

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL

ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 21st December 2025

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As we approach Christmas, let us pause to make room in our minds and hearts for the coming of Christ our Saviour.

Theme of the Weekend Readings

The celebration of Christ's birth is very close.

First Reading—Isaiah foretells the birth of a very special child.

Second Reading—St. Paul gives the message of Christmas.

Gospel—An account of Christ's birth.

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
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Tullogher

Christmas Morning	9:30 am
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Weekend Masses

Sunday 28 th December	9:30 am Mass in Mullinarrigle
	11:00 am Mass in Rosbercon

Weekday Masses

Rosbercon

Wednesday 24 th December	No Mass
Friday 26 th December	No Mass

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

Please note there will be no **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** next Wednesday morning 24th December 2025.

Recent Deaths

Marian Rogers née Hendrick, Flower Hill, Rosbercon
Pat McNamara, Dublin and St Canices Terrace, Rosbercon

Anniversaries

Stephen Mullally, Ballyconnaught
Jim Ryan, Ballyconnaught
Billy Murphy, Hillahowth, Brownsford
David Jones, Ballybeg
Conrad Victor Rogenhagen, Millbanks

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 2025.

Soulful Harmonica: Fr. Paschal Moore, PP Piltown has released a CD to commemorate his 55 years of Ordination. It is a CD of classic and traditional tunes played by him on the harmonica. The cost is € 10.00. Please contact Fr. Dan to purchase.

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 the 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 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 mans' 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 which we celebrate on Sunday 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.

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Mass Intentions for Sunday, 28th December 2025

Rosbercon: Sunday 28th December at 11:00 am

James Rellis, Tinneranny and deceased members of the Rellis, O Mahoney and Kavanagh Families.

Jackie Tubritt, Raheen

Noreen, Nicky, Peg and John Tubritt, Raheen and deceased members of the Tubritt and Lewis Families.

Collection of Parish Funds 6th/7th & 14th December 2025

Offertory Collection € 1,011.10

Weekly Envelopes € 1,010.60

Parish Debt on 20th December 2025 € 8,853.60

The Christmas Offering Envelopes for Fr. Dan and the Boxes of Weekly Envelopes for Parish Funds for the coming year have been distributed to the homes of the parish. 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.

Fr. Dan and The Parish Hall Committee sincerely thank New Ross Credit Union for their generous sponsorship of the cakes and confectionery for the Senior citizens Party on Sunday last 14th December, 2025.

Reflection: A Star is Born

The Magi were led to Christ by the light of a star.

But they saw the star only because

They were not afraid to travel in the dark.

The fact is, we cannot see the stars

In the bright light of day,

But only in the darkness of night;

And the darker the night,

The brighter they shine.

In a sense, all of us are night-time travellers.

However, we need no longer fear the darkness.

A light has come into the world,

A light that shines in the dark,

A light that no darkness can overpower

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

Wisdom: A gracious word may smooth the way; a joyous word may light the day; a timely word may lessen stress; a lovely word may heal and bless.

Humour: It is better to keep your mouth shut and to appear stupid, than to open it and remove all doubt.

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

◆ TULLOGER ROSBERCON GAA CLUB

The club would like to thank everyone for their continued support and wish all of our sponsors, supporters, players and mentors a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes in 2026.

◆ 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.

◆ SOUTH KILKENNY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lá an Dreoilín (Wren Day) event

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

Venue: Mullinavat Parish Hall and Church Car Park.

Time: 11:00 am

Lá an Dreoilín, in Ireland, centers 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.

At 11:00 am a new 'King Wren Boy' will be crowned who will, weather permitting, lead the parade from the hall to Main Street and return to the hall for some music. Local musicians will provide music and people of all ages are asked to participate in the event. 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.

◆ TULLOGER ROSBERCON DEVELOPMENT DRAW

The winners of the Tullogher Rosbercon Development Draw are as follows:

1st—Jack Ryan, Tinneranny

2nd—Michael Phelan, Ballykenna

3rd—Liz and Derek Furness, Raheen

4th—Jason Murphy, Slievecorrig

5th—Brendan Lawlor, Ballymagill

6th—Richard Murphy, Tinaree

7th—Lar and Kathleen Young, Rosbercon

The next draw will take place on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 08:00 pm.

◆ 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.

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