

Ballineaspaig Parish Bulletin

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Bulletin 19/12/2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas 2021

In Peru they celebrated the New Year by lighting a fire in the centre of the street and laying on it all the unwanted items from their house. They were letting go of the past and embracing the future. It was a great sight with these fires up the centre of each street and the families would sit outside their doors with tables and chairs and celebrate the present and future. They would party into the morning and wish one another the blessing of a New Year. Some had a lot to let go from the past year - death or sickness or tragedies. They had enough to deal with for this New Year without the weight of the past.



I am thinking of them as we begin to celebrate this Christmas. What do I need to leave behind? What should I put on that fire? How can I start anew? The pandemic has brought us a lot of worry, heartbreak and sorrow. It also asked us to be grateful for the people who helped - the frontline workers, those who called to people, brought food and shopping. There were so many acts of kindness. As we wait in hope for the coming of Christ this Christmas, what do I need to leave behind and what would I like to embrace for the next year. We usually think of Advent as a time of waiting and I was very happy to read what Pope Francis said about this Advent: "God never tires of waiting for us. When we turn away, He comes to look for us; when we fall He picks us up: when we return to Him after losing our way, He waits for us with open arms. His love always gives us the courage to start anew". May you experience this love as you ponder and pray at the crib this Christmas.

On behalf of Fr. Tom and myself, we wish you and yours every Blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Fr. Bertie.

MASS TIMES

<u>Christmas Eve (24th)</u>	<u>Christmas Day (25th)</u>	<u>St.Stephen's Day (26th Sunday)</u>
9.30am	9.00am	9.00am
4.00pm	10.30am	10.30am
6.15pm	12.15pm	12.15pm
9.00pm		

As we would like as many as possible to join us for one of these Masses, we hope to keep the Church well ventilated and so it may be cold. We want to keep everybody safe. The Masses will be available on webcam for those unable to attend.

We will not have tickets, but will have to close when the Church is full. For those who wish to help as stewards, we will have a short meeting at 6.30pm on Monday 20th December.

Weekly Envelope Boxes - Reminder

If you have not collected your 2022 weekly envelope boxes, **please** collect same from the Sacristy before or after the daily and weekend Masses so that they can be used for the first week of January.
Many thanks.

