

# Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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## MASS TIMES

### Saturday Vigil:

6.15pm

### Sunday

9.00 and 11.00 am

### Weekdays

9.30am

### Holydays

9.30am & 7.00pm

Bulletin 8th January, 2023 - The Baptism of the Lord

## Happy Days

Just this weekend I attended the wake of a young man who has a tenuous connection with this Sunday's Gospel. We were doing a production of GODSPELL in Farranferris where I was teaching, all those years ago. It is the Gospel of St Matthew set to 1960s music in New York, great fun. We needed a drummer; Alan was a Mon boy but best friends with Eoin from our school who was playing John the Baptist. And so he stepped in for the stirring opening music of Prepare ye the Way of the Lord....the very Gospel we proclaimed today. "I proclaim a baptism of repentance, but there's One coming after me, greater than I, who will baptise you with Spirit....and with Fire!" The role of Jesus was played by Brian, a local lad here from Curraheen. Alan's death brings it all back to me of happy days spent in different times and of a Gospel message brought alive by a whole group of new voices. Ordinary pupils with hidden talents but no claim to be actors were suddenly bringing the greatest story ever told alive on stage. And they were the story themselves! They were the Gospel. The main costumes were white tee shirts 'tie dyed' at home by the students' families. The story of GODSPELL was of people in everyday life being brought into the magic of the moment. In our case it was of people we knew sitting in class, playing hurling or messing around being John the Baptist, Jesus or any of the followers.....part of the Good News. We did not look at the story behind it, we simply took it as it was.

The baptism of Jesus marks the end of his hidden life in Nazareth and the beginning of a public life that was extraordinary both in its progress and its conclusion. No wonder the heavens opened! Everything about this story was full of energy and life and hope. The Jesus figure was so gentle and aware of our vulnerability that 'he would not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame'. The beginning of this new ministry brings the long period of waiting to an end. John was very important to the story, he was 'more famous than Jesus', but everything he said was about him. John 'cared' about what he said and what he believed; John meant an awful lot to Jesus; 'of all the people born of woman, a greater than John has never been seen. Without John, we would not have any idea of the excitement or drama that would later unfold.

I am just wondering as I bid farewell to Alan this weekend, what drama is now unfolding for him, from that faraway role he played in the stage gospel all those years ago; may his good deeds go with him....and with all of us when we leave this world.

Fr. Donal



## CONTACT DETAILS

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Deacon :

Rev. Frank McKeivitt

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Emergency Number:  
087-251 9940

## Offertory collection:

1/1/2023

€2092

Shrines (including  
Crib)

€600

## 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.

## PARISH NOTICES

### Pastoral Council:

The monthly meeting will take place on Monday, 9th January, 2023 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

### Liturgy Group:

The monthly meeting will take place on Tuesday, 10th January, 2023 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

### Diocesan Needs:

The quarterly collection for Diocesan Needs will be taken up at all Masses **next weekend**, 14th/15th January, 2023.

