

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

## BALALLY PARISH

*2nd February 2020  
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
The Presentation of the Lord*

### Parish Office Open Hours:

Tuesday to Friday 10.30am – 12.30pm.

Tel: 01-2954296,

Email: [parishofbalally@eircom.net](mailto:parishofbalally@eircom.net)

Web: [www.balallyparish.ie](http://www.balallyparish.ie)

### Co- Parish Priest:

Fr Peter Byrne:

Tel: 089-4824671

Email: [Fr.PeterFrancisB@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.PeterFrancisB@gmail.com)

Fr Dermot A. Lane Tel: 01 2956165

### Pastoral Centre:

Tel: 01- 2953095

Email: [balallyppc@gmail.com](mailto:balallyppc@gmail.com)

Web: [www.balallyppc.ie](http://www.balallyppc.ie)

### **Mass Times & Intentions:**

#### **Sunday 2nd February**

10.00am: Anne Delaney (4th Annv)/ Hugh & Mary Kane

12.00noon: Brendan Clarke (4th Annv)/ Brendan Byrne (5th Annv)/ Michael Hannigan

#### **Mon 3rd February - Sat 8th February 2020 10.00am:**

**Monday: (Feast of Saint Blaise (Blessing of the Throats))  
Special Intention / Mary Normoyle**

**Tuesday: Brendan Clarke (4th Annv)**

**Wednesday: Sheila Boyle/ Brendan Byrne (5th Annv)/  
Margaret McHugh/Walter & Kathleen Reidy & Evelyn  
Hamilton**

**Thursday: Mass in Sandyford**

**Friday: Altar list of the Dead**

**Saturday: Philip McDonald (1st Annv)/ Gregory Sexton**

#### **Sunday 9th February**

10.00am: Ann MacGiolla Fhearga/ Angela Moran  
(10th Annv) & Jimmy, Graham & Sharon Moran/ David  
Broderick (3rd Annv)

12.00noon: Gertie & Joe Keating/ Marie McDonnell/  
Matthew Bermingham (1st Annv)



Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the  
Jerusalem Temple

**Theophanes The Greek Iconographer**

**Location: Byzantine Museum, Athens, Greece**

### **The Deep End: Unexpected moments:**

It was an important day for this little family, when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Did they expect everything to go smoothly, or had they already had to let go of some of their dreams and plans? After all, the story of Jesus' birth had already been unusual, not to mention the shepherds turning up to visit the newborn Messiah. Still, they could not have expected two elderly people to suddenly appear in the Temple with a message about their child – that he was going to do great things but also would be rejected and cause great pain to his mother. Was it at this moment that they realised life would never be the same again? The most important messages can come from unexpected sources. Anna and Simeon were advanced in years, wise and devout people who had lived well, and still hoped and trusted in God's plan. This encounter was unexpected for them too, taking place close to the end of their lives; but they were ready, willing and able to recognise its significance. Their call was to be among the first people to encounter the Messiah and to share the Good News. What is our call? The story of Anna and Simeon shows us the value of being open to an encounter with Jesus. Despite what we have been through, or what stage we are at in life, there are good things to come. Each of us has something unique to offer. We pray that we will recognise the unexpected opportunities to encounter God that come our way. **Triona Doherty: [trionad@gmail.com](mailto: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  
1.00pm*



**View the Live Broadcast of our services**

*Go to [www.balallyparish.ie/balally-goes-live/](http://www.balallyparish.ie/balally-goes-live/) for a live streaming of our liturgies...*

**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 Sandvford, 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*

Dublin senior football team drew with Kerry in the first round of Division 1 of the National League played in Croke Park last weekend. David Byrne Naomh Olaf played very well at full back on the Dublin team. Eoin Foley played for U C D in their Fitzgibbon Cup victory over GMIT Galway recently. The Adult Presentation Night has always been a good night in the Club and the recent Adult Presentation Night was no exception. The following players received Player of the Year Awards:- Senior Women's football – Katie Grimes, Junior Women's football – Louise Bennet, Minor Women's football – Julie Grimes, Senior Men's football Aaron Walsh, Junior 1 Men's football – Shane White, Junior 2 Men's football – Evan Cahill, Under 21 Men's football – Glen Soraghan, Minor Men's football -Harrison Byrne, Senior camogie – Christine Shanahan, Minor camogie – Caoimhe Gleeson. Senior hurling – Dónal Leavy, Junior hurling – Darragh Hickey, Under 21, hurling - Rory Gallagher, Minor Hurling – Ciarán Foley. Sympathy is extended to the Casey family Balally Drive, on the death of Catherine Casey Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilis. There was no winner of the Lotto Jackpot. The numbers drawn were 7, 31 and 34. This week's Jackpot is €2, 400.



**St Olaf's Ladies Club**  
**Wednesday 5th February at**  
**8.30 pm in St Olaf's School**  
**"Bingo "**  
**New members welcome.**

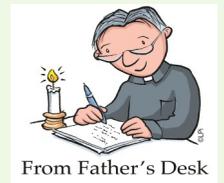


### **Get well**

Best wishes and a speedy recovery to all our Parishioners who are sick or housebound. We keep you in our thoughts and prayers.



### **THE GUATEMALA FILES II: The Road to Damascus (kind of)**



From Father's Desk

One of the outstanding memories embedded in the trip was rather unexpected. We decided to go to a nearby town for Mass. As we sped along an empty highway we saw a bicycle coming towards us. Sitting up front on the crossbar was a very elderly woman. She was holding the handlebars as a child but her face was full of dignity as it was set against the wind. Dressed in the snow white huipil of the Mayans she was 80 if she was a day. Peddling behind her was a middle-aged man, possibly her son. He was carrying his machete over his shoulder and was making good speed in spite of carrying his precious treasure in 30 degree heat and humidity. They would disappear into the Jungle; (often along the road there are unconventional signs a pot on a tree, a wasted tyre on a pole that indicate where to take a turn into the undergrowth and head towards a house or a village) "What does the Church mean to them?"- asked one of the people in the car. Silence pursued. We stopped to eat at an open space where people gather to sell what they have cooked. Your travel insurance probably does not cover this risk. The world congress of flies was taking place at the same time and in the same venue. I really wondered was I that hungry and could I not fast for a little while more in order to reach safety. But we took the risk. I ordered tacos of huitlacoche (you are probably better off not investigating what it is); If death was to come let it be swift and unusual. Praying the grace before meals sounded more like the recommendation of the soul but we survived and were chatting after the meal when a tiny woman dressed in her Indian dress approached the table. She also was a very elderly person and she extended her ancient hand and with a smile asked for a little help. We shared something and were about to go back to our conversation when another woman dragged herself forward in a walking frame. She too offered a gentle smile in exchange for a coin. This is how elderly folk face their later days. No pension, no social support, humiliation and begging. It could have been any one of us or a member of our family if we had been born somewhere else. As we continued the journey the conversation turned again to the question of the meaning of the Gospel and the Church in these circumstances. For these people faith and religion is very natural and very important. It is religion that provides their dignity to them, that fundamental belief that they are important to God... as important as the rich and powerful. There are no atheists in this region. Of course we didn't realise that the town we had left was on a different time zone than the one we were going to. Some places just don't bother putting the clock forward or backward. As one man said "God made time who are we to interfere with it?". Time is different here. We arrived so early for Mass that we had plenty of time to muse upon the beautiful statues around the massive Church, watch the birds fly in and out to their nests high up in the roof and observe the hundreds of people young and old stream into the Church ready for a good long Mass. These encounters provided food for thought and conversation. What can we Christians do? How can we realise how well off we are in Ireland? How can we help our young people to have a wonderful appreciation for the ordinary things of our daily life and the importance of faith?

Monday February 3rd is the Feast Day of Saint Blaise of Sebaste. There will be **Blessing of the Throats** in honour of Saint Blaise in Balally after 10.00am Mass



**The Coffee dock is open after Masses every Sunday and is run by parish Volunteers. Do drop in for a cuppa and chat.**



*If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Parish Office 01-2954296*



### Balally Parish 400 Club draw

**Congratulations to our January Winners**

- 1st Prize €1,000: Eamon Gallagher
- 2nd Prize €300: Robert Draughton
- 3rd Prize €200: J&F Lynam
- 4th Prize €100: Eileen Taylor



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

**Ph: 087 2577651 or Parish Office 012954296**

**.The Parish BINGO is held every Friday At 8.30pm In the Pastoral Centre All welcome**



### Mindfulness Group

The next Meeting of Mindfulness will take place on Monday 3rd and 17th February from 7.30pm to 8.30pm in the Upper Room, accessible from the Church Porch .If you are Interested, further information is available from the Parish Office or Ph 087 4178926 .



**All are welcome**

### The Presentation of the Lord

“The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.” The beautiful relationship of Jesus with Mary and Joseph, and their relationship with the wider community in Simeon and Anna, is a wonderful revelation of what is now at the heart of every family. It is expressed in the term the Domestic Church. It is there, in each family home that the Church is at its best, and its worst, because it is in our family homes in a special way that Jesus lives. But the family needs the support of the wider community in order to grow in love and the wider community needs each family to be alive and active for the transformation of the world. “The future of humanity passes by way of the family.” This statement of John Paul II in his letter Familiaris Consortio needs to be taken very seriously by all of us, especially today. *Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.*



### Youth Ministry Report “Christus Vivit”(Christ is Alive)

On the 4<sup>th</sup> December Kay Hand represented the Parish in a meeting in Johnstown Parish which explored Pope Francis’ recent letter to young people. 30 delegates involved in youth ministry read excerpts from “Christus Vivit” and inspired by them, shared experiences and initiatives in this ministry. Questions that were posed:

- How are we present to the young people of our Parish?
- How do we involve young people in the Christian community?
- How do we find the middle ground of encounter with younger People?
- How can younger people be themselves and be themselves with Christ?
- How can we preserve the Christian aspect of this ministry (prayer, bible etc.) without having just a “youth Club”/“Cool club”?

Many practical ideas were shared between the participants. The need to create a space for open conversation was highlighted as was the benefit of always providing food and hot drinks. The necessity to offer practical projects for young people (visiting elderly people, helping in some social or ecological project etc.) was also discussed. Ideas were shared from Net Ministries and from Youth2000 who also offered to visit the Parish and help to begin youth initiatives. This is one of the paragraphs from the Pope’s document. Maybe you could read and reflect on it. How beautifully gentle it is! How realistic but encouraging!

**67. Anyone called to be a parent, pastor or guide to young people must have the farsightedness to appreciate the little flame that continues to burn, the fragile reed that is shaken but not broken (cf. Is 42:3). The ability to discern pathways where others only see walls, to recognize potential where others see only peril. That is how God the Father see things; he knows how to cherish and nurture the seeds of goodness sown in the hearts of the young. Each young person’s heart should thus be considered “holy ground”, a bearer of seeds of divine life, before which we must “take off our shoes” in order to draw near and enter more deeply into the Mystery.**

### World Day for Consecrated Life

Today is World Day for Consecrated life and in 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life.



O God, Father of all Mercies,  
Provider of a bountiful Harvest,  
send Your Graces upon those  
You have called to gather the fruits of Your labour;  
preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong  
Service of you.  
Open the hearts of Your children  
that they may discern Your Holy Will;  
inspire in them a love and desire to surrender  
themselves to serving others in the name of Your son,  
Jesus Christ.  
Teach all Your faithful to follow their respective paths  
in life  
guided by Your Divine Word and Truth.  
Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin  
Mary, all the Angels, and Saints, humbly hear our  
prayers and grant Your Church's needs, through Christ,  
our Lord. **Amen.**

Three Rock Panorama your local community magazine is on sale this weekend in all the usual outlets





# PETER MASSEY FUNERALS

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## The Good News Story

I love the month of February. The beginning of spring and the peeping up of daffodil buds, crocus buds and the bare trees starting to sprout again. Already there is a stretch in daylight hours all reasons to bring a little spring (pardon the pun) to our step. The signs of new life. Our world is troubled at the moment. We all know about the damage being caused by our changing climate but I do believe that everyone is aware of this and are honestly trying to make the necessary changes to address this problem. All is not doom and gloom. Most people love a good story and especially a story which has a happy ending. Last Sunday was a special day devoted to the Word of God. The Word of God comes to us through the telling of stories contained in the bible, probably the largest selling book of all time. It tells us the story of Jesus. Jesus began telling us by word and example how to live a full life. He didn't begin his teaching in a big Cathedral but rather while walking along the shores of Galilee. He didn't choose people of renown or those from high places, instead He chose some fishermen and by this action alone he was teaching us a great example. The word of God was not exclusive to a chosen few it was for every human being regardless of wealth, race or creed. He didn't exclude anyone, he didn't condemn anyone. He showed us the way by caring for the poor, the needy and the sick but above all the greatest news is that we should not fear death for death is not the end. He promised us a new life after death. A story with a truly happy ending. **Ann (Schmitz)**



## Climate Change—Yes We Can

*Simple little steps to manage food and reduce waste*

**Input and discussion led by Paula Butler,  
Eco-conscious Living Date: Wednesday 5th February  
Time: 8pm Venue: The Gathering Grounds, Kilternan Parish Church  
Admission: €5 All are welcome.**

**Any further information available from Bairbre de Burca at  
0874 178926 or Anne Davy 087 2998329**

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration has been taking place in Queen of Peace Church, Bray for almost 30 years, 24 hours a day. It is a phenomenal blessing for those involved, as well as for the region. Hundreds of people from county Wicklow, South Dublin, Bray and further afield travel to the Church near Bray Head once a week to be in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. As part of the process of strengthening and growing this community of worshippers, there is a special event **next Friday evening 7th February at 8pm** in Queen of Peace Church, Vevay Road, Bray for anyone who is interested in joining the large team of adorers, or who is simply curious about what is involved. There will be confession, reflective music, some readings, and most importantly, quiet personal time in the presence of Our Lord. There will also be refreshments, and plenty of people at hand to explain what it is all about, and how to get involved. Everyone is welcome to this special event for our city and region.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** As we follow the daily news, it's hard to remember the presence of good in the world. and yet it is constantly around us. The world is full of everyday heroes and true stories of transformation. They have helped sustain life down the ages in a multitude of ways, small, simple and profound. The DailyGood website leverages the internet to promote positive and uplifting news from around the globe to more than 100,000 subscribers through the daily and weekly newsletters. Visit DailyGood at [www.NewPilgrimPath.ie](http://www.NewPilgrimPath.ie)



## Advertising

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01- 2954296**



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day on 01 2889189 or email  
[events@leopardstowninn.ie](mailto:events@leopardstowninn.ie)

**World Day of the Sick 2020:** The World Day of the Sick Seminar will take place on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 9.30am to 1.00pm in the Newtown Parish Pastoral Centre, Newtownpark Ave Blackrock, Co Dublin. This year's theme is on *Hope in the Face of Suicide* - For further information please contact - Trish Conway on 0876220349. **Prayer Book: 'I Am With You'**, for use with those who experience illness, carers and for personal prayer. Unit Price €1.95, available from: Anne Donnellan, Archbishop's House - Tel: 01 8379253,