

Anniversaries

Vincent Leggett, Ballynoe.
Sheila Tuthill, Ballinaboy.
Mai Cronin, Bermingham.
Anthony Marshall, Meadstown.
Breeda Andrews, Ringaskiddy.
Fionnuala Crowley, Briar Hill.
Michael & Margaret Lane, Ballyduhig.
Donie O'Callaghan, Ballygarvan Upper
Billy O'Callaghan, Ballygarvan Upper.



Sympathy

We offer our Sympathy to:-
Mary, Nell, John L., David and Gerry O'Sullivan, Rigsdale Upper on the death of their sister *Sheelagh Fitzgerald, Knockraha & Ballinhassig*; also to William Fitzgerald on the death of his wife Sheelagh and Kathrina, Martin, Anita, Gillian, Jacqueline and Edward on the death of their mother



Sheelagh Fitzgerald.

*We have loved them in life,
Let us not forget them in death.*

Ceremony Of Light

Ballyheada: December 5th at 7.30pm
Ballygarvan: December 6th at 7.00pm

Church Cleaning

If you would like to volunteer to help clean the churches for Christmas come along on:-



Saturday December 16th :-

Ballygarvan church 10.00am

Wednesday December 20th:-

Ballyheada church 10.30am

MASS TIMES Next Week

Monday 4th:-

Ballygarvan 9.30am

Tuesday 5th

Goggins Hill 9.30am

Thursday 7th:- **No Morning Mass**

Vigil Mass for 8th:

Ballyheada 7.00pm

Friday 8th:- **Holy Day**

Goggins Hill only 11.30am

Saturday 9th:-

Ballyheada 7.00pm

Sunday 10th:-

Ballygarvan 10.00am

Goggins Hill 11.30am

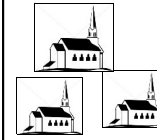
Stations Thanks

Fr. Christy would like to sincerely thank all those who hosted the Stations this Autumn 2017. Sincere thanks to everybody for their continued generous contributions.

Station areas which did not host a station this autumn 2017 will receive their envelopes shortly.

If you would like to host a Station in Spring 2018 contact the PAN Centre (Parish Office) 4885062.

Ballinhassig Parish



Newsletter

for Ballygarvan, Ballyheada and Goggins Hill

Vol. 26 No 12 Sunday: December 3rd, 2017 (First Sunday Of Advent)

Fr. Christy writes...

Prepare For My Return

The shops are buzzing. The lights and decorations are everywhere and the Christmas Carols and songs have already begun. It's a time for great colour and helps to make the dark days seem shorter. Yet, the Church seems to be out of step with the world, or is it the other way around.

Before he left this world to return to his Father, Jesus promised he would return. That return would see everything changed and all the faithful gathered up into God's eternal presence. This is what Advent is for.

We need to be prepared for when he comes. His call, in the Gospel, to 'stay awake' is literally meant to be a reminder to us to be on the lookout to be able to welcome him on his return.

Advent, is all about preparation, getting ready and being prepared to welcome Jesus when he comes at the end of time, and that's our focus between now and December 16th.

Advent then, is a time for a good stocktaking of our lives and to see how we measure up to the Lord's standards. To recognise the need for God in our lives and to make very effort to prepare ourselves; our hearts and our lives, for the return of the Lord.



Advent Challenge

Take the **Short Term Pledge** for the season of **Advent** in preparation for Christmas. Contact your local Pioneer Association or join online at:-
www.pioneerassociation.ie



2017 Ballinhassig Parish Newsletter

Notices for inclusion should be received not later than 2.00pm on Wednesday 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

The Advent Wreath



Most churches and families have an Advent Wreath. The custom wasn't always an Irish one. Wreaths were popular in Germany, Austria and

Northern Europe. As people began to travel to these countries they saw the attractive wreaths and brought the idea home. As you see we have one here in the Church this week end. It is a symbol of what Advent means.

ADVENT



The circle represents “eternity” and the “faithfulness” of God, it never ends. The evergreen foliage is a reminder that Jesus is ready to renew our relationship with Him. The **Four Candles** represent the **four weeks of Advent** and each Sunday one is lit. Three **purple** candles and one **rose** colour. Purple is the traditional colour for Advent meaning “**Penance**” and the Rose colour is lit on the third Sunday which is **Gaudete** Sunday, or a day of **Rejoicing** that the coming of Jesus is near.

So Advent is a time for us to **prepare** to receive Jesus into **our hearts, our lives, our homes and our parish.**

We need to **invite** Him.

A very short traditional prayer for Advent is simply “**COME LORD JESUS**”

We can say this at any time, travelling, in the house or when we pass a Church or Grotto. Having the Advent Wreath in the house it could be said with children round the wreath, maybe at bedtime or before a meal. Remember when we invite Jesus into our lives **He will never come empty handed.** He will come to you with **some special gift or blessing**, something He knows you need. But you have to be **READY** and **WAITING.** So “**Stay awake**” “**Be ready**” so that He Knows you're expecting Him.



STAY AWAKE! COME LORD JESUS.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE EX CORK

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus This trip of a lifetime (fully guided) will take place from April 20th- 28th, 2018. Highlights include: A boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, visits to Nazareth, Cana, Jericho, The Dead Sea, Jerusalem, The Mount of Olives, Bethlehem, etc. The trip includes: Return flights ex Cork, a comprehensive daily programme, entrance fees, 4* Hotels, dinner bed and breakfast throughout. Spiritual Director Fr. Liam Crowley. For further Information and details please contact MAP Travel 01/8783111 or Fr. Liam Crowley 087 /2302811 or Tour Manager Jim Keogh 021/4885371, Mobile 087/ 2678793. Please note that places are strictly limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Ballygarvan Foroige

Club are making **Food Hampers & Christmas shoeboxes (adults & children) for CORK PENNY DINNERS.** Donations of non perishable food, clothing & items for shoeboxes appreciated and can be handed in to the **Prefab Old National School Ballygarvan on Friday December 8th from 8.00pm-9.30pm.**

Christmas Tree Bulbs & Village Calendar available in Cottrell's Gala, Ballinhassig.

St. Vincent de Paul

Please remember, next week-end **December 9th/10th** 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 9th after 7.00pm Mass.

Ballygarvan:

December 10th after 10.00am Mass.

Goggins Hill:

December 10th 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.

Carry On Regardless

Following on from the success of last year, the Parish “Show” is back again in 2018. **Show dates for Carry on Regardless 2018 are March 15th-19th.**

A Show meeting for Adult Cast/Sound/ wardrobe & Stage Crew will be held on Wednesday **December 6th at 8.00pm** in the **GAA Rooms, Ballinhassig.** New cast members welcome.

Christmas Room

“*A special Christmas Room event*” will be held at Brothers Of Charity, St. Patrick's Upton, Innishannon on **Friday December 15th.**



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 *Friends of the Westgate Centre, Bandon & St. Patrick's Upton.* Monster Raffle, Santa will visit from 3.30pm-5.30pm. Performances by local schools & groups throughout the day as well as sale of seasonal products. Further details **4775202; 086/8167968 and 087/7593665. All welcome.**



Bazaars

Ballinhassig GAA Club annual christmas ‘Bazaar’ on Sunday **December 3rd.**

Santa arrives 5.15pm. Entertainment in the Marian Hall for young and old. Spinners, prizes. Items for hampers appreciated, hand in on Saturday at 5.00pm.

Ballyheada N.S. Parents Association christmas ‘Bazaar’ in the school Hall on Saturday **December 9th** at 7.30pm.

Non perishable items and baskets appreciated, hand in to the school during school hours. **All welcome.**

Ballygarvan Camogie Club annual christmas ‘Bazaar’ on Sunday **December 17th.** Santa arrives at 2.00pm. Spinners, lots of fun and prizes.....*Great afternoon*

Thought for the week:- In the book of life the answers are not at the back.