Fr. Dan.

St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny Restoration Fund 2023/2024. The November draw for St. Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund took place Wednesday 29th November in the Chapter Room at St. Mary's Cathedral. Please check the Church Noticeboards for the full results of the draw. The draw for December will be held on Wednesday 20th.

Synod 2021-2023: Concluding Report: As the recent phase of the Synod drew to a close in Rome, much focus was on the synthesis document that emerged from the sessions. Many focused on what was in it; others on what was not. Some lamented that the Synod document did not reference many Dogma teachings, and others that it did not address the role of women in our Church and other issues as clearly as it might. Some have commented, rightly, that the actual experience of synod was more important than the document that emerged. It was heartening to read that those in attendance could not imagine a future Synod without the involvement of all - that this had to be said is shocking; but that this was said is wonderful. These conversations will now continue in our local churches and parishes. The full report from the Synod is on the Ossory Website.

Parish Choirs: As we approach the season of gift giving, will you consider offering your musical talent and singing voice to our Church community by joining with our Parish Choirs in praise and worship of our Lord Jesus who gave His all for us. If interested please give your name and number to Fr. Dan or contact Patti Ellen Reidy on 087-1252155 or Ann Joyce on 086-3850899.

Taizé "Prepare the way for the Lord": *Isaiah 40:3-5* Taizé Advent Prayer Services commencing Fridays, 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December 2023 8-9p.m, in the Good Counsel College Church, New Ross, Y34 R297. Taizé services are ecumenical Christian prayer and song. All welcome.

Reflections

Love

"Love is like the wild rose briar,

Friendship, like the holly tree.

The holly is dark when the rose briar blooms,

But which will bloom most constantly."

Emily Bronte

To make you Smile: Regarding the three wise men who came to Bethlehem: 'What if there had been three wise women instead of three wise men?' They would have asked for directions; been on time; helped deliver the baby; brought practical gifts; cleaned the stable; made a casserole'. *Letter to the 'Independent', December 1999*

Wisdom: "Time is a threefold present: the present as we experience it, the past as a present memory and the future as a present expectation"

Humour: If you want to know the kind of person you are, ask yourself whether people say 'Oh good!' when they see your coming or 'Oh God!'

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 PARISH HALL BUILDING UPGRADE

Substantial repairs were recently completed to the roof of the Parish Hall. Our Hall is used by numerous groups and organisations throughout the year and is an integral part of our community. This work would not have been possible without the support from Kilkenny County Council's Community Support Fund, from which we received €12,000. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Kilkenny County Council's staff and officials for their continued support to the Tullogher Rosbercon Community.

◆ GTR COMMUNITY GAMES

The annual general meeting of GTR (Glenmore Tullogher Rosbercon) community games is taking place on Monday December 18th at 8:00 pm in the Glen Bar, Glenmore and all are welcome to attend.

◆ CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The New Ross Singers will present their annual Christmas Concert in St. Mary's Church, New Ross on Wednesday 13th December at 7:30 pm. Entry is free. There will be a voluntary donation box for local charities.

◆ SOUTH KILKENNY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lá an Dreoilín (Wren Day) Event

Date: Tuesday, December 26th

Venue: Mullinavat Parish Hall and Church Car Park.

Time: 11:00 am

◆ SHANBOGH NATIONAL SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

We are currently accepting enrolment applications for the school year 2024/2025. For an application and more information please visit our website shanboghns.ie. On 051—880308 or at shanboghns@gmail.com. Closing date for completed applications is Friday, 22nd December, 2023.

◆ MULLINAVAT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Bridge every Wednesday night starting at 7:20 pm. New members are most welcome. Contact Marian on 087-6984706

◆ ROSBERCON TULLOGHER CHAPTER ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Our annual collection will take place as usual during the month of December. Vincent De Paul blue envelopes will be placed in all of our churches to facilitate parishioners who wish to donate. They can be returned by placing them in the Sunday mass offertory collection boxes or by handing them directly to any of our committee members. The Chapter has been in operation within our parish in excess of 60 years. Our annual collection is the prime source of our funds without which we could not continue. Committee Members—Richard Mc Elwee, Mary B Conway, Seamas Waters, Margaret Saunders, Catherine Cottrell, Bríd Vereker.

◆ CEILI DANCING ROSBERCON HALL

Ceili Classes will commence in Rosbercon Hall in January 2024. These classes will be held in the afternoons and maybe the occasional Saturday. For more information please contact Sarah on 087-9792483.

◆ LINE DANCING

Line Dancing Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday evening in Rosbercon Hall at 07:00 pm. Beginners always welcome. For more information please contact Sarah on 087-9792483

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