

## Anniversaries

John Connolly, Tulligmore.  
Neile Reardon, Ballinaboy.  
Vincent Leggett, Ballynoe.  
Sean Hurley, Rigsdale.  
Eileen O'Shea, Coachford.  
Jackie Murphy, Skehanagh.  
Catherine Barry, Coolatooder.  
Christy Sheehan, Meadstown.  
Fionnuala Crowley, Briar Hill.  
Margaret Bermingham, Blackpool.  
Cain O'Mahony, Fivemile Bridge.  
Dan & Kathleen Kelleher, Riverstick.  
*In death Life is changed not Ended*



## Mass Cards

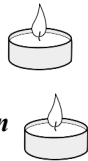
All Mass Cards including Christmas Mass bouquets available in the **PAN Centre (Parish Office)**.  
Contact Mary at **021/4885062**.

## Baptisms

To arrange or re-arrange a Baptism please contact the PAN Centre (Parish Office) at **021/4885062** after Tuesday **December 1st**.

## Votive Lights

Thanks to all who continue to contribute so generously to the **Votive Lights collection boxes** in the three churches.



2020 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)  
ballinhassigparish@gmail.com www.ballinhassigparish.com  
Parish Priest:- Fr. Christy Fitzgerald Telephone: 4885104 or 087/9439666

## MASS

**Under Level 5  
Restrictions No Public  
Celebration of Mass.**

### Live Streamed

**MASS Next Week**  
**MONDAY- FRIDAY 11.00am**  
**Ballinhassig Parish Facebook Page.**

### Live Streamed

**SUNDAY 11.00am**

## Irish Catholic Paper

Please continue to collect your Irish Catholic newspaper in **Ballygarvan Church at exit door.**

The churches in this parish **will be open Daily:- for PERSONAL PRAYER & LIGHTING OF CANDLES**



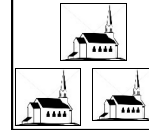
**BALLYGARVAN:- 9.30am – 5pm**  
**BALLYHEADA:- 9.30am – 5pm**  
**GOGGINS HILL:- 9.30am – 5pm**

**Please wear a mask, sanitise on entry and exit, follow signage.**

# Ballinhassig Parish

## Newsletter

*for Ballygarvan, Ballyheada and Goggins Hill*



**Vol. 29 No. 9 Sunday: November 29th, 2020 (First Sunday Of Advent)**

*Fr. Christy ....*

## ADVENT, THE TIME OF HOPE

It has been a difficult year for so many with the restrictions the Coronavirus pandemic continues to place on us. For many this time of year, Advent, and the preparation for Christmas is so different to what we normally experience. At the beginning of this New Church Year, we are invited to take the time that Advent gives us, to slow down, to reflect, take a step back and focus on what we are preparing for.

We, now more than ever, are a people in need of hope. That is what Advent brings to us. The hope of God's promise to each and every one of us. As God has done for his people in the past, he will do again for us. A belief that we are not alone. That God is with us. After all, that's what Emmanuel means. God-is-with-us.

We need to be prepared for when he comes. His call, in the Gospel, to 'stay wake' 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 16<sup>th</sup>.

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 recognize the need for God in our lives and to make every effort to prepare ourselves; our hearts and our lives, for the return of the Lord.

### The Pope's Intentions – December 2020

*Intention for evangelisation – For a life of prayer*

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

## 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. This week end we have one in each of our three Churches as this Sunday November 29th is the first Sunday of Advent. 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 another one of the candles is lit. Three **purple** candles and one **rose** colour. Purple is the traditional colour for Advent meaning “**Penance**” and the **Rose** colour in 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 our house or when we pass a Church or Grotto. Having the Advent Wreath in the house the prayer could be said with the 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.**

## TRÓCAIRE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This Christmas. Trócaire will deliver life-saving support to thousands of families across the developing world. As well as supporting people living through conflict and natural disasters, Trócaire has launched a special appeal to support families who have not been able to grow food or earn money due to Covid-19. Please consider supporting this vital work this Christmas. You can purchase one of seventeen special gifts for families, or make a general donation to the Trócaire Christmas Appeal. The Christmas gifts range allow you to buy goats, chickens, water and many more vital items.



This year, there is a special Quarantine Care Kit Gift. By buying this gift you are providing vital daily care to families who have to isolate due to Covid-19.

To make a donation or buy a gift visit [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

## ADVENT PRAYER

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## REFLECTION



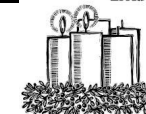
Advent is a time for us to **prepare** to receive Jesus into our **hearts, our lives, our homes & our parish.**

We need to **invite** him.

In this season of Advent we need to turn our attention to our **inner preparation** for Christmas.

During Advent, on Wednesdays a short **Live-led Live-streamed Prayer Service** will be held in one of our three churches at **7.30pm.**

Second Sunday  
in Advent



The second week will be Live-Streamed from Goggins Hill Church on Wednesday next **December 2nd at 7.30pm.**

You are invited to log in to:-

**ballinhassig parish facebook page.**

## Readings December 6th

Is. 40: 1-5, 9-11.

Ps 84:9-14, R/v 8.

2 Pet 3:8-14

Mk 1:1-8.



## Advent Week 1:- Hope

As we light this first candle of the Advent wreath together, Lord, grant us hope. As trees lose leaves and temperatures drop, we feel that the new life of Spring is far away.

May the Advent candlelight shine like our commitment to one another, that we can find wisdom and strength in reaching out and holding one another's hope. Like Mary and Joseph on the journey to Bethlehem, may we remain hope-filled through all of the challenges set before us on the way.

**'I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.'** (Psalm 130:5)

## Village

**Ballinhassig Village Association** have the following on sale in *Cottrell's Gala, Ballinhassig, Village.*  
**Calendar 10Euro.**  
**Christmas Cards pack of 8 for 7Euro.**  
**Christmas Tree Remembrance Bulbs 5Euro. Available from Ann at 087/2400801 or any committee member.**

## Mass Leaflets

Mass leaflets for next week end available in the three churches.

**Details of Church Opening Times and Mass Schedules in accordance with Level 3 Restrictions will be announced in next weeks newsletter.**

## Thought for the Week

We have to make space for the things that matter: Relationships, the family, being part of a community, celebrating, giving thanks, being part of a tradition and its wisdom, a Faith and its Blessings.

