

**PARISH OF BALLINAKILL/DERRYBRIEN**

Tel: 090 9745021 – Mob: 087- 2492898 – email: ballinakillderrybrien@clonfertdiocese.ie

Saturday / Sunday 2 / 3 January 2021 '2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas'

**Masses - Ballinakill:**

Sat. 2 Jan.: 8pm People of Parish.

Sun. 3 Jan.: 10am.

Mon. 4 Jan.: 9.30am.

Tues. 5 Dec.: No Mass.

Wed. 6 Jan.: 8pm Feast of The Epiphany.  
(A) Thomas & Hubert Fahy.

Thurs. 7 Jan.: 9.30am.

Fri. 8 Jan.: 8pm (A) William, Annie, Liam, Rose & Nellie  
Loughrey

Sat. 9 Jan.: 8pm (A) Gina & Ned Donohue & Deceased Family  
Members.

**Lotto No's: 10, 12, 17, 23. Jackpot: €12,300. No Jackpot**

**Winner: Next Draw:** 2/1 in The Clubhouse. **Win/Share €150:**

Cathal O'Byrne. **Quarterly Draw Winners:** €200 Paul & Aisling  
Keams. €100 Edel & Liam Hanley. Tickets; Klubfunder Lotto Site  
/Klubfunder app. Draw/results; Facebook Sun. @7pm. [www.klubfunder.com/Clubs\\_Larkins\\_GAA\\_Club\\_/lotto](http://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs_Larkins_GAA_Club_/lotto)

**Altar Society – January:**

**Ballinakill:** Lagoo: **Leaders:** Margaret Tuohy, Maureen  
Coughlan. **Derrybrien: Leaders:** Madge Gallagher & Detta  
Glynn.

**Thanks To All The Following:**

All who attended our Parish Christmas Masses despite the anxiety some felt in mixing in crowds. There was still a sense of joy and hope in celebrating the Birth of Christ. Thanks to all who cooperated, especially to those who took the trouble to change masses when their first preference was fully booked. Thank you to all the Golden Girls who did all the church preparations cleaning and preparing and sanitizing the churches. A lot of work involved in this sadly as it turned out it was only for one day, public masses were stopped again on St. Stephen's Day, but of course both churches in the parish are open for private prayers or a visit to the crib anytime. Masses will continue to be relayed from Ballinakill Church via 107 FM radio link in accordance with the mass times published on the newsletter. Thanks also to our FÁS Worker's, both the Community Employment Scheme and Rural Social Schemes for assistance with decorating churches for Christmas as well and for all the work during the year. In particular again I say thanks to Martin Collins, Supervisor and his workers on the Rural Social Scheme for the excellent job they did with the interior painting of Ballinakill Church. It turned out very beautiful. Thanks to one and all again who helped out in any way, those who continue to support the parish financially as well in these strange times, it is all needed and appreciated so much.

**Sincere Sympathy To The Family And Friends Of:**

Michael Dervan, England, formerly Liss. May he rest in peace.

**Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Support For Adults:**

In Partnership with the HSE for those grieving in these exceptional times/in need of comfort/connection/support. People are calling about COVID-related deaths/deaths from other causes. Freephone 1800 80 70 77, Monday to Friday, 10am - 1pm.

*I Wish A Happy, Safe And Healthy New Year  
To All Parishioners  
God's Blessings On All  
Keep Us Safe, Healthy And Happy  
For The Year Ahead.*

**Cope Galway Domestic Abuse 24-hr Confidential Helpline For Older:**

People who need to stay home to protect themselves/homeless families/individuals/including those in emergency accommodation. Women/children experiencing domestic abuse. We need your help to continue supporting vulnerable people in our community most affected by Covid-19. 091 565985

**COVID-19 Support Line For Older People ALONE Manage A:**

National support line/additional supports for older people who have concerns /facing difficulties relating to Covid-19. Professional staff available. Line open 7 days a wk, 8am-8pm. Tel: **0818 222 024.**

**St. Brendan's Ed. Centre, Loughrea Tel: 091 841387:**

QQI Level 5 Safety/Health Wed. 13 Jan. 9.30-1pm. QQI Level 5 Nutrition  
Thur. 14 Jan. 1.30-4pm. QQI Level 5 Care Skills 9.30-1pm; 18 Jan. Care  
Support 1.30-4.30pm. QQI Level 5 Communications Wed. 13 Jan. 6.30-  
9.30 pm. QQI Level 5 Spreadsheets Fri. 15 Jan. 9.30-1pm. QQI Level 5  
Infection Prevention Control Thur. 25 Feb. 9.30-1pm. QQI Level 4 Culinary  
Skills & Level 5 Hospitality Operations in Feb. days/date/times not decided.  
[freda.murphy@greb.ie](mailto:freda.murphy@greb.ie) or [john.melville@greb.ie](mailto:john.melville@greb.ie) Tel: 087 9332033

**Seeing Your Life Through The Lens of The Gospel – John Opens His:**

1. Gospel with a profound reflection on the meaning of creation/life of Jesus. Remember when you had a special awareness of the gift of life that filled you with gratitude to God for creation, and the beauty and wonder of the world: 'All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.' 2. We often listen to a reading from the gospels. Sometimes it goes in one ear/out the other. Then there are occasions when it made us feel more alive, times when it helped us see the way ahead, like a *light that shines in the darkness*. Recall when the gospel gave you hope in the midst of anxiety/sadness/helped you to see what action would be most life giving for you/for others. 3. Bring to mind people who have had a prophetic voice in the world – speaking the truth for the world to hear, like *as a witness to testify to the light*. Some of these may have been public figures. Others were ordinary people who have helped you see the 'light' by the witness of their own lives words. 4. 'No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son of God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him know.' Jesus came to us to teach us about God/put a human face on God for us. For the people of his day/for us, that was a mission of getting us to think again about how we see God/to believe in a God who is a God of love. Who, or what, has helped you along this journey?

**The Deep End - Taking Root; We Talk About Having 'Roots' As A Way:**

Describing our connection to a place or people. Being rooted somewhere means we are part of that place. When we are ready to settle down, to become part of a community, maybe to buy a house or start a family, we talk about 'putting down roots'. It means we are making this place our home. It is a rich metaphor from the plant world. The roots of a tree/plant represent its relationship with the soil it is planted in and the elements around it. The deeper the roots, the more connected a plant is to its environment. It becomes part of the place where it's planted. We use this expression in everyday language too – when an idea 'takes root' in us, it is something that becomes a part of us, inseparable from our very selves. Today's 1<sup>st</sup> Reading speaks of the wisdom of God 'taking root in a privileged people'. It describes it another way as 'pitching a tent'. These images offer us a way into understanding the complex language of today's gospel, which talks about God's relationship with us by sending Jesus: 'The Word was made flesh, he lived among us'. By becoming human, God put down roots not just in our physical world, but in humanity itself. God pitched a tent among us and became one of us. It is a connection that cannot be broken – the roots go too deep. We are in God/ God is in us. This is the mystery we celebrate in this season of Christmas – that in Jesus, God became part of the very world that God created/part of us: 'He was in the world that had its being through him.' We are indeed a privileged people! 'Christ asks for a home in your soul, where he can be at rest with you/where he can talk easily to you/where you/he/alone together/ can/laugh/be silent/be delighted with one another.'