

ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 17th December 2023

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist said to his contemporaries: 'There stands among you, one, whom you know not'. He was referring to Jesus, present among us as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist.

Theme of the Weekend Readings

We are called upon to be joyful because Christ is coming.

First Reading

Isaiah is joyful because the Spirit of the Lord has been given to him.

Second Reading

We are happy because of what God has done for us.

Gospel: John the Baptist announces Christ, who is coming.

Weekend Masses

Saturday 23rd December 7:00 pm Mass in Rosbercon

Sunday 24th December No Mass in Mullinarrigle
11:00 am Mass in Rosbercon

Weekday Masses

Rosbercon

Wednesday 20th December 10:00 am Mass

Friday 22nd 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

Tullogher

Monday - Christmas Morning 9:30 am

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

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.

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.

Recent Deaths

Margaret Kitson (née Malone) Kent, UK and formerly Brownsford

Thomas Murphy, Rosbercon and Maida Vale, London

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

We welcome into our Parish Community **Kayden Michael Wall**, son of Darren and Kelly, Tinneranny, who was baptised in the Church of the Assumption, Rosbercon, on Saturday 9th December 2023.

Anniversaries

Stephen Mullally, Ballyconnaught

Jim Ryan, Ballyconnaught

Margaret "Peg" Ryan, Guilcough

Paddy and Mary Ann Grace, Rosbercon

Tom and Eileen Stevenson, Rosbercon

Patrick Scarff, Garrenbeg Lodge, Rosbercon

John Sinnott, Raheen

Ned and Mary Mernagh, Assumption Terrace, Rosbercon

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.

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Mass Intentions for the Saturday/Sunday

23rd/24th December 2023

Rosbercon: Sunday 24th December at 11:00 am

Conrad Roganhagen, Millbanks

Desmond Kirwan, School House Road

Collection of Parish Funds 9th/10th December 2023

Offertory Collection € 710.00

Weekly Envelopes € 1,760.00

Parish Debt on 13th December 2023 € 22,353.61

The Rosbercon–Mullinarrigle–Tullagher Christmas Draw to help meet our financial commitments and to continue to maintain the Buildings of the Parish was a great success and Fr. Dan and the Parish Finance Committee thank you sincerely for your generosity to the Parish. The Draw took place on Sunday last, 10th December and raised **€ 6,955.00**.

We thank all our generous sponsors: Allianz Insurance plc., Barrowside Veterinary, Doyle's Funeral Home, Eurofarm & Garden Supplies Ltd., Hartley Autobody Ltd., H2O Creative Hair, Ille Paper Service (Irl) Ltd, Joyce's Home Centre, Listerlin Fuel & Grocery Store, New Ross Credit Union Ltd., O' Rourke Transport, Rosbercon Parish Hall, Tullagher Rosbercon Vintage Club and Waterford Ross Co-operative Marts Ltd.

The prize winners were

1st Prize: € 500.00—John Barron, Cooleen

2nd Prize: € 300.00—Elaine Cadogan, Rahora

3rd Prize: € 200.00—Michelle Roche, Butlersland, New Ross

4th Prize: € 150.00—Michael O'Sullivan, Ballykenna

5th Prize: € 100.00—Mary Vereker, Raheen

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

Geraldine Conway, Brownstown

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

Eamon Power, Tullogher

8th Prize: € 50.00 Voucher for H2O Creative Hair

Jack Power, Brownstown

Greetings: Rosbercon Parish Pastoral Council has sent 28 Christmas Cards and Greetings to parishioners who have emigrated from the parish down the years. Fr. Dan and Parishioners send special Christmas Greetings and prayers to all our Emigrants. We hope and pray that you are settled and happy in your new country. We miss you and will be thinking of you in the Christmas Season.

The Annual **Giving Tree** makes a welcome return to Rosbercon Church this year. Through the tree, gifts are brought to the patients of the two local hospitals in New Ross. Parishioners are asked to take a tag from the tree and return the gift requested with the tag on or before the 31st December 2023.

Taizé "Prepare the way for the Lord": *Isaiah 40:3-5* Taizé Advent Prayer Services commencing Fridays, 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December 2023 8:00—9:00 pm, in the Good Counsel College Church, New Ross, Y34 R297. Taizé services are ecumenical Christian prayer and song. All welcome.

Wisdom: Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.

Humour: The first rule of business is do unto others as they would do unto you!

Blessed are the hungry; they shall get their fill.'

It is in our emptiness that we are filled.

It is in our confusions that we are guided.

It is in our weakness that we are strengthened.

It is in our sins that we are forgiven.

It is in our hunger that we are fed.

We believe that God has a homeland prepared for us where all our hungers will be satisfied and all our hopes will be fulfilled.

This conviction makes it possible for us to travel onwards with and an unquenchable longing in our souls for our final home.

◆ LISTERLIN TIDY TOWNS

Many congratulations to Listerlin Tidy Towns Committee who have made such a wonderful contribution to the appearance of Listerlin village and Church. The Christmas Tree, the Outdoor Crib and the Christmas decorations and lights look spectacular. The Lighting of the Tree and the generous wine and refreshments party last Sunday evening was thoroughly enjoyed by the large number of children and adults who attended. Well done to all involved.

◆ 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.

◆ ST. JOSEPH'S ATHLETIC CLUB FUN RUN

St. Josephs Athletic Club will hold their festive 5k fun run and walk on St. Stephen's Day at the Pink Rock at 12:00 noon. In aid of St. Joseph's Athletic Club, The Golden Club Glenmore, and St. Vincent De Paul Rosbercon. All welcome to attend.

◆ SOUTH KILKENNY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lá an Dreoilín (Wren Day) Event

Date: Tuesday, December 26th Time: 11:00 am

Venue: Mullinavat Parish Hall and Church Car Park.

Lá an Dreoilín, in Ireland, centres around the tradition of capturing a wren, which is said to bring luck. People march dressed in garbs made of straw, including headwear that is woven into a bell shape, playing drums and traditional music, and singing. Participants are asked to make costumes and a prize will be given for the best costume. People of all ages are asked to participate in the event and participants are not restricted to 'boys' - for this event the term 'boys' means any gender and any age! Participation is not restricted to those who have costumes and/or can sing or play a musical instrument people are asked to participate in whatever way they can, or are comfortable doing and everyone is welcome to join in on the fun.

◆ ST. CANICE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL ENROLMENT

St. Canice's National School, Rosbercon is now taking applications for enrolment for Junior Infants 2024. An application form for enrolment is available by phoning the school at 051 422813 or email secretary@stcanicesns.com

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