

PARISH OF BALLINAKILL/DERRYBRIEN

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Saturday / Sunday 16/17 December 2017 '3rd Sunday of Advent'

Masses - Ballinakill:

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

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

Mon. 18 Dec.: 9.30am.

Tues. 19 Dec.: 9.30am.

Wed. 20 Dec.: 9.30am

Thurs. 21 Dec.: 9.30am.

Fri. 22 Dec.: 9.30am.

Sat. 23 Dec.: 8pm (A) Elizabeth, Tom & Marty Shiel.

Sun. 24 Dec.: 11am (A) People of Parish.

Masses - Derrybrien:

Sun. 17 Dec.: 9.30am (A) Nonie & Jack Kelly.

Fri. 15 Dec.: 7pm.

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

Mass Servers:

Saturday: Group 1. **Sunday:** Group 2.

Readers:

Saturday: Denis O'Connor. **Sunday:** Mairead Rafferty.

Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday: Mary Cavanagh. **Sunday:** Pauline McHugo.

Derrybrien: December: Margaret Slattery.

Sunday Collection Teams:

Sunday 17 Dec.: Team D. **Sunday 24 Dec.:** Team A.

Lotto No's: 2, 12, 15, 17. Jackpot €3,500. No Jackpot Winner:

Next Draw: 16/12 in Elsie's, Woodford. **Win/Share €150:** Raymond Daniels, Michael Rourke. Lower Town Gamblers.

Christmas Visits To The Sick And Housebound Will Be Made:

Next Friday and Saturday.

Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament Takes Place:

Wednesdays 8 – 10pm in Ballinakill Church.

Priests' Christmas Collection Will Be Taken Up:

At all Masses this weekend.

Christmas Reconciliation Service Will Be At 8pm In Ballinakill:

Church this Wednesday 20 Dec. Earlier reconciliation service will be in **Woodford Church at 7pm. Thursday evening at 7.30pm in Portumna Church.** Celebrating the Sacrament for Christmas is an important way for Catholics to prepare themselves to truly celebrate the Birth of Christ in our hearts and souls.

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection Due To Adverse Weather:

Conditions last weekend, this collection will be taken up on **Sunday** in Ballinakill & Derrybrien after Communion. This collection will go towards helping families in need in our local community and surrounding areas.

Annual Parish Party Will Be Held In Ballinakill Hall Sun. 7 Jan:

All are welcome to attend for Mass, dinner and musical entertainment for the afternoon.

Parish Christmas Cards 2017 And:

Parish Calendar and 2018 envelope boxes, will be distributed to each home during the week.

McCormack's Curra Entertainment Sunday 17 December:

Music by: Paul Watchorn of the "Wolfstones and Dublin Legends" 7.30-9.30pm. Everyone Welcome.

Fit4Life Recommences 10am Sat. 6 Jan. Tommy Larkin's Pitch:

Woodford and will run for 10 consecutive weeks. Suitable for all ages/abilities. Further Info. Mary Kelly. marykelly33@hotmail.com or 087 7913046. All welcome.

Hen Harrier Programme Info. Meeting Mon. 18 Dec. Egan's Bar:

Derrybrien @ 8.30pm. Details will be provided on the recently launched Hen Harrier Programme including payments, supporting actions, important dates etc.

Woodlawn Heritage Group Annual Turkey Trot Through The Beautiful:

Woodlawn Woods, on St. Stephen's Day at 12 noon. Meet at the Coillte Entrance near Woodlawn Post Office/Train Station. Come and join in the fun.

Suitable for all ages. NO TURKEYS WILL BE HARMED.

As A Unique Advent Prayerful Resource The Irish Catholic Bishops':

Conference has provided its online Advent 2017 Calendar which can be enjoyed by people of all ages. It's available online/smartphone/catholicbishops.ie. It focuses on the theme of family as we prepare together for next year's World Meeting of Families 21–26 August. Each day during Advent you are invited to click open a virtual door where you will find faith content for family/school/parish. During Advent, families are invited to take special time together to pray, to talk, and to be together. Family members are encouraged to undertake a daily act of kindness or charity – as suggested by the calendar – and by so doing reaching out to help those around us. By using the online calendar, we hope that you will be part of our journey through Advent this year.

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 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. 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.

Seeing Your Life Through The Lens Of The Gospels John 1:6-28:

1. 'There is one among you whom you do not know'. We can know about Jesus but do we know him? What helps you to know Jesus in a way that enables you to follow in his footsteps, trusting God as he did, and seeing other people as he did? 2. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news that God loves you – a friend/parent/teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness? 3. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?

THE DEEP END: Light & Darkness Last Week We Were Introduced To:

John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again today, and in this account, from the fourth gospel, we hear John's voice and his testimony about Jesus. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth gospel and its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light-bearer, he is not the light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out. We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'rejoice'; we light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. It might be a good opportunity to ask today: 'who have been the light-bearers on your own faith journey'? Who testified to the Light of God and passed the torch on to you? We thank God for them. Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church ... We become cynical and settle for mediocrity. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light ... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend ... they bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome.