

# ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 14th December 2025

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In today's Gospel we see Jesus at work; enabling the blind to see, the deaf to hear and the lame to walk. It is a marvellous display of compassion for suffering humanity. At Mass we meet the same compassionate Jesus.

### Theme of the Weekend Readings

We are moving through Advent and the day of the Lord's coming is close.

### First Reading

The coming of the Lord is a time of great joy for the world.

**Second Reading**—St. James reminds us to be patient.

**Gospel**—Jesus brings relief to the suffering.

### Weekend Masses

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 9:30 am Mass in Mullinarrigle  
11:00 am Mass in Rosbercon

### Weekday Masses

#### Rosbercon

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 10:00 am Mass

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 10:00 am Mass

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

### Christmas Masses

#### Rosbercon

Wednesday - Christmas Eve, Vigil Mass 8:00 pm

Thursday - Christmas Morning 11:00 am

#### Mullinarrigle

Christmas Eve, Vigil Mass 6:00 pm

#### Tullogher

Christmas Morning 9:30 am

**Christmas Reconciliation Services:** Confessions for Christmas will be heard after the weekend Masses of Advent.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel every Wednesday morning from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. 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 14<sup>th</sup> December at 3:00 pm followed by a reception and music. All are welcome to attend.

### Anniversaries

Dick Hennessy, Hoodsgrove

Michael, Eileen and Catherine Cashin, Shanbough

Stephen Murphy, Ballina, Co Mayo

Peggy and Wally Walsh, Hoodsgrove

Patrick Scarrf, Garren Beg Lodge, Rosbercon

Maisie Gaule, Listerlin

Margaret Mackey, Mullinakill

John Sinnott, Raheen, Rosbercon

We wish every blessing to **Anna Joyce, Schoolhouse Road** and to **Christopher Atcheler, Dublin**, who were married in Duiske Abby, Graiguenamanagh, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025. We pray that Our Lord will bless their marriage and grant them happiness.

### 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**December** is the month of the Birth of Our Saviour; it is the month of mid-winter, the month of the shortest day of the year. It is the last month of the calendar and the month of gift giving. During the month of December, we pray to come close to Jesus in our lives and in our prayer.

**Advent is:** a time of patience- quieten our hearts; a time of waiting – be filled with joy; a time of hope – the blind recover their sight; a time of healing – lepers are cured; a time to believe – we are beloved by God. (See today's gospel)

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## Mass Intentions for Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025

**Mullinarrigle:** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 9:30 am

Stephen Mullally, Ballyconnaught

Jim Ryan, Ballyconnaught

Billy Murphy, Hillahowth, Brownsford

**Rosbercon:** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11:00 am

David Jones, Ballybeg

Conrad Victor Ropenhagen, Millbanks

**The Christmas Offering Envelopes for Fr. Dan and the Boxes of Weekly Envelopes for Parish Funds for the coming year** are now available. Many thanks for your loyalty and generosity to the Parish and to Fr Dan.

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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

### Reflection

John the Baptist was no reed swaying in the wind.

A reed swaying in the wind is a symbol

Of those who are easily influenced,

Who go along with whatever is popular,

And who have no conviction of their own.

But the humble reed can teach us something.

The fact that it is light means that it is

At the mercy of every wind that blows.

But it has great strength too.

The greatest storm cannot uproot it.

Even when giant oaks comes tumbling down,

The slender reed still stands secure.

Lord, teach us that there is strength

In weakness and suppleness

And give us the wisdom to know

When to bend and when to stand.

**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.

**Wisdom:** Have a heart that never hardens, and a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts.

**Humour:** The monastery had fallen on hard times and the abbot decided to establish a business to defray the expenses. The monks first considered a bakery or a winery but being English they decided to open a fish-and-chip restaurant. The establishment soon became very popular. One customer, thinking he was very clever asked one of the brothers, 'I suppose you're the fish friar?' 'No' he answered 'I'm the chip monk'.

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

**Many congratulations** to Listerlin Tidy Towns Committee who have made such a wonderful contribution to the appearance of Listerlin village and Church. The Christmas Tree, the Outdoor Crib and the Christmas decorations and lights look spectacular. The Lighting of the Tree and the generous refreshments last Sunday evening was thoroughly enjoyed by the large number of children and adults who attended despite the weather. Well done to all concerned.

### ◆ **ST. STEPHEN'S DAY FAMILY FUN RUN AND WALK**

St. Stephen's Day 5k Family Fun Run and Walk. Start and Finish at the Glenmore Greenway Carpark Starting at 12:00 noon. All welcome. Donations on the day.

### ◆ **ST. MOLINGS CHAPTER ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

Our annual blue envelope collection will take place as usual throughout the month of December. Envelopes will be available in each of our churches and may be placed in the Sunday Offertory Collection box. We are very dependant on this collection in order to continue our work in the Parish for the coming year. Our Chapter, which dates back to the 1960's has served our Parish needy through the generous support of Parishioners. Anyone becoming aware of genuine hardship within our Parish please contact us on 087 7140112.

Committee Members: Richard McElwee, Mary B Conway, Seamus Waters, Brid Vereker, Catherine Cottrell and Margaret Saunders.

### ◆ **SHANBOGH NATIONAL SCHOOL ENROLMENT**

We are currently accepting enrolment applications for the school year 2026/2027. For an application form, please visit our website at [www.shanboghns.ie](http://www.shanboghns.ie). For more information please call 051-880308 or email [shanboghns@gmail.com](mailto:shanboghns@gmail.com). Closing date for completed applications is Wednesday, 31st December, 2025.

### ◆ **MICHAEL ENGLISH CONCERT**

Michael English and guest artist Louise Morrissey will be appearing in concert in Campile Hall on Sunday 29th March 2026 at 8:00 pm. An ideal Christmas present. For more information and tickets please contact 087-2183300. Tickets are also available on Eventbrite.

### ◆ **ST. CANICE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL ENROLMENT**

St. Canice's National School, Rosbercon is now taking applications for enrolment for Junior Infants 2026. An application form for enrolment is available by phoning the school at 051 422813 or by emailing; [secretary@stcanicesns.com](mailto:secretary@stcanicesns.com).

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