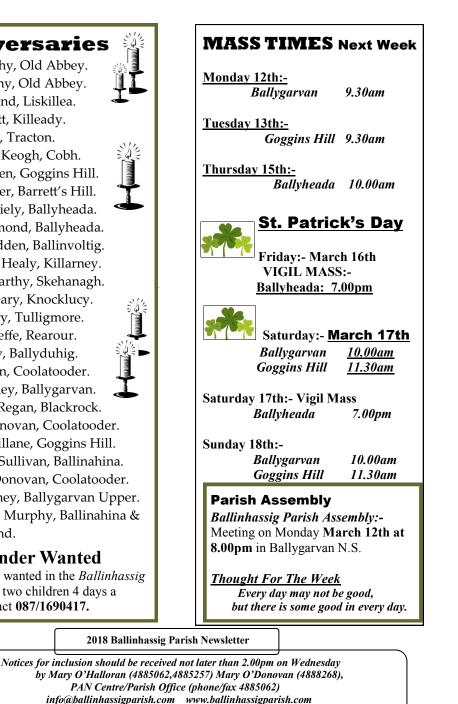


Childminder wanted in the Ballinhassig area to mind two children 4 days a week. Contact 087/1690417.

Parish Priest:- Fr. Christy Fitzgerald Telephone: 4885104 or 087/9439666



Ballinhassig Parish



Newsletter

for Ballygarvan, Ballyheada and Goggins Hill

Vol. 26 No. 24 Sunday: March 11th, 2018 (Fourth Sunday Of Lent)

Fr. Christy writes

God Full Of Mercy

Traditionally, today is know as Laetare Sunday, which takes its name from the opening words of the Entrance Antiphon "Rejoice, ..." What have we to rejoice about?

Isn't it amazing to think how tolerant God is, how merciful he is, and how his love has no bounds, no matter what we've \mathcal{P}_{am} done. None of us are perfect. Yet, we are made in God's



image and likeness. Even though we are made in his image and likeness we have faults, we sin and sin is literally turning away from God.

The chosen people of Israel, despite all that God had done for them frequently turned away from him, they chose other paths, worshipped false idols, demanded a king for themselves to rule over them, they complained and they ignored him. Yet, He always held out the hand of forgiveness to them, providing them with an opportunity to return to him.

For us Jesus is the source of our rejoicing. His whole life was about bringing hope, healing and wholeness to people's lives. Today, in our Gospel with Nicodemus, he tells him that the Son of Man, one of the titles for Jesus, must be lifted up, because God loved the world so much he gave his only Son.

May we rejoice at God's love for us. May we work at returning our hearts and lives to Him and celebrate the healing and wholeness He offers us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We look forward to our Parish Penitential Service on Tuesday fortnight 27th March in Ballyheada at 7.30pm.



Mary O'Halloran Submits.....

St. Patrick Patron of Ireland

It can be difficult to separate fact from fiction in the life of *St. Patrick*, not unusual when he was probably born more than 1,600 years ago. His life is a wonderful example of how God brings good out of evil. He tells us in his "confessions" how he was brought to Ireland to work as a slave at the age of sixteen, until that time he had little knowledge of God.



In his loneliness and isolation he discovered the Lord, praying as many as 1000 prayers by day and the same by night as he tended the sheep on Sliabh Migh. Finally escaping, probably to France, he

could not forget the needs of the pagans in Ireland.

He was consecrated bishop at the age of forty three. In a dream it seemed the people of Ireland were calling on him to return. Patrick took this as a call from God and lit a flame on the hill of *Tara* on *Holy Saturday* night which has never since been extinguished.



We Remember

Denis Browne, Belgooly and Douglas. Denis O'Driscoll, Bandon. Denis Murphy, The Lough. Anne Hurley, The Lough. Vincent Hurley, Riverstick & Dunmanway who died recently. We pray for their families, neighbours and friends. During this time he converted many, ordained priests, divided the country into dioceses, held church councils, founded several monasteries for both sisters and brothers, throughout the country. *Patrick* is the *Patron Saint* and credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland.

The"**Breastplate**" of *Saint Patr*ick gives us a good example of his spirituality.

Christ with me,

Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left,



Christ when I lie down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every person who thinks of me, Christ in the

mouth who speaks of me, Christ in the eye that sees me, and Christ in the ear that hears me.

Church Choir Interchange

As part of the Cork Choral Festival, the

Ballinhassig Parish Choir will participate in the Church Choir Interchange over the week end of **April 14th/15th**, **2018** when they will sing in



another parish and our parish will welcome a visiting choir to one of our week end Masses. All are welcome to join the Parish Choir for this event. As well as singing together, it is a great way to get to know others in the community. **Practice on Tuesday March 20th at 8pm** sharp in **Ballyheada Church.** Contact Nell **087/2190798 or Kay 087/9750575.**

Mothers Day Prayer Sunday March 11th 2018

We now celebrate Mothers Day on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Loving God, we thank you for the love of the mothers you have given us, whose love is so precious that it can never be measured, whose patience seems to have no end.

w pray for new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibilities; for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting; for those who are tired, stressed or depressed; for those who struggle to balance the task of work and family; for those unable to feed their children due to poverty; for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities; for those who raise children on their own; for those who have lost a child; for those who care for the children of others; for



those whose children have left home; for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

We also pray for those who are grieving the loss of their mother; those who never knew their biological mother, and now yearn for her; those who experienced the wonder of an adopted mother's love and families separated by war or conflict. *Wishing all Mothers*;

Grandmothers; Great Grandmothers; Godmothers; Stepmothers; Foster mothers etc. of the parish, and Mothers everywhere a very Happy Mother's Day this Sunday.



We also remember and pray for all those who have left their earthly homes and returned home to God. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to *Phil Healy, Killaminogue* on the death of her husband *Denis*; and to *Mary, Michael, Margaret, Eileen* and *Gerard* on the death of their father *Denis Healy,* Killaminogue;

Sympathy to *Marian, Dolores, Deirdre, Francis, Paul and D.J. Rice* on the death of their parents *Finola* (née Duggan) and *Frank Rice,* Goggins Hill; Also *Helena, Anne* and *Liam Duggan,* Goggins Hill on the death of their sister *Finola Rice,* Goggins Hill;

J. J. O' Driscoll, Rigsdale Upper, Monsignor Aidan, Madeleine, Fr. Kieron, Bernard, Carmel, Rory and Finian on the death of their father **Denis O'Driscoll**, Bandon;

Rose O'Donovan, Kingsland on the death of her father *Denis Murphy*, The Lough;

Margot Hurley, Ballygarvan Village on the death of her mother *Anne Hurley*, The Lough.

Carry On Regardless

Ballinhassig GAA Club Presents..... CARRY ON REGARDLESS -Music and Comedy Show in the Marian Hall, Ballinhassig from Thursday March 15th -Monday March 19th. Show commences at 8pm nightly.



Admission:- Adults 12.50Euro, children 5Euro.

Tickets will be on sale as follows:- **Marian Hall:-** <u>Sun. 11th</u> 2.00pm-4.00pm; Mon.12th, Tues. 13th, & Wed 14th from 7.00pm-8.00pm. No reservation of tickets. Purchase early to avoid disappointment. Further details contact 087/6579925. *All welcome.*

Daffodil Day Coffee Morning



A Coffee Morning will be held on Daffodil Day, Friday March 23rd in the home of John O'Callaghan, "Fuchsia"

Rathroe, Ballinhassig from 9.30am-6.00pm. All proceeds in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. All welcome!!!!!!