

# ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 22ND DECEMBER 2024

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL

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### Fourth Sunday of Advent

In a few days we celebrate the birth of Christ. Christ comes most readily to those who believe in him. Let us draw near to him now, bringing with us our needs, our hopes, and our gifts too.

**Theme of the Weekend Readings:** The celebration of Christ's birth is very near.

**First Reading:** Bethlehem will be the birthplace of the Saviour of Israel.

**Second Reading:** Jesus offers his life to God and dedicates Himself to do God's will.

**Gospel:** Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth.

### Weekend Masses:

Sunday 29th December: 9.30am Mass in Mullinarrigle  
11.00am Mass in Rosbercon

### Weekday Masses:

#### Rosbercon:

Friday 27th November: No 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.

### Recent deaths:

James Doyle, Bush, Tagoa

### Anniversaries:

Ned & Mary Mernagh, Assumption Terrace

Stephen Mullally, Ballyconnaught

James Ryan, Ballyconnaught

Patrick Scarff, Garrenbeg Lodge Rosbercon

Eileen & Michael Cashin, Shanbogh

Catherine Cashin, Shanbogh

Stephen Murphy, Ballina

Conrad Rogenhagen, Millbanks

Desmond Kirwan, School House Road

Ger & Mary Kirwan, School House Road

Edward Hand, Rafaragh, Co. Monaghan

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

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

**The Christmas Offering Envelopes for Fr Dan and the Boxes of Weekly Envelopes for Parish Funds for the coming year** have now been distributed. 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 31st December 2024.

### A Message from Fr Dan – Arise, shine, for your light has come:

On Wednesday next 25th 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, was born. In time the light of the Risen Christ would overcome the darkness and fear of the world and lead us 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)

*This weeks newsletter is kindly sponsored by  
St. Josephs Athletic Club  
Stephens Day Fun Run at Pink Rock 12noon*

### Mass Intentions for Sunday, 29th December 2024:

**Mullinarrigle:** Sunday 29th December at 9.30 am:

Ellen Long, Ballalog

Molly Doyle, Thomastown

**Rosbercon:** Sunday 29th December at 11.00 am:

James Rellis, Tinneranny

Deceased members of the Rellis, O'Mahoney & Kavanagh families

### Collection of Parish Funds: 14th/15th December 2024:

**Offertory Collection:** € 430.30

**Weekly Envelopes:** €1,209.70

**Parish Draw:** €6,830.00

**Parish Debt on 18th December 2024:** €16,353.60

**Fr Dan and the Parish Finance Committee sincerely thank our generous sponsors of the Christmas Draw:** Allianz Insurance plc., Barrowside Veterinary, J. Breen & Sons Ltd., Doyle's Funeral Home, Eurofarm & Garden Supplies 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, Tullogher Rosbercon Vintage Club and Waterford Ross Co-operative Marts Ltd. The prize winners were:

**1st Prize: €500.00:** Eddie Phelan, Shanbogh

**2nd Prize: €300.00:** Thomas Dunne, Robinstown, Glenmore

**3rd Prize: €200.00:** Bernie Kelleher, Stokestown, Co Wexford

**4th Prize: €150.00:** Brendan O'Beirne, Ballyreddy

**5th Prize: €100.00:** Thomas Phelan, C/O Eddie Long, Listerlin

**6th Prize: €100.00:** Voucher for Listerlin Fuel & Grocery Store: Bridie Kavanagh, Ballycurran

**7th Prize: €100.00** Voucher for Joyce's Home Centre: Eileen Rigby, Tullogher

**8th Prize: €50.00** Voucher for H2O Creative Hair: Mary Goggins, Millbanks

**The Rosbercon–Mullinarrigle-Tullogher 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, 15th December and realised **€6,830.00**.

**Greetings:** Rosbercon Parish Pastoral Council have sent twenty-six Christmas Cards and Greetings to parishioners who have emigrated from the parish down the years. We will remember our emigrants at our Parish Christmas Masses.

**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.

**Thank You and Good Wishes.** Fr. Dan thanks you sincerely for your generosity and loyalty to Rosbercon Parish during 2024. May Christmas be wonderful for you and your family and may Our Lord grant you many blessings during 2025.

### A Prayer for the New Year

Lord, in this New Year which we are about to begin  
May we have enough happiness to keep us agreeable,  
Enough trials to keep us strong,  
Enough sorrow to keep us human  
Enough freedom to keep us happy,  
Enough failure to keep us humble,  
Enough success to keep us eager,  
Enough wealth to meet our needs,  
Enough faith to banish depression,  
Enough hope to look forward,  
Enough love to give us comfort,  
And enough determination to keep going

**To Make You Smile:** We live in an age where most teenagers think that Vatican 11 is the Pope's summer residence!

**Wisdom:** "We come to love, not by finding a perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly."

**Humour:** When a rich king complained that the rough ground hurt his feet, so he ordered the whole country to be carpeted in cowhide. It was his court jester who suggested using two small pads to protect his feet!

### 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

### South Kilkenny Historical Society - Lá an Dreoilín (Wren Day) event

**Date:** 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.

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