

PARISH OF BALLINAKILL/DERRYBRIEN

Tel: 090 9745021 – Mob: 087- 2492898 – email: frpconroy@eircom.net

Saturday / Sunday 9/10 December 2017 '2nd Sunday of Advent'

Masses - Ballinakill:

Sat. 9 Dec.: 8pm (A) Paddy Kennedy, Imelda Murphy & Deceased Family Members.

Sun. 10 Dec.: 11am (A) Tommy & Mary Madden.

Mon. 11 Dec.: 9.30am.

Tues. 12 Dec.: 9.30am.

Wed. 13 Dec.: 8pm (A) Tommy & Mary Ann McGuire.

Thurs. 14 Dec.: 9.30am.

Fri. 15 Dec.: 8pm (A) Thomas Sheil.

Sat. 16 Dec.: 8pm (A) Paddy, Rita & Eileen Coughlan.

Sun. 17 Dec.: 11am (A) Willie Gardiner, Carraroe & Deceased Family Members.

Masses - Derrybrien:

Sun. 10 Dec.: 9.30am (A) Nonie & Jack Kelly.

Fri. 15 Dec.: No Mass.

Sun. 17 Dec.: 9.30am (A) Michael Glynn.

Mass Servers:

Saturday: Group 6. **Sunday:** Group 1.

Readers:

Saturday: Adam Spain. **Sunday:** Desmond Donnelly.

Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday: Phil Flynn. **Sunday:** Marion Sheil.

Derrybrien: December: Margaret Slattery.

Sunday Collection Teams:

Sunday 10 Dec.: Team C. **Sunday 17 Dec.:** Team D.

Lotto No's: 2, 7, 17, 21. Jackpot €3,400. No Jackpot Winner:

Next Draw: 9/12 in The Hill, Kylebrack. **Win/ Share €150:** Gerry Hayes, Lower Town Gamblers.

Ballinakill Hall Project Of Replacing The Roof Will Be:

Completed this week. Thanks sincerely to all who have made their contribution to the project - over 50% of the parish. The remaining contributions are needed as soon as possible.

New Readers & Ministers Of The Eucharistic:

Are badly needed in the parish.

Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament Takes Place:

Wednesdays 8 – 10pm in Ballinakill Church.

When Booking Anniversary Masses Please Consider Whether:

Any family member would be willing to read at that Mass. If so please indicate the name of that person when arranging date of the Mass.

Schools' Christmas Concerts; Drim & Moyglass Fri. 15 Dec.:

@ 7pm. All are welcome.

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection Will Be Taken Up This:

Weekend after Communion. This collection will go towards helping families in need in our local community and surrounding areas.

Christmas Carol Concert St. Columba's NS Ballyturn:

Wednesday 13 December 7pm. Refreshments served all welcome.

Tommy Larkin's AGM This Sunday At 4pm:

In the Clubhouse, Woodford.

Annual Christmas Progressive '45 Held In Shragh Hall:

Wednesday 13th starting 8pm sharp. All Welcome.

Wedding Congratulations To Aidan Neville & Linda Kelly Who:

Were married in Inagh, Co. Clare last weekend. Every Blessing on their future lives together.

Welcome Into God's Family:

Sofie Jane Gardiner.

Priests' Christmas Collection Will Be Taken Up:

At all Masses next weekend.

Results 45 Card Game Winner's 1st Pat & Martha Hickey 10 Games:

2nd Anthony Hoban & Kevin Rourke 7 games. Next week's jackpot €130. All welcome Monday nights in Tommy Larkin's Clubhouse.

Man Missing - Brendan Burke Has Been Missing For 3 Weeks And There:

Is no sign of him at all. We are reaching out to anywhere we can think he may have gone. Brendan grew up in Portumna and lived there until moving to Dublin in the 80's.

St. Brendan's Ed. Centre, Abbey St., Loughrea: 091 841387 email:

john.melville@gretb.ie/freda.murphy@gretb.ie QQI level 5 in Healthcare / Childcare / Information Technology / Horticulture/Hairdressing/ QQI Level 4 Information Technology & Horticulture. Classes begin 8 January.

The Pieta House Wren Run's Generous Sponsors Mclnerney's SuperValu:

Loughrea/O'Meara's SuperValu Portumna has each kindly donated a €100 voucher to be won! Run takes place on St. Stephen's Day at 11am in Woodford. Everyone that registers before 17 Dec. will be entered into a once off draw to win these vouchers. Draw on 18 Dec. Online registration is available through the Pieta House Wren Run Facebook page or else come along to our Wren Run registration night in Tommy Larkins' Clubhouse on Friday 15 Dec. 7pm - 8.30pm! When you sign up you will also be entered into our Monster Draw to win prizes including a Consultation with Celebrity Architect Dermot Bannon, Hotel Getaways, Signed Galway Jersey, retail vouchers plus loads more! Entry fees: Kids (U-16): €5, Adults: €10, Family Rate (unlimited kids): €20 Group Rate (7 people): Early Bird Rate €50 (€70) - This entry also puts you into a special Draw to win 2 sets of jerseys (15) for your school or club team! All proceeds raised will be split between Pieta House & Tommy Larkin's for the development of their walking track / fitness facilities. Ts & Cs Apply! Tel: Roderick 087-9925624.

Aware Recruiting Volunteers No Qualifications / Experience Required:

Comprehensive training / ongoing support / education provided. More info. aware.ie/volunteer or Tel: 01 6617211.

East Galway Family History In Conjunction With GRETB 2018 Free:

Part-time courses: Digital Photography/Video Editing/Basic IT Skills & Family History. Woodford Heritage Centre, Tel: 0909749309. galwayroots@eircom.net

ACCORD Ballinasloe Marriage & Relationship Counselling Service:

Available & affordable to all. Tel: 090 9643573 ballinasloeaccord@eircom.net

Seeing Your Life Through The Lens Of The Gospels Mark 1:1-8:

1. John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord by alerting you to ways in which you could improve your life? To whom have you been such a messenger? 2. John calls the people to repentance (i.e. a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change led to new life for you? 3. John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart – write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart.

THE DEEP END: The Beginning Of The Good News ...

The second Sunday of Advent turns our attention to John the Baptist. John was an interesting individual. We are told he dressed a bit strangely, had an odd diet and spent a lot of time in the desert. Yet it seems he was very popular with the whole of Judaea and 'all the people of Jerusalem' went out to hear him. John must have been a dynamic speaker and one in whom people found hope and inspiration. Who are these attractive messengers for us today? Who brings us good news and hope? Whose message makes sense for us? Who do we flock to hear? Today we might also reflect on the messengers in our own lives. Who did God send to you while you were in your own wilderness? Perhaps they brought with them a moment of grace reassuring you that you would not be drifting aimlessly forever. Perhaps the evidence at that moment in your own life stated the contrary, yet these words of encouragement or comfort gave you reason to hope and to hang in there. These 'John the Baptists' are messengers of the light. They are all around us. Sometimes we are the ones called upon to be a messenger of light for someone else. The good news of the gospel today is that even in times of desolation there is a hope, a promise that urges us on. How we prepare for this journey determines our experience. See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you ...