

# Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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## Christmas 2018

Looking back on 2018, it was a year when I suffered from poor health which necessitated hospitalisation on three occasions. I felt very sick and, thankfully, prior to that I had excellent health. Fr. Tom looked after the Parish and with the help of the SMA Fathers kept everything going smoothly. I thank them for it. I was blessed with the Doctors and Nurses I met and I could see the result of the prayers being offered for me - it was like a miracle at every turn. When it came to my recuperation, my family were outstanding.

Also, in 2018, I celebrated my Golden Jubilee of Priesthood. Many people went to great efforts to make sure it was a success - I wish to say thank you to all concerned.

During 2018, we had the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland and his emphasis on the family. For those of us who were able to attend and especially for the families who travelled, it was a wonderful event. Pope Francis would want us to remember his advice to families to use the words **please, thank you** and **I am sorry** and that it may lead to more and more joy and celebration in families. May we use these words more often as we celebrate the birth of Jesus into his family and on behalf of Fr. Tom and myself, may you and your family have every blessing and the gift of peace at Christmas and for the New Year.



**Fr. Bertie**

## Christmas Message from the Pastoral Council

Christmas 2018 is, for us, in Ballineaspig Parish a time to thank God for restoring Father Bertie to us. 2018 started with shock and many prayers for his recovery. We very blessed to have Fr Tom's calm presence to keep us going, thank you Fr Tom. We must not forget to thank our SMA neighbours and Fr. Kieran Twomey for helping out. We have been blessed indeed.

Pope Francis in Ireland for the World Meeting of Families was a very joyous time. All the preparations went very well and our parishioners who were present in the Phoenix Park spoke of the atmosphere of goodwill that prevailed among all the people who were present many of whom had come a great distance to pray with Pope Francis.

At all times, the Pastoral Council is aware of the immense work of the selfless parishioners who organize all the services throughout the year. Our Advent/Carol Service prepared us to celebrate the birth of Christ and for a little time to detach ourselves from the everyday distractions. The work that you all do is seen and totally appreciated. Thanks to each and everyone!

We must not forget to pray for, and to help in any way that we can, those less fortunate than ourselves, in our area, our country, and throughout the World, especially Turkwell our sister parish. May peace and goodwill remain with all our parishioners this Christmas and may we all be blessed with the strength to trust in Jesus Christ as we journey together into 2019.

## CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECTION

**Just a reminder that the collection taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is for the Priests of the Parish.**

Our Choir will sing some Christmas Carols for a half hour before the 9.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Come early !!!!!



## Weekly Collection Envelopes

Some boxes for 2019 still to be collected from the Sacristy. Please collect your box if you have not already done so.

