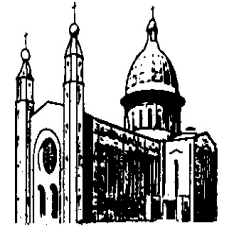


Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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Parish Web Site: www.dennehscrossparish.ie



Bulletin

18/12/2022

4th Sunday of
Advent

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil:

6.15pm

Sunday

9.00 and 11.00 am

Weekdays

9.30am

Holydays

9.30am & 7.00pm

CONTACT DETAILS

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PARISH BULLETIN

The Parish Bulletin is available **weekly** on the Parish Website: [_](#) or can be e-mailed by forwarding your e-mail address to the Parish Office.



IN THE SHADOWS

Every year the Nativity Scene in St Peter's Square in Rome is designed by different artists from different villages worldwide. The one in Christmas 2007 was unusual: set not in a stable in Bethlehem but in a courtyard of Joseph's workshop in Nazareth. The message was that Jesus is reborn every Christmas in the heart of everyone and that's why the Nativity scene can be set in different situations. It also brought into focus a figure who is in the shadows of this weekend's Gospel.



If Mary was bewildered and afraid of what is happening to her; think of her betrothed Joseph. He says not a word in the entire Gospels but becomes the man of dreams....'do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife...' the dream said. He takes public responsibility for Mary and the child and it is through him that he is named Jesus and 'son of David' because Joseph is in the direct line of David. And so begins the silent man's own journey of fatherhood in a barn....then fleeing into exile, following another dream....and at last, home to Nazareth where the 'hidden years' of Jesus would be spent. We are told Jesus 'grew in wisdom and insight' there. Like Mary, Joseph placed himself at the service of the entire plan of salvation. His personality and craft disappears into the public life of his foster child. There is not a single reference made to him by Jesus, or no image of carpentry in any of the parables or stories.

Last year, 2021, Pope Francis declared the Year of St Joseph, PATRIS CORDE, meaning 'with a father's heart'. He said that he was the ideal saint to invoke during the pandemic; that he reminds us of the ones who go unnoticed, a support and guide in times of trouble. He noted that those who remain hidden or in the shadows may find themselves at the forefront in a crisis and may be greatly needed. And so it was. Hidden heroes came from nowhere to do extraordinary things. St Joseph himself was once described as man who did the ordinary things in life in an extraordinary way. Perhaps at last he has found his 'voice'.

Fr. Donal



WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES:

The 2023 weekly collection envelopes are now available for collection from the Sacristy before and after all the daily Masses and weekend Masses. **Please** collect your box, as soon as possible, so that they can be used for the first weekend in January, 2023. Many thanks.

PARISH NOTICES

Altar Servers

We welcome our newest altar servers who begin this coming Christmas weekend. God bless them and their families!

Christmas Collection

The Collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is one of only two church collections taken up for the priest income in the year, the other being Easter. All the other collections are for the maintenance of the parish. We thank you in advance!

Reconciliation Service

Do not forget this Sunday evening's opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance. We will have a number of neighbouring priests helping us at 5.00pm.