

ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 29TH DECEMBER 2024

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL

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Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

As we meet to celebrate the Eucharist together on the Feast of the Holy Family we remember especially today the members of our families, living and dead. We remember too the families of our parish community that we may live in cooperation and peace in the coming year.

Theme of the Weekend Readings: All families are blessed because of the birth of Christ.

First Reading: Hannah presents her child to the Lord.

Second Reading: We are called to pass on God's love to each other in our families.

Gospel: Mary finds her child among the wise men in the Temple in Jerusalem.

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4th January: 7.00pm Mass in Tullogher

Sunday 5th January: 9.30am Mass in Mullinarrigle
11.00am Mass in Rosbercon

Weekday Masses:

Rosbercon:

New Year's Day Wednesday 1st January: 10am Mass

Friday 3rd January 2025: 10am Mass

Feast of the Epiphany - Little Christmas - is celebrated on Monday 6th January and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated on Monday 6th January at 11.00am in Rosbercon.

Anniversaries:

Ellen Long, Ballalag

Molly Doyle, Thomastown

James Rellis, Tinneranny & all the deceased members of the Rellis, O'Mahoney & Kavanagh families

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

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.

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

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

A Message from Fr Dan: The Coming of Christ:

Over the centuries there have been many powerful leaders in our world. In the last 100 years we have had Tzar in Russia, Hitler in Germany, Mugabe in Zimbabwe, Idi Amin in Uganda and Mussolini in Italy. Some of these leaders seize power but many of them were elected and were popular in their own countries. They all believed that they knew what was best for their own people and for the world and that their rule would make a difference to the wellbeing of the people. But we know power can corrupt and all of these leaders left their countries in a far worse state than they found them.

Many people get involved in politics believing in the democratic system. If they make it into a position of power, they too feel that they can change things for the better. Many others are believers in the power of Education. They believe that by educating the people, they will change their lives for the better and this will lead to a better, more just world. We are all people of hope, looking ahead, looking to live in better times.

The Jewish people at the time of Christ lived in very harsh circumstances. Palestine was a conquered country and the Jews lived under Roman occupation and all that that entailed. Invasion and conquest were nothing new to the Jewish people. The Assyrians had conquered and destroyed the Northern Kingdom. The Babylonian armies had conquered Judaea and exiled the whole population to Babylon. The Jews were to spend 70 years in exile.

In their darkest hours the people never lost their hope that a Messiah would come and rescue them from their cruel fate and liberate them. Their Messiah would be a great military and political leader like their greatest kings, David and Solomon.

However, God's way was not man's way. The Messiah, when he came, was not born in a great palace but in a stable, as a helpless child, born to a young woman named Mary. Jesus brought salvation to the world in a way that no one expected or foresaw. His life by any standard was a failure. His few supporters deserted him when he was crucified. His death looked like the end of the road, the end of the Christian way.

Yet, the coming of Christ has made such a difference to humanity over the last two thousand years. To this day Christ has no political power. He invites us to welcome him into our lives and to show the world how the life of faith can bring salvation and redemption to the people. Christ is with us in the ordinary and simple ways of our daily lives. If we stay with him, he fills our lives with light and life and hope. Despite all the difficulties, his love leads to a happiness and joy that 'no eye has seen or ear heard'. Jesus is our Messiah. It is his birth that we will be celebrating at Christmas time.



*Wishing Everyone a very Peaceful
And Happy New Year*



Mass Intentions for the Saturday/Sunday, 4th/5th January 2025:

Tullagher: Saturday 4th January at 7.00pm:

Bridget Power, Glenballyvalley

Ann Lawless, Ballykenna

Collection of Parish Funds 22nd/24th/25th December 2024

Figures in January 2025

Parish Debt on 20th December 2024: €14,853.60

To make you Smile: A rich king complained that the rough ground hurt his feet. 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!

St Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny Restoration Fund 2024/2025:

The Diocesan Draw for December took place on Wednesday, 18th December 2024. Please check the Church Noticeboards for the results of the draw.

Celtic Prayer for the Close of the Year

As the rain hides the stars,

As the autumn mist hides the hills,

As the clouds veil the blue sky,

So, the dark happenings of my lot

Hide the shining of God's face from me.

Yet, if I may hold Christ's hand in darkness,

It is enough, since I know that,

Though I may stumble in my going,

God does not fall.

A New Year Blessing

May the light of your soul guide you,

May the light of your soul bless the work that you do

with the secret love and warmth of your heart.

May you see in what you do the beauty of your own soul,

May the sacredness of your work bring healing, light and

renewal to those who work with you and to those who

receive your work.

May your work never weary you,

May it release within you wellsprings of refreshment,

inspiration and excitement.

May you be present in what you do.

May the day never burden you.

May dawn find you awake and alert, approaching your new

day with dreams, possibilities and promises.

May evening find you gracious and fulfilled.

May you go into the night, blessed, sheltered and protected.

May your soul calm, console and renew you.

Amen

Wisdom: Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people wanting to be important.

Humour: 'The prophets promised that a time would come when the lion and the lamb would lie down together, but they didn't say how much sleep the lamb would get!'

Woody Allen

Newsletter Sponsors

We list below the people, companies and businesses that have kindly supported and sponsored the Parish Newsletter in 2024. We would like to thank them all for their generosity and wish them all a Happy Prosperous and Successful and Safe New Year in 2024, and ask that our Parishioners give their support throughout the coming year.

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- ◆ St Josephs Athletics Club
- ◆ The Hartley Family, Brabstown
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- ◆ New Ross Meals on Wheels
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- ◆ Ille Paper Service LTD
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- ◆ Trudies Catering
- ◆ TFM Agri, Ballycallan
- ◆ Pierce Handrick
- ◆ Tullagher Rosbercon Vintage and Classic Club



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