

# ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 1st September 2024

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## Twenty Second Sunday of the Year

Jesus said of the Pharisees: 'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.' Hence, their worship was hollow and empty. We need to give God the kind of worship that will honour him and transform our lives. Let us turn to God with sincere and humble hearts.

**Theme of the Weekend Readings:** At Mass each Sunday we ask God to help us persevere in living the Christian Life.

**First Reading:** Moses tells the people to remain faithful to God's law.

**Second Reading:** Saint James points to some of the demands of our faith.

**Gospel:** Jesus reminds us that it is what is in the heart that is important.

### Weekend Masses:

Saturday 7th September: 7.00pm Mass in Tullogher

Sunday 8th September: 9.30am Mass in Mullinarrige  
11.00am Mass in Rosbercon

### Weekday Masses:

Rosbercon:

Wednesday 4th September: No Mass

Friday 6th September: No Mass

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel every Wednesday morning from 10.30am to 12pm. All are welcome to attend.

### Anniversaries:

Jim Conway, Listerlin

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the Summer Collection for the support of Fr Dan Outstanding envelopes may be brought to the weekend Masses or dropped into the Parochial House. We thank our parishioners for their generosity and support.

Rosbercon Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Brid Vereker, Millbanks Close and Anne O' Sullivan, Ballykenna. If you have a Safeguarding concern, contact Brid or Anne. Please note Safeguarding Statements are displayed in the porches of the Churches of the Parish.

**A Message from Fr Dan: Attending the Weekend Mass:** The Covid pandemic and the closure of Churches for public worship in March 2020 removed the practice of regular 'church going' and broke the cycle of weekly Mass attendance.

Even before Covid, church attendance had ceased for many or more likely been reduced to a number of occasions during the year, such as funerals, weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, and the great feasts like Christmas and Easter.

Does this mean that people are losing their faith in God and in Jesus Christ? Apparently not! Sometimes in conversation when the topic of faith crops up, people will say, 'oh I talk to God or I pray in my own way'. If the question is asked, 'when or where or how do you talk to God?', the answer is often very hesitant and uncertain or there is a telling silence. For all that, people reassure us that the faith is there, just not practiced weekly by Mass attendance.

Today's adults have the advantage of being raised in an atmosphere of faith. We have a rich faith heritage going back many generations. We have memories of our parents' and grandparents' faith and prayer. We grew up in communities where faith was important and the Church was the centre of parish life. We have the language of faith so can carry on a reasonable conversation about our memories of belief and practice. The question arises what about the children, the next generation? They do not have a full cupboard of remembered belief and practice. The concern is, that as they journey through life, things will happen which will test their beliefs and the values they live by. This may well be undramatic and happen quietly. At that point they may find their faith again or lose it altogether. For others, a painful illness, a bereavement or/and addiction may transform their lives and reveal God to them.

Faith is a living experience. We find God in our daily lives or we lose God altogether. For faith to give meaning to our lives, we need a personal relationship with God and Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Sadly, it will not happen automatically and cannot be taken for granted. It requires time and discipline if the Lord is to be given the opportunity to confirm our faith and help us to be a support to one another.

Our presence as part of the community at the weekend Mass deepens our faith and supports others in their faith. As Jesus says, 'where two or three are gathered in my name I am with them'. When the followers of Jesus began to drift away, Jesus said to the Apostles, 'And what about you, do you want to go away too?'. It was Peter who responded, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life'.

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The Diocese of Ossory will host a visit of the **Relics of Saint Bernadette of Lourdes** on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 in St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny. This is an initiative to bring a small piece of Lourdes to Ireland and make it possible for more people to experience something of what is close to the hearts of those who travel on our diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes each year.

**Mass Intentions for the Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024:**

**Tullagher:** Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm

Andy Murphy, Brownsford

Pat O Neill, Slievecorragh

**Collection of Parish Funds 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> August 2024:**

**Offertory Collection:** € 726.70

**Weekly Envelopes:** €1008.50

**Parish Debt on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024:** €17,853.60

**A Prayer as our Schools Reopen:** Loving God, we ask you to wrap our school family in a cloak of love and protection as our schools reopen at this time.

Bless our Boards of Management and Staff as they continue the work that they have already begun to ensure a welcoming and safe environment for all. Bless our parents as they again entrust their children to our schools. Help us to work together to help the children and young people to become the very best that they can be.

Above all, God of Love, we ask you to extend your hand of blessing on our pupils as they joyfully reunite with their friends and with the school community. May they continue to progress in their studies and always know that they are safe, secure and protected.

We know that much is different each year, but we are confident that through the efforts of so many dedicated people, God's love and care for each of us will never change. May we show the same love and care for one another in all we do and say this year. Amen.

**Wisdom:** "A friend is the one who comes in when the whole world has gone out."

**Humour:** Marrying a man is like buying something you've admiring for a long time in a shop window. You may love it when you get it home, but it doesn't always go with everything in the house.

**Tullagher Camogie Club** under tens are having a cake sale on the 31st of August in order to raise funds for a new set of jerseys. It will take place at half past eleven at the GAA Grounds in Brownstown shortly before the league match between Mooncoin and Blacks and Whites. All support would be hugely appreciated!

**Choir News: New Ross Singers** the local community choir, are starting singing again after their summer break. They will meet on Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup> in St Mary's School in the Irishtown at 7.30. The choir sing all sorts of music and at the moment are planning to perform a Beatles concert. But they have also sung Handel's Messiah, and the Armed Man, and Other serious works, with orchestra. Singing is good for you, and this is a good time to join, so if you are interested you will be made welcome.

Just phone 051 421766 to find out more.

**September:** We welcome September, month of fruitfulness, month of harvesting, month of returning to school and college. Summer holidays are over. Teachers, pupils and students have again focused on learning. A good start is half the work. Let us pray for our teachers and educators who help young people achieve their full potential. The ancient Irish believed that there were 'three things you can never get back: a day absent from school, a Sunday without Mass and a day away from one's trade'. Learning is no burden! *Be with us Lord during the month of September.*

**Reflection**

**I like what I see**

The father knocks on my door seeking a home for his Son.  
Rent is cheap, I say.

I don't want to rent, I want to buy, says God.

I'm not sure I want to sell, but you might come in to look around.

I think I will, says God.

I might let you have a room or two.

I like it, says God. I'll take the two.

You might decide to give me more some day.

I can wait, says God.

I'd like to give you more, but it's a bit difficult.

I need some space for me.

I know, says God, but I'll wait, I like what I see.

Hmm. Maybe I can let you have another room.

I really don't need that much.

Thank you, says God. I'll take it, I like what I see.

I'd give you the whole house, but I'm not sure.

Think on it, says God; I would not put you out.

Your house would be mine and my son would live in it.

You'd have more space than you ever had before.

I don't understand that, say I.

I know, says God, but I can't tell you about that.

You have to discover it for yourself.

That can only happen if you let me have the whole house.

A bit risky, I say.

Yes, says God, but try me.

I'm not sure. I'll let you know.

I can wait, says God, I like what I see.

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