

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL

### ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 24th December 2023

Fr. Dan Cavanagh P.P. 051—421515 087—2335432. Email: danieljcavanagh49@gmail.com

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

Parish Website: www.rosberconparish.ie Parish Hall email: rosberconparish@gmail.com

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As the birth of a child draws near attention focuses on his mother. Since we are nearing the celebration of the birth of Christ, it is no surprise to find that Mary is at the centre of today's Gospel. Mary's only concern was to do the will of God. She will help us when we pray to her.

#### Theme of the Weekend Readings

The celebration of Christ's birth is very close.

**First Reading**—God will build a house for His people.

**Second Reading**—Jesus Christ is God's gift to us.

**Gospel**—The story of the Annunciation

#### 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

#### Weekday Masses

##### Rosbercon

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 10:00 am  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December—No Mass (Wedding Mass, Listerlin)

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December No Mass in Rosbercon  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 9:30 am in Mullinarrigle  
11:00 am Mass in Rosbercon

All Masses from Rosbercon Church will be streamed live through our webcam on [www.rosberconparish.ie](http://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.

Please note there will be no **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** next Wednesday morning 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

#### Recent Deaths

George Young, Ballyveria, Glenmore

#### Anniversaries

Conrad Roganhagen, Millbanks  
Desmond Kirwan, School House Road

#### Reflection: *The Wild Geese*

Then I saw the wild geese flying  
In fair formation to their base in Inchicore  
And I knew that these wings would outwear the wings of war  
And a man's simple thoughts outlive the day's loud lying.

Don't fear, don't fear, I said to my soul,  
The bedlam of time is an empty bucket rattled,  
'Tis you who will say in the end who best rattles,  
Only they who fly home to God have flown at all.

*Patrick Kavanagh*

**A Message from Fr. Dan – Arise, shine, for your light has come:** On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity. We are celebrating how the Son of God came among us as one of us. In a humble stable a fragile child, the promised Messiah, came among us. In time the light of the Risen Christ would overcome the darkness and fear of the world and lead us all on the road to heaven.

In his sermon for Christmas last year, Pope Francis reflected on how the Light of Christ transforms the world. The Pope called on each person 'to rise and go forth, to leave behind all that keeps us inward-looking, to recognize the splendour of the light that has come with the coming of Christ'. That 'light' is the glory of the Lord.

We cannot delude ourselves into thinking that we shine with our own light. Individuals, no matter what work we do or how talented we are, do not shine with our own light. Our role is simply to be reflectors, recognizing the light of Christ and radiating that light to the world. Christ is the "true light", the true sun that lights up all things. Thankfully we don't have to exhaust our energy lighting up the world!

Saint Ambrose, one of the early fathers of the Church explained that the Church or 'The People of God' can be compared to the moon. The moon can only reflect the light of the sun. The saint went on to explain, 'The moon is in fact the Church... [she] shines not with her own light, but with the light of Christ. She draws her brightness from the Sun of Justice, and so she can say: 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me'.

Christ is the true light shining in the darkness. To the extent that we remain close to him, we are able to be a light to the people we are sent to serve. There are many stars in the sky! In a very busy world, our task is to seek out the star that will guide us to Christ and to follow his guiding light. The Wise Men found Jesus in the simplicity of Bethlehem. The light of Christ would in time draw millions of followers and guide them along the path of peace.

*From the Ennis Parish Newsletter (Adapted)*

#### 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.

**Thank You and Good Wishes.** Fr. Dan thanks you sincerely for your generosity and loyalty to Rosbercon Parish during 2023. May Christmas be wonderful for you and your family and may Our Lord grant you many blessings during 2024.



*Wishing Everyone a very Peaceful Christmas  
And a Happy New Year*



## Mass Intentions for the Saturday/Sunday

30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Mullinarrigle: Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December at 9:30 am

## Collection of Parish Funds 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Offertory Collection	€ 466.45
Weekly Envelopes	€ 431.00
Parish Debt on 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	€ 20,853.61

The Christmas Offering Envelopes for Fr. Dan and the Boxes of Weekly Envelopes for Parish Funds for the coming year have been distributed to the homes of the parish. 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 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

The Rosbercon–Mullinarrigle–Tullaghan 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, 10<sup>th</sup> December and realised € 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, Tullaghan Rosbercon Vintage Club and Waterford Ross Co-operative Marts Ltd.

### The prize winners were

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: €500.00: John Barron, Cooleen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: €300.00: Elaine Cadogan, Rahora  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: €200.00: Michelle Roche, Butlersland, New Ross  
4<sup>th</sup> Prize: €150.00: Michael O'Sullivan, Ballykenna  
5<sup>th</sup> Prize: €100.00: Mary Vereker, Raheen  
6<sup>th</sup> Prize: €100.00 Voucher for Listerlin Fuel & Grocery Store  
Geraldine Conway, Brownstown  
7<sup>th</sup> Prize: €100.00 Voucher for Joyce's Home Centre  
Eamon Power, Tullaghan  
8<sup>th</sup> Prize: €50.00 Voucher for H2O Creative Hair  
Jack Power, Brownstown

**Foróige Youth Club in Rosbercon:** Foróige want to start a youth club in your area and we need adult volunteer leaders and young people members for the club. A youth club has huge positive benefits to young people in the community, and volunteering offers great rewards to the adults involved. You can make a difference. You can be a positive influence in your community. You can leave a positive impact on your community. For more information, please contact Aidan Gleeson on 086-0674485 or email [Aidan.gleeson@foroige.ie](mailto:Aidan.gleeson@foroige.ie)

**Humour:** The religion teacher was explaining to her class the difference between right and wrong. 'All right children let's take an example. If I were to put my hand into a man's pocket and take his wallet, what would I be?' Little Johnny raised his hand and blurted 'His wife.'

**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.

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

### ◆ 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:secretary@stcanicesns.com)

### ◆ ROSBERCON TULLAGHER 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.

**This office will close on Thursday 21st December at 12:30 pm and reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2023. We would like to wish all the Parish a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.**



*Wishing Everyone a very Peaceful Christmas  
And a Happy New Year*

