

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Sunday 22nd January 2023

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Catholic Schools Week*



**Catholic Schools
Week 2023**
January 29–February 4
www.NCSA.org/csw
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Parish Office Open Hours:

Monday to Friday 9.30am – 2.00pm.
Tel: 01-2954296

Email: balallyparish@gmail.com

Web: www.balallyparish.ie



Fr Jim Caffrey PP 0861579825

jcaffrey73@gmail.com

Fr Dermot A. Lane Tel: 012956165

Pastoral Centre 012953095
Email: balallypastoralcentre@gmail.com



Mass Times & Intentions:

Saturday 21st January 6.00pm Mass

Des Dowling/Kathleen O' Donnell/

Pat McGlynn & Michael Doherty/ Bridie Dowling

Sunday 22nd January 10.00am Mass

Tommy Fullam (Months Mind)

Betty O' Neill (5th Annv)/

Frank O' Connor (21st Annv)/

Nora Ruane/ Maria Macari/

Michael & Bryde Condren/ Philip Cassidy

Monday 23rd January 10.00am Mass

Mary McAuliffe/ Mike Ryan/

Special Intention(Get well)

Wednesday 25th January 10.00am Mass

Michael & Kathleen Sheridan &

Tommy & Annie McGovern

Friday 27th 10.00am Mass

Michael Merrigan/ Sean Fitzsimons

Brigid & Richard Saunders/

Dates for your Diary 2023

Tuesday 24th January 7pm

Contemplative Ecumenical

Prayer (For Church Unity week) with Church of Ireland

Methodist and Catholic parishes of

Dundrum/ Ballinteer/ Meadowbrook.

Sunday 29th January starting

at 7.00pm & ending at 9.00pm

Balally parish will be screening

The Letter: A Message for our Earth in the Church.

This documentary on the climate crisis was launched by President Michael D Higgins and has received worldwide attention. The film will help us all to understand better the

seriousness of the challenge facing humanity to save our Planet

Monday 30th January 6.30pm,

100th Anniversary of Columba Marmion

Saturday 4th / Sun 5th February

Launch of Parish Mission and new parish logo

at weekend Masses.

Friday 10th/ Saturday 11th February

Retreat with Rev Richard Carter

(Anglican Priest , St Martin in the fields)

Tuesday 14th February 7.30pm

Valentines Day contemplative Mass



*“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men”
and they Left their nets at once and followed*

Reflection by Father Laurence Freeman

When Jesus is talking about prayer in the Sermon on the Mount, He is talking about prayer in the same way that the early Christian monks spoke about it. When they spoke about prayer, they spoke about the essence of prayer, or pure prayer as they called it. It doesn't deny the many expressions and dimensions of prayer. I am not being a Puritan about meditation, that it excludes other forms of prayer, of course, it doesn't. For me as a monk, it enriches all the other forms of prayer – scripture, the Eucharist. .

POPE FRANCIS

Quote



“We are in front of a global scandal of around one billion people who still suffer from hunger today.

We cannot look the other way and pretend this does not exist.

The food available in the world is enough for everyone

A copy of Balally Parish
Income and Expenditure Accounts 2021 & 2020
are available at the back of the Church this weekend.



Fr Jim pictured with Fr Fintan (Paddy) Lyons
in Glenstal as he rests after surgery .

Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy
to the Family and friends of
Noel Tracey: Furry Hill
May he rest in the peace of Christ



COLLECTIONS

Thank you for your very generous
response to last Sundays collections
1st Collection € 890 2nd Collection € 595



Balally Parish 400 Club

January draw will take place next weekend

Did you ever think of joining
If you would like to Subscribe please contact
Ph: 087 2577651 or Parish Office 012954296



Wednesday 22nd February

Desert Day and Ash Wednesday.

There will be two Masses on Ash Wednesday.
10am with distribution of ashes and a
Contemplative Mass at 7.30pm for Desert Day.

St Olaf's Ladies Club

Friday 27th January in St Olaf's School
3.30pm
"Chair Aerobics"



A Word from Fr Jim

Greetings from Glenstal Abbey .. I have had some delightfully relaxing post surgery days here. In truth, my operation took more out of me than I expected and I know it's going to be a little time before I'm back to my normal pace. This experience has put me in touch with my own mortality and imbued me with the motivation to continue to serve the Lord as best I can and with joy and enthusiasm. I'm deeply grateful to the many parishioners who have let me know that you are caring for me. I think you always remember those who show you kindness when you need it. A sincere thanks to you all.

I'm looking forward to next **Tuesday 24th** when at **7pm** we will welcome our Church of Ireland sisters and brothers from Taney and our Methodist and Presbyterian friends. It is also our first gathering with the local Catholic parishes the Archbishop has asked us to partner with...Dundrum, Meadowbrook and Ballinteer. In this regard it's worth taking a look at the video by the Archbishop

<https://youtu.be/63uSgIhVZEY> which is also available on our website, in which he outlines what these partnerships mean. We won't be losing our identity as a parish but working more closely with our neighbours. Having a clear identity will be vital for the survival of every parish. Clinging on to the old ways of doing things or trying to block change are sure ways of ensuring that our parish will die. A failure to be bold and imaginative and to seek new ways of reaching our children and young adults is a sign of lack of faith. I know that a small minority, sometimes vocal, more often whispering and murmuring on the sidelines try to block change in every organization. They are often the ones who won't even try the new possibilities but try to prevent others from experiencing them. These voices need to be challenged with love but also with courage. They are the ones whom the great Pope John 23rd spoke of as the prophets of doom seeing every change as a disaster rather than opening up the possibility of new life. It is understandable, of course, that some can't accept change but not acceptable when they try to prevent others from experiencing new life. In the days ahead, as I prepare to return to the parish I ask all to pray and work towards making the parish a place of Building Hope through Meditation and Service and to see how new life is emerging and to try to be part of it. This is particularly necessary for those who hold ministries or who are employed in the parish. In the beautiful book The Little Prince the hero memorably says "As for the future, your task is not to foresee it but to enable it".

This is a challenge to every parishioner... am I enabling or am I blocking the future? The role of leadership is to recover the soul of the organization or to redefine it ... a task that will at times take courage and vision. I am committed, with Fr Dermot and our new Parish Pastoral Council, to helping you to prepare for a lay led parish and to provide the opportunities, training and formation to make this a reality. My time off sick has convinced me that I can't allow this to be blocked or hampered.

A wonderful prophet in our Church, Pope Francis has said that every parish must move from maintenance (a comfortable little club which looks after it's own) to mission(reaching out to those on the peripheries and making disciples of Jesus).

It's a great challenge but it also means the culture of this and all our parishes must change. It's not a strategic plan but a spiritual revolution in which we turn together to Jesus. We all have to change.. will you try it? Let's build hope in Balally through Meditation and Service. The least we can all do is give it a good try. Maranatha. I look forward to being back with you soon.

With my love & blessing
Fr Jim