

# ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 15th December 2024

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## Third Sunday of Advent

There is a clear note of rejoicing in today's liturgy. (This is known as Gaudete Sunday. The word Gaudete means rejoice!) The basis for this rejoicing is the nearness of the Lord. As we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, the Lord is very close to us.

**Theme of the Weekend Readings:** The day of the Lord's coming is near. We rejoice.

**First Reading:** The prophet wants us to be happy, to shout for joy.

**Second Reading:** Be happy, says St. Paul, and be tolerant.

**Gospel:** John the Baptist announces the good news of Christ's coming.

## Weekend Masses:

Sunday 22nd December: 9.30am Mass in Mullinarrigle  
11.00am Mass in Rosbercon

## Weekday Masses:

Rosbercon:

Wednesday 18th December: 10am Mass

Friday 20th November: 10am Mass

## Christmas Masses:

Rosbercon:

Tuesday - Christmas Eve, Vigil Mass: 8.00 p.m.

Wednesday - Christmas Morning: 11.00 a.m.

Mullinarrigle:

Tuesday - Christmas Eve, Vigil Mass: 6.00 p.m.

Tullagher:

Wednesday - Christmas Morning: 9.30 a.m.

## Anniversaries

Dick (Richard) Hennessy, Hoods Grove

Peggy & Wally Walsh, Hoods Grove

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.

There will be a **Special Mass with Anointing of the Sick** for the 'Over 55s' of the Parish in Rosbercon Hall this Sunday 15th December at 3.00 p.m. followed by a reception and music. The Mass and Reception will be followed by the Parish Draw at 4.00p.m. 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. These will be held in the Sacristies to allow for social distancing.

**The Christmas Offering Envelopes** for the Priests of the Parish and the Boxes of Weekly Envelopes for Parish Funds for the coming year will be available next weekend. Many thanks for your loyalty and generosity to the Parish and to Fr Dan.

**Rosbercon Parish Draw** will take place this Sunday, 15th December 2024, at 4.00pm in Rosbercon Parish Hall at the end of the Mass for the Senior Citizens. Please return ticket stubs and money in time for the Draw. Many thanks to all who have contributed so generously

**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 Sunday, 22nd December 2024:

**Mullinarrigle:** Sunday 22nd December at 9.30 am:

Stephen Mullally, Ballyconnaught

James Ryan, Ballyconnaught

**Rosbercon:** Sunday 22nd December at 11.00 am:

Eileen & Michael Cashin, Shanbogh

Catherine Cashin, Shanbogh

Stephen Murphy, Ballina

Conrad Rogenhagen, Millbanks

Desmond Kirwan, School House Road

Ger & Mary Kirwan, School House Road

## Collection of Parish Funds: 30<sup>th</sup> Nov/1<sup>st</sup> Dec & 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> December 2024:

**Offertory Collection:** € 814.40

**Weekly Envelopes:** €1349.00

**Parish Debt on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024:** €16,353.60

Parishioners who wish to make their contributions to the Parish/Priest of Rosbercon for 2025 by **Standing Order** can do so by giving their name to Fr. Dan. People may find this facility useful as it eliminates envelopes and also simplifies parish administration.

**To make you Smile: Family Ties** - There was a car accident in a small town. A crowd surrounded the victim so that the newspaper reporter couldn't get close enough to see. He hit upon a bright idea: 'I'm the father of the victim', he cried, 'please let me through.!' The crowd let him pass so he was able to get right up to the scene of the accident, where he discovered, to his embarrassment, that the victim was a donkey.

*Fr Brian Darcy*

**Just a thought: Advent** is a time of patience, a time to quieten our hearts, a time of waiting to be filled with joy, a time of hope, a time to believe, a time to know that we are beloved by God.

### Reflection

There is a clear note of joy in today's Readings.

Joy is a blend of laughter and tears

It consists of having a love affair with life.

It is having a heart aglow with warmth

for all one's companions on the road of life.

It is looking for the happiness that comes in small packages, knowing that big packages are few and far between.

It is making the most of the present,

enjoying what is at hand right now.

Joy is love bubbling over into life.

And it coexists with pain.

Joy is the flag we fly when Christ, the Prince of Peace

Has taken up residence in our hearts

**Wisdom:** "Better to be the one who smiled than the one who didn't smile back".

### Humour:

A woman was posting an old family bible to her brother abroad "Is there anything breakable in this package?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the ten commandments," the woman replied.

**We thank all who have contributed so generously to the November Offerings.** Outstanding envelopes may be handed in at Mass or to the Parochial House. We thank our parishioners for the continued loyalty and generosity.

**Rosbercon Parish Pastoral Council** have sent twenty-six 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.

**Christmas Cards for Sale:** The Oak Ward, Waterford University Hospital have chosen a painting of a robin by the late Nora Breen of Tinnakilly, Rosbercon, for their Christmas Cards. A pack of 12 cards cost €10 and all proceeds from the sale of the cards will be donated to Oak Ward of Waterford Hospital. The late Nora Breen spent the last months of her life in the Oak Ward and was lovingly cared for by the staff. If you would like to buy the cards, contact Nora's daughter Elaine at (086) 3858558

**Senior Line is Ireland's national telephone service for older people** open every day of the year, 10am-10pm. Would like someone to talk to over Christmas? You may feel isolated, alone, bereaved or far from family. Senior Line's older volunteers are trained to listen, to support and refer to other helpful services if necessary. So don't be alone and lift the phone. Freephone Senior Line 1800 80 45 91. No problem too big or too small.

### South Kilkenny Historical Society

#### Lá an Dreoilín (Wren Day) event

Thursday, December 26th (St. Stephen's Day).

**Venue:** Mullinavat Parish Hall and Church Car Park.

**Time:** 11am

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.

Following on last year's very successful event, 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. Josephs Athletic Club

The club will hold a festive 5k fun run, walk, wobble on St. Stephens day 26th December starting at 12noon

In aid of St. Josephs Athletic Club Development Fund on the day donations welcome

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