

by Mary O'Halloran (4885062,4885257) Mary O'Donovan (4888268), PAN Centre/Parish Office (phone/fax 4885062) info@ballinhassigparish.com www.ballinhassigparish.com Parish Priest:- Fr. Christy Fitzgerald Telephone: 4885104 or 087/9439666

**Ballygarvan** 

Ballyheada

Ballygarvan

Goggins Hill

Ballyheada

Goggins Hill 9.30am

Vigil Mass for 8th:

Ballygarvan 10.00am

Goggins Hill 11.30am

9.30am

7.00pm

10.00am

11.30am

7.00pm

# **Ballinhassig Parish**





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#### Vol. 25 No 13 Sunday: December 4th, 2016 (Second Sunday Of Advent)

Fr. Christy writes...

**....** 

# THE PROMISE OF HOPE

I love the writings of Isaiah, especially during Advent. He is dealing with a people that are oppressed, in exile and totally despondent.

They are more than down in their luck and they need uplifting. Isaiah did this with the beautiful poetry and powerful images he used to promise a time of justice, faithfulness and peace. His words were meant to sustain hope in a people who saw no hope in their future.



Isaiah's message reminds me of the quiet sleep of winter in nature. Readving it to burst forth into life, colour and vitality. For that new shoot to spring forth it has to ready itself, preparing for the day that will come, when it can remerge.

For us today, there are many in our county, city and country that feel the same oppression and lack of justice. Advent is a call for us to be the message of hope, justice and peace today. But, it's not easy when we are carrying so much ourselves.

Advent is a gift to us. It gives us the opportunity to unburden ourselves; to bask in the glow of God's light, to reach out beyond ourselves. To recognise we cannot do it on our own. This is the message too of John the Baptist: To take stock, to clear house, to ready ourselves for the coming of the Lord. For he is our hope and through him all things are possible.

We only have so much time in a day. Where in the day can we re-adjust our time so that we have some quiet moments with God? Where is it that we need to take the duster and then the brush to clean out what has gotten in the way or taken the place of an open space for God? Jesus will come whether we are ready or not. Let us prepare the way of the Lord, straight to our hearts and hopefully, by our response, into the world that is so in need of Emmanuel, God-with-us!

# **Christmas Thoughts**

"It's sharing your gifts, not purchasing gifts; It's not wrapping presents, its being present and wrapping your arms around the ones you love; It's not getting Christmas cards out on time, It's sending any card, anytime, at the right time; It's not having the biggest and best Christmas light display, It's displaying the Christ light that comes from your heart; It's not Santa coming down the chimney, It's Jesus coming down from heaven,

and giving us the gift of eternal life."

# **Special Gifts:-**

*Here are a few suggestions for special gifts:* a firm handshake to a shaky soul, a kind word to a lonely person, a warm smile to the disheartened, a sincere concern for someone troubled. a feeling of compassion for the neglected, a comforting thought for the bereaved, a respect for the dignity of others,

a defense of the rights of individuals,

a word of witness to help a seeking soul,

a Merry Christmas to all. (Mary O'Halloran submits.....)

## Ladies Football Club

Public Meeting on Tuesday **December 6th** at 8.00pm at GAA Rooms, Ballinaboy, Ballinhassig re:-**Formation of Ballinhassig** 

Ladies Gaelic Football Club. All interested players, parents, coaches and mentors are invited to attend.

Further details Michael 087/6738745: Adrian 087/9152167. All welcome.

#### **Community Alert**

**Ballinhassig Parish Community Alert** AGM on Monday December 5th in the Marian Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome.

help clean the churches for Christmas come along on Saturday December 19th as follows: Ballygarvan church 10.00am Ballyheada church 10.30am

#### **Christmas Decorating**

Workshops at the Pavilion Garden Centre, Ballygarvan on Sat/Sun December 3rd /4th on home christmas decorating and canapé cookery demonstrations. Details www.thepavilion.ie and 4888134.

### **Halfway Hair 2 Beauty**

Local one stop Salon. Hair, tan, makeup, waxing. Bookings for Christmas Party; Communion and Confirmation. Details & booking 4979572.

# St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Room



Please remember. next week-end **December** 10th/11th is the Christmas collection for V.D.P. Times are getting even harder than before, for a lot

more people. The people of the parish are very supportive of us throughout the year and we are calling on you once again to give generously for the less well off among us. Thanking You.

(St. Joseph's Conference, Ballinhassig)

#### **Christmas Liturgy Meetings**

Meetings to organise Christmas Liturgies in the churches as follows:

Ballyheada: **December 10th after** 7.00pm Mass.

**Ballygarvan**: December 11th after 10.00am Mass.

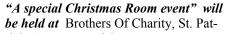
Goggins Hill: December 11th after 11.30am Mass.

We invite co-ordinator or representative of Ministers of the Word and Eucharist; Choir; Sacristans; Flower Group; Crib; Altar Servers; Assembly Liturgy reps, Church cleaning groups etc.

We also invite others who normally help in the church for Christmas and anyone else who would like to offer help in any way. All welcome.

# Halfway Vintage Club

Halfway Vintage Club will hold a 'Fundraising Night for the Club' in the Ramble Inn. Halfwav on Saturday December 3rd at 9.00pm. Music by Charlie & Michael. All welcome.



ricks's Upton. Innishannon

on Friday December 16th. The specially decorated room supported by DJ



Murphy of Bandon Garden Centre & Bandon Co-Op, will be open for visitors from 10.30am - 8.00pm.

Seasonal Refreshments; Admission free; donations accepted for

Cancer Connect, Local Link Cork (West Cork Rural Transport) & St. Patrick's Upton. Monster



Raffle, Santa will visit from 3.00pm-5.30pm. Performances by local schools & groups throughout the day as well as sale of seasonal products. Further details 4775202. All welcome.

#### Bazaars

Ballyheada N.S. Parents Association christmas



**'Bazaar'** in the school Hall on Saturday December 10th after 7.00pm Mass. Non perishable items and baskets appreciated, hand in to the school. All welcome.

Ballinhassig GAA Club annual christmas 'Bazaar' on Sunday December 4th. Santa arrives 5.15pm. Spinners, prizes. Great family night assured.

Ballygarvan Camogie Club annual christmas 'Bazaar' on Sunday December 11th. Santa arrives at 2.30pm. Spinners. lots of fun and prizes.....Great afternoon

# **Ballinhassig AFC**

**Disco** for First & Second class pupils only in the Marian Hall on Saturday Dec. 10th from 8.00pm-11.00pm. Further details Yvonne 087/7712054.



**Church Cleaning** If you would like to volunteer to