

Church of the Ascension of the Lord

9th December 2018 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent



Parish Office Open Hours:

Tuesday to Friday from 10.30am – 12.30pm. Tel: 01-2954296,
Email: parishofbalally@eircom.net
Web: www.balallyparish.ie

Co- Parish Priest:

Fr Peter Byrne:
Tel: 089-4824671
Email:
Fr.PeterFrancisB@gmail.com

Pastoral Centre:

Tel: 01- 2953095
Email: balallyppc@gmail.com
Web: www.balallyppc.ie

Mass Times & Intentions:

Sunday 9th December

10.00am: Lochlainn Ó Catháin

12.00 noon: Rose O'Connor & Baby Oliver Short/
Tony Roe/ John Delaney/Noel Cullen (Birthday Re-
membrance)

Monday 10th December - Saturday 15th December

10.00am

Monday: Berta, Michael & Gillian O'Kane

Tuesday: Jim Irish (1st Anniversary)/
Caroline Birmingham

Wednesday: Sr Denise Cassidy & Desmond Cassidy
(her Brother)

Thursday:

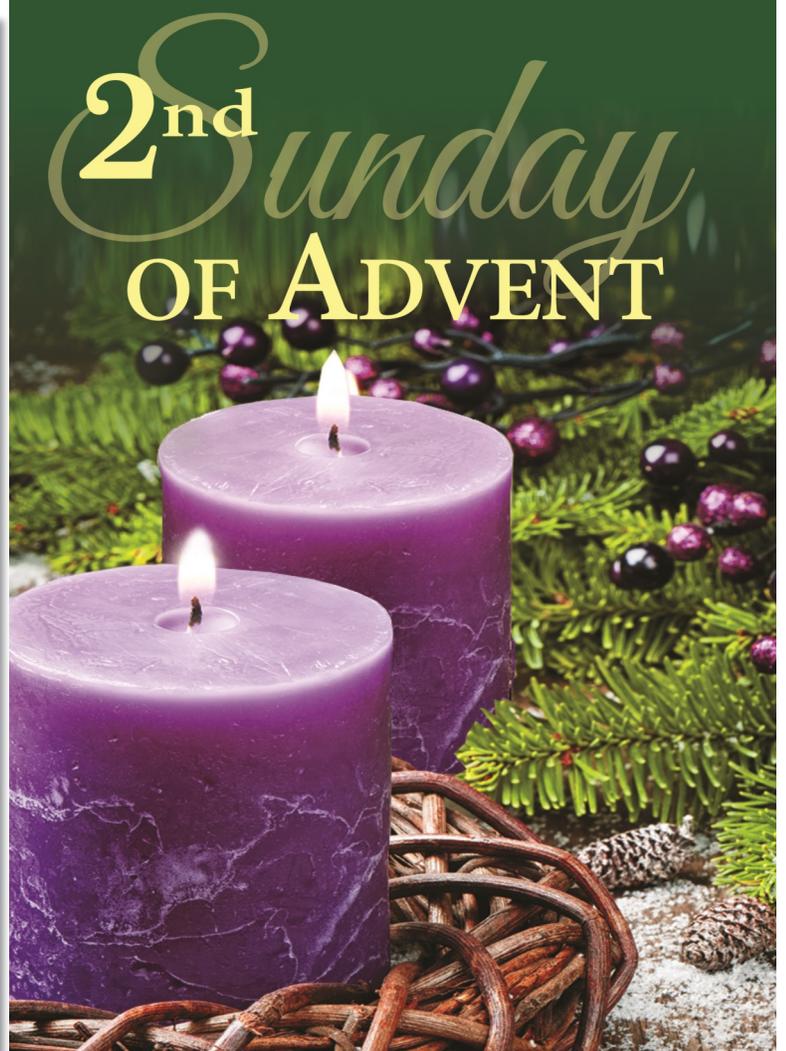
Friday: Weisick Jasinski /Tony Treacy

Saturday: John Roberts

Sunday 16th December

10.00am Mary Conaty (1st Anniversary)/ Sean & Mary
Dillon / Myra Yorke & Rody Egan

12 noon: Deceased Members of Naomh Olaf GAA
Club



THE DEEP END: Make his Paths Straight

Preparing for the arrival of someone important takes care and attention. Think of a family preparing to welcome a loved one home from abroad, perhaps a son or daughter who lives in Australia or someone who has been off traveling the world. They get their bedroom ready, buy their favourite foods, perhaps put up banners or even organise a 'welcome home' party. It is all done with great excitement and love, and is a way of easing the path home for the traveller. Or imagine new parents preparing for the arrival of a baby. There are practical considerations such as buying nappies and clothing and getting a cot ready and of course the nerves and excitement as they prepare to welcome the new arrival. On a larger scale, when an important dignitary visits a venue of a country there is also a flurry of activity in preparation. We saw it in the painstaking arrangements made for the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland earlier this year. Such high profile visits often involve a literal preparation of the way— organising a welcome reception, planning the best route from the airport, clearing the streets of traffic, as well as much chatter and anticipation. Today's Gospel brings these two types of welcome to mind. During Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus by our actions, when we are generous with our time. Patient with our families, and help those in need, And we do all these things with excitement and love, so that Christ will find the warmest of welcomes and a clear route into our hearts. Triona Doherty Athlone, Co Roscommon Email trionad@gmail.com

Other Church Services:

Holy Day Masses: Vigil 7.30pm; 10.00am ,1.10pm

Confessions: Saturday after 10.00am Mass

Baptisms: Second Sunday of every month at 1.30pm

View the Live Broadcast of our services

Go to www.balallyparish.ie/balally-goes-live/ for a live streaming of our Services

The Rosary: is recited every morning at 9.40am before 10:00 am Mass. All Welcome.



Eucharistic Adoration

with prayer and reflection - is held here in the church every Friday morning after the 10.00am Mass

St Mary's Sandyford, Mass times:

Saturdays: Vigil 6.00 p.m.

Sundays: 9:00 a.m., 11:00a.m, 6:00p.m.

(Youth Mass) **Mondays to Fridays:** 10:00am.



Holy Days: 10.00am and 7.30pm.

Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass on Saturdays

/Confessions by request

The joy of salvation.

“(John) went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism for the forgiveness of sins.” Every day we are made aware of how much evil there is in our world, with stories of cruelty and vandalism at home and abroad. And yet in spite of this awareness there is a huge decline in our sense of sin. In some ways this is a good development because in former times so much was thought of as sin. However, as we approach Christmas and beyond, it is important that we hear the call for repentance and leave anything that is harmful in the past behind us by placing it firmly in the hands of Christ, especially through celebrating the great Sacrament of Confession. This makes it possible for us to make a fresh start again and again in our relationships with God and with one another in our homes and in our parish community.

Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.

Advent reflection Morning

Come join us for a morning of song, prayer, meditation and celebration as we celebrate the season of Advent .Benildus Paastoral Centre, Kilmacud Road Upper, Dublin 14.Friday **14th December 2018 11.00am -12.00pm** Tea / Coffee and festive bites will be served. For more information contact Eugene on 0857330191or Pastoral Centre on 01-2964195

This Week:

The Do This in Memory Team had all the sheep ready for the 10.00 Mass but before the children brought them forward the Advent Candle had to be lit, the first figures had to be placed on the Jesse tree and the Altar had to be dressed in its advent purple colours. Yes indeed it is a busy time, a wonderful time of year. The Children will be invited to move their sheep closer to Bethlehem every Sunday of Advent. And the great surprise .. the Family Mass Choir have come together to sing at the Advent and Christmas Masses, the singing really contributed to the beauty of the liturgy and we realised how much we missed them.

The Choir is getting ready for the Carol Service, a special team is preparing Jam, Jelly and other favourite things for the Cake and Jam sale. The Altar society , the Liturgy Team and the Parish Team are preparing the Church, Cards are being written and meetings are been met... On Saturday the last meeting of those involved in the World Meeting of Families took place to review and comment on what was a year of events and reflection. A special report is being prepared for the Parish. The Communications Team has had several meetings to accelerate the updating of the parish Website. The team is also developing a Parish Logo and have mused over several suggestions. On Sunday the team organised the taking of photographs in the Church and even flew a drone over the Parish ... hopefully everyone had the top of their heads in perfect conditions. You will see all this on the website soon. Fr Lane sends his regards from Berkley and has written an article for the bulletin (it will be included over the next few weeks) and the website. **BREAKING NEWS:.....**

CROSSCARE FOOD BANKS have received 83 Big food hampers From BALALLY PARISH.

Many thanks for all those who brought gifts of food and toiletries to the Church on Sunday for Crosscare. All this generosity really puts Christ back into Christmas.

Secret Information:

Every Morning for the last week the pitter-patter of a group of Parishioners has been heard early on the roads leading to the Parish as they gather to sanctify the Advent time with prayer and music and silence. The Church is just so marvellous at 7.00 am and embraces them with quiet light and friendly dawn. It's as if the Lord says “good to see you” There is a beautiful silence that invites everyone to whisper. No one wants to break the spell or wake all those who are asleep in our community. And then some reflective music is played... powerful silence, then a reading, prayers for so many intentions, another piece of music and then everyone has to get back to their busy lives but all have been gently touched by the word of God and are indeed in Advent; waiting, preparing, longing for the Child Saviour to be among us.

Nappy Drop

We are collecting nappies and Aptimel formula no's 1&2 for the **Capuchin Day Centre**. If you can help, please drop donations into the Parish Centre before December 17th



What did the Pope say in Ireland?

I cannot fail to acknowledge the grave scandal caused in Ireland by the abuse of young people by members of the Church charged with responsibility for their protection and education. (Dublin Castle, 25th August 2018)

Did he really say that?



From Father's Desk

400 CLUB DRAW



Next Draw: 30th

Did you ever think of joining?
Subscription: €10 per month

Ph: 087 2577651 or Parish Office:
01 2954296

The Parish BINGO is held every Friday at 8.30pm in the

John Martin presents a cheque for €200 to Margaret Smith, the bonus prize at Bingo last Friday night



Gathering the Fragments: A group of about 20 parishioners gathered recently in the Parish Centre to reflect on the effects of the World Meeting of Families and visit of Pope Francis. It was lively energising and hopeful to hear each other talk deeply about the stirrings caused by the happenings around the visit. The preparation in the parish, gatherings which included a day trip to Glendalough by 90 people, the encouragement of Fr. Peter and Bríd and those who organised and hosted the visitors from Guatemala, Mexico and the community of Little Sisters in their visit to the parish, all enhanced the richness of the experience of being family, in all its shapes and forms. There was a realisation that we are all essentially the same, no matter from where we have come. The spirit of hospitality shown shone out for everyone. All difficulties were overcome in spite of apprehensions! Anyone who attended any of the formal events organised, the RDS, Croke Park, and the Phoenix Park found deep satisfaction and those who watched the coverage on TV knew they were also participating in something special. The dignity and respect shown by Pope Francis for everyone he met was outstanding. There was disappointment that negative media coverage gave a slant that was not the perception of many who participated. It was suggested that more such gatherings be conducted in the parish to give people a chance to meet and discuss deep issues and to enhance a sense of inclusion of all as there are many different and diverse groupings of family in the parish, each with its own story, who need to feel included. You might like to ponder for yourself the questions posed at this reflective meeting, and if you like, send in your response to the parish office. The questions are .

- (1) How were you involved in the preparation and the visit of Pope Francis?
- (2) What, if anything, stood out for you?
- 3) What, if anything, has been a learning or a grace to you from this experience?
- (4) What follow up do you think we could have in our community?

New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week

"The voice of John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness and gathering great crowds invites us into the Second Sunday of Advent. An "Arts and Faith" video offers an imaginative prayer exercise inspired by Pieter Brueghel the Younger's *St. John the Baptist Preaching*. To access this, and a host of other inspiring online Advent resources including superb sacred music, visit www.newpilgrimpath.ie



Naomh Olaf GAA Club
The Annual mass for deceased members and supporters of Naomh Olaf G.A.A club will be celebrated in this church on Sunday next the 16th December at 12 noon.



Congratulations to St. Benildus College on their brilliant Dublin Senior "A" Colleges Hurling Final Win over St. Aidan's College Whitehall recently, on the score of 2-17 to 1-9. This is the first time since 2011 that the title has come to St. Benildus. It was great to see 10 Naomh Olaf players on the winning team. They are Eoin McEnerney, Luke Murphy, Ciarán Foley, Darragh O'Brien, Darragh Naylor, Eoin Donnelly, Cian de hOra, Roan Faulkner, Shane Cullinane and Darragh Keane. *Congratulations also to Ber O'Shea, Clonard, on winning a Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council "Community Volunteer Award" The Award was presented to her at a function held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Stillorgan recently. Ber won the Award in recognition for the outstanding contribution she has made in her leading role in the Balally Parish Hospitality Group. Ber and her family are life members of Naomh Olaf G.A.A. Club.*

The Club's shop is open every Saturday morning and carries a full range of stock, ideal for Christmas present Christmas Lot-to Draw will be held in the Clubhouse on Saturday the 15 December. Sympathy is extended to the Brierton family Balally Close on the death of Tony's brother John Brierton, Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis. James Whelan was the lucky winner of the Lotto Jackpot of €2,300. Numbers drawn: 6, 13 & 14. This week's Jackpot is €1,000

The next meetings of the Mindfulness Group will take place on: Monday 17th December from 7.30 to 8.30 in the Upper Room, accessible from the Church Porch. If you are interested, further information is available from the Parish Office or ph. 0874178926.

"Community Volunteer Award" winner Ber O'Shea



Get Well
to all our parishioners who are sick, at home or in hospital,
we wish you a speedy recovery



Website of the week

Find out all about the **history** of Christmas, the **story** of Christmas, how Christmas is celebrated all around the world and have some **genuine** Christmas fun & activities with your kids...all on our web site of the week; <https://www.whychristmas.com/>

The Annual Christmas collection for the



Society of St Vincent DePaul will take place at all Masses this Sunday 9th December and will replace the usual SHARE Collection

A LETTER FROM THE 'BALALLY BOY' IN BERKELEY TO THE PEOPLE OF BALALLY.

Dermot Lane, 2 December 2018

As you know St. Paul loved to write letters to the churches he left behind him in his journeys. Without pretending to be a St. Paul, I wanted to send you warm greetings from Berkeley, California as we approach Christmas. I'm enjoying my sabbatical time here and learning each day what I do not know! Berkeley is a University city with some 40,000 students. I am registered as a student in the Jesuit School of Theology which is part of Santa Clara University and the University of California at Brackley. There are 12 of us on sabbatical: two diocesan priests from Ireland, two religious order priests from the US, four Jesuit African priests, one African religious sister, and three religious sisters from Asia. So as you can see we are culturally a very diverse group and we learn a lot from each other.

Our liturgies seek to take account of these different cultures. We in the West, (ie, the US and Europe), tend to be rather rational, cold and vertical in the way we celebrate liturgy. For the Africans, the mood is different : one of movement with singing and celebration, and the orientation is horizontal. For the Asians, liturgies are reflective, peaceful, and focused on the interior life, having a strong sense of the immanence of God. I am now more convinced than ever that our liturgies should be a mix of all three cultures. There is a strong emphasis on spirituality, liturgy and pastoral ministry within our program. We started the sabbatical experience by going away on retreat for several days. The retreat opened with a reflection from Thomas Merton which is worth sharing with you:

"There is within us an instinct for newness, for renewal, for the liberation of a creative power.

We seek to awaken in ourselves a force which really changes our lives from within.

And yet the same instinct tells us that this change is a recovery of that which is deepest, most original, most personal in ourselves.

(Thomas Merton, Love and Living, 1979: 196) These verses have stayed with me for the last few months. There is food for thought for all of us within these lines from Merton, whether we are in Balally or Berkeley.

More next week....

Hospitality Christmas Party 2018

