

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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SUNDAY MASSES UPDATE

At a meeting of our stewards and helpers last Wednesday night, it was agreed that until the rule of maximum 50 people at Mass is changed, that it would be better and safer for us not to resume Sunday Masses. Accordingly, we will continue with daily Mass - Monday to Saturday at 9.30am - and the following conditions still apply to help us and keep us all safe:

1. The dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation is extended for the time being.
2. Seating is arranged for singles, for couples and for families. Please follow signage.
3. One reader will read all the Readings.
4. Ministers of the Eucharist will distribute Holy Communion from inside the altar rails. Communion should be received in the hand. The Priest will give Communion to people unable to approach the altar rails. This will be done after Mass.
5. Please maintain your distance on exiting the Church.

May the Lord bless us and keep us safe.

Ministers of the Eucharist

Please note that the Rota for Ministers of the Eucharist is commencing again. Please take note of the changes for the distribution of Holy Communion at all Masses now.

One Hundred Days

We welcome the formation of a new government and wish them well in their individual and collective responsibilities. The importance of the first 100 days in office is often regarded as a critical indicator of what will be achieved in the years ahead.

The last 100 days have shown how wonderfully most people of this country have performed in limiting the worst aspects of the pandemic. Too many lives have been devastated by lonely deaths and difficult bereavements. Frontline workers and their supportive families have been stretched almost to breaking point. Uncertainty permeates many hearts especially among those who have lost their jobs. But the generosity of burden-sharing has provided a safety net for many but especially, for the most vulnerable and gives hope and inspiration for the days ahead.

The next 100 days will be critical for all of us. They will demand of us more intense commitment to following the health guidelines that protect us. The danger may seem to be waning in Ireland and complacency may gain ground. The burden of responsibility is individual and communal. Each of us is responsible for one another and for all of us. Making my own comfort and convenience the priority endangers everybody.

We are not alone in facing this challenge. In Sunday's gospel, Jesus assures us; **"Come to me, all you who are overburdened and I will give you rest"** (Matthew 11:28). The invitation is to realise that Jesus is present in each of us, empowering us to imitate His compassion. It is through our love, our sensitivity, our burden-sharing, our endurance that Jesus gives the support and the rest He has promised to each of us. He has no hands to do so, only yours and mine. We, his saints go marching on. Be of good heart.



Fr. Tom Clancy