

ROSBERCON PARISH NEWSLETTER 4th January 2026

Fr. Dan Cavanagh P.P. 051—421515 087—2335432. Email: danieljcavanagh49@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: 051—421515 Office Hours: Mon –Thurs 10:30 am—2:30 pm

Parish Website: www.rosberconparish.ie Parish Hall email: rosberconparish@gmail.com

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

The lights of Christmas are beginning to fade. But the mystery of Christ's presence among us remains. Today's Gospel reminds us of this: 'The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.... From his fullness we have all received.' Let us draw close to Christ so that he may enrich us from his abundance.

Theme of the Weekend Readings

We praise God because we have lived to see 2026.

First Reading—A hymn in praise of God's wisdom.

Second Reading

St. Paul speaks of the blessings that come through Jesus.

Gospel: The marvellous opening verse of St. John's Gospel.

Weekend Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Rosbercon

Tuesday 6th January
11:00 am—Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

Wednesday 7th January 10:00 am Mass
Friday 9th January 10:00 am Mass

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

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.

Anniversaries

Bridget Power, Glenballyvalley
Ann Lawless, Ballykenna

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord, in this New Year which we have begun
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

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

On Tuesday 6th January, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. We are celebrating how the Three Wise Men or Magi saw a new and different star in the sky and decided to follow it. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, that star led them on a remarkable journey to a humble stable where they recognized, in a fragile child, the Christ. In time the light of the Risen Christ would overcome the darkness and fear of the world and lead us all on the road to Heaven.

In 2016, in his sermon on the Epiphany, 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.

Humour: A woman was posting an old family Bible to her brother abroad. "Is there anything breakable in this package?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," the woman replied.

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Mass Intentions for Sunday 11th January, 2026

Mullinarrigle: Sunday 11th January at 9:30 am
Mary Grennan, Ballycurran

Rosbercon: Sunday 11th January at 11:00 am
Paddy Hennessy, Hoodsgrove
Sean Barron, Glenbarra
Jerry Moore, Tinnakilly
John Murphy, Bridge Quay, New Ross

Collection of Parish Funds: Details next week.

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 battles,
Only they who fly home to God have flown at all.
Patrick Kavanagh

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

Wisdom: The child is not likely to find a father in God unless he finds something of God in his father.

Humour: When the late Mr & Mrs Henry Ford celebrated their golden wedding anniversary a reporter asked Henry, "To what do you attribute fifty years of happy married life?" Henry replied, "the formula is the same for making cars and as for making a marriage – stick to one model".

Wisdom: The child is not likely to find a father in God, unless he finds something of God in his father.

Humour: We live in an age where most teenagers think that Vatican 11 is the Pope's summer residence!

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We list below the people, companies and businesses that have kindly supported and sponsored the Parish Newsletter in 2025. We would like to thank them all for their generosity during these tough and challenging times and wish them all a Happy Prosperous and Successful and Safe New Year in 2026, and ask that our Parishioners give them support throughout the coming year.

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QUOTE FOR THE YEAR 2026

Your future is created by what you do today," "This year is your blank canvas, paint boldly," or "The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are"

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