

ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 17th August 2025

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TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

The Lord calls on us to choose God before all else and offers us the strength and encouragement to follow God faithfully.

Theme of the Weekend Readings

The Gospel today challenges us to shun darkness and to opt for the light and to be with Christ.

First Reading

This reading describes the persecution of the prophet Jeremiah.

Second Reading

The author exhorts his readers to persevere in their faith, and to draw strength for those who have gone before them.

Gospel

The coming of Christ marks a time of division in which people may be called on to declare their loyalties.

Weekend Masses

Sunday 24th August 9:30 am Mass in Mullinarrigle
11:00 am Mass in Rosbercon

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

St. Moling's Well Pattern Mass takes place next Sunday, 24th August at **2:00 pm**. Please pray that the weather will be favourable. Many thanks to the Saint Moling's Well Committee for their wonderful work in preparing the grounds and the shrine for the Mass. **Please note the time of the Mass.**

Fr. Dan is now away on Sabbatical until 29th November, 2025. Fr. Anthony O'Connor will cover weekend Mass and the administration of Sacraments. Phone 087-2517766.

Recent Death

Ann Doyle, Shanbogh and Hugginstown

Just a Thought: One of gifts that many of us inherited from our parents and grandparents is a sense of the presence of God in our lives. God is a God who loves, supports and cares for us every moment of our lives. We believe that God is with us here and now in the world that God has created. This belief leads us to constant communion with God. Those of us who are old enough to remember our parents and grandparents know that they had a prayer to cover every chore of the day. Each action was done in partnership with God and became a prayer. In our busy lives today, it would be good to reflect now and again on God as we go about our work. **'My life is God's precious gift to me. I live enclosed in God and God is enclosed in me'.**

A Message from Fr. Dan: The Holy Well: We will be celebrating Mass at Saint Moling's Well on Sunday, 24th August at 2:00 pm. The pattern is celebrated annually at the well, not on the feast of Saint Moling but on the feast of Saint Bernard, the 20th August, should it fall on a Sunday, or if not on the next Sunday following. The association of Saint Bernard with the well came from the influence of the monks of Jerpoint Abbey.

In ancient times people had a deep reverence for water and venerated their wells with wonder and gratitude. Water emerging from rocks on the mountain or from a spring in the field was looked upon as a small miracle. Water was God's gift, celebrated in all ancient religions. Many of the sagas of ancient Ireland celebrated the holy well. The salmon of knowledge was flushed from the holy well of Segais into the Boyne. Mere contact with the salmon gave a person supernatural power!

After the coming of Christianity, holy wells were no longer seen as having divine or miraculous powers of their own. Rather they were seen as a source of God's grace where people could go and pray for healing.

After the reformation there was an upsurge in traditional devotions in Ireland. Holy wells and patterns became central to being a catholic. Stations of the Cross began to appear at holy wells. Priests began to celebrate mass at the wells, as well as giving sermons and leading people in prayer. What is interesting is that rich and poor alike attended these celebrations, and the presence of the priest ensured that there was no conflict between the traditional devotions and the teaching of the Church.

By the late eighteen hundreds, the holy wells had come to be regarded with suspicion by the authorities because of disorderly religious and non-religious practices associated with them. However, a new appreciation of Ireland's Gaelic past has given them a new lease of life. The wells and the patterns have come to be seen as expressions of a genuine Irish spirituality. In the nineteen hundreds, statues of Our Lady and of local saints were added at the site of the wells. In this way celebrations at holy wells included local devotions as well as the devotions of the universal Church. The statue of Saint Moling proudly overlooks the well dedicated to his honour in Mullinakil.

We sincerely thank the members of the Saint Moling's Well Committee who care for the Well, the Shrine and the Grounds at Mullinakil. Your work is very much appreciated.

Wisdom: The highest privilege there is, is the privilege of being allowed to share another's pain. You talk about your pleasures to your acquaintances: you talk about your troubles to your friends.

To make you Smile: The bible tells us to forgive our enemies; it doesn't tell us to forgive our friends!

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Mass Intentions for Sunday, 24th August 2025

Rosbercon: Sunday 24th August at 11:00 am

Jim Vereker, Jnr., Assumption Terrance, Rosbercon

Bridie Gaule, Slievecorrig

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Annual Summer Envelope Collection for the support of Fr. Dan. Outstanding envelopes can be handed in at Mass or to the Parochial House.

Reflection: A Blessing

May the light of your soul guide you.

May the light of your soul bless the work 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 and renewal to those who work with you

and to those who see and 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 you never become lost in the bland absences.

May the day never burden you.

May the 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.

The Dead

They do not leave us; they are not gone.

They look upon us still.

They walk among the valleys now,

They stride upon the hill.

Their smile is in the summer sky

Their grace is in the breeze.

Their memories whisper in the grass

Their calm is in the trees.

Their light is in the winter snow

Their tears are in the rain.

Their merriment runs in the brook

Their laughter in the lane

Their gentleness is in the flowers

They sigh in autumn leaves.

They do not leave; they are not gone,

Tis only we who grieve

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

****QUOTE OF THE WEEK****

"Let courage be your compass in times of uncertainty."

Author Unknown

◆ **MEAL ON WHEELS, NEW ROSS**

The Meals on Wheels would like to thank everyone for their generous contribution to their Church gate collection. We raised over € 2,800.00. We would also like to remind everyone that our services are available 5 days per week for anyone who wants the best quality 3 course meal delivered daily.

◆ **SOUTH KILKENNY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

HERITAGE WEEK EVENT 2025

Mystery Tour of Thomastown

Tour Guide—Joe Doyle

Date—Sunday, August 17th

Starting point and Time: Sweetman's Castle/Mullin's Castle (left after crossing bridge into Thomastown), at 2:00 pm.

It is suggested that those attending park in the Car Park opposite The Salmon Pool. Free - All welcome.

◆ **KELLS KINGS CHARITY CYCLE 2025 – COIS NORE**

Registration for Kells Kings 2025 is now OPEN!!! Taking place on Saturday 23rd August leaving from the beautiful Kilkenny village of Kells and traveling through the Kilkenny countryside. Distances include something for everyone – 30km, 85km and 116km. For more information and to register please visit our website to avail of our online special of € 5.00 off the registration fee. <https://www.kellskings.ie/>

◆ **ROSBERCON TULLOGHER, ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Our St. Vincent De Paul Chapter has been in existence in our Parish going back 65 years or more. Those who worked to the best of their ability to assist Parishioners in need. Our present small committee operates in the strictest confidence in all areas of our Parish. The work is not excessive by any means and we respond where genuine assistance is required. However we need to attract new members to ensure our continuance. Should any Parishioner wish to join us you will be most welcome. For more information on joining Tullogher Rosbercon Chapter St. Vincent De Paul please contact any of our committee members and by doing so will contribute to the well being of our Parish. Committee Members; Richard McElwee, Mary B Conway, Seamus Waters, Bríd Vereker, Catherin Cottrell and Margaret Saunders.

◆ **'THE MAN BORN TO BE KING'**

Lake Productions will present "The Man Born to be King" on the 9th, 10th and the 11th September 2025, in the Black Abbey Church, Kilkenny. The religious play will be presented in conjunction with the Black Abbey in celebrating their 800th Anniversary. To book tickets go to www.eventbrite.ie and search for "The Man Born to be King".

◆ **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Activities Assistant required in the New Houghton Hospital. Duties include providing residents with activities such as music, art and physical movement. Working as part of a multi-disciplinary team. This is a developmental opportunity, no experience necessary. Accredited training will be provided to support your career. Community Employment Terms and conditions apply.

For more information please contact 086—3642592.

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