

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin



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Bulletin 30th April,
2023
4th Sunday Easter

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil
6.15pm

Sunday
9.00 and 11.00 am

Weekdays: Mon-Fri
9.30am

Saturdays: 10 am

Holydays
As announced.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Emergency Number:
087-251 9940

Collections:
22nd/23rd April

Shrines:
€365

Offertory:
€2146

Diocesan Needs:
€1255

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.



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Safe Pastures

On your journeys down through West Cork, you might have travelled the Cousane Way (sometimes called the Bantry Line). It's a spectacular, but windy road. There are very few houses in that valley, but there are plenty of sheep. They are in the hills and in between, they are following the little rivers, and they even wander onto the road. You can well imagine them getting lost, or getting in your way. They have poor hearing, apparently, no great sense of direction, and their vision is just in front...you never see them looking around. They seem to have little interest in what is going on around them. But they seem harmless enough, no great sense of danger in their presence, even when they are in large numbers. These are the creatures we are being compared to by Jesus, not just this weekend, but many other times.

Crowds who are fed but still unsatisfied are 'like sheep without a shepherd.....so He sets about teaching them at great length'. In the Second Reading, St. Peter takes up the theme 'you had gone astray like sheep.....Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd but this weekend He calls himself the gate to the sheepfold into which the sheep may safely graze in green pastures. The only other time He refers to something similar is when He says..' I am the way...Interestingly He says this to two different people, both of whom are slightly sceptical, Martha of Bethany and Thomas the Apostle. It's not an easy image to work with, a Shepherd is a person....but a gate or a way needs some thinking about. He is not a gatekeeper, He is the gate, the way in....the sheep pass through the gate after hearing a familiar voice calling them...not the thief, the brigand or the stranger.

Perhaps the key to it all ,therefore, is the voice, a voice that addresses who we are and where we are, without pretence or deceit. When He said those words to Martha and Thomas He was talking to us , for He was addressing their deepest need, each of them for reassurance. And when that voice spoke, they both felt... fully answered....even if they still did not fully understand.....step by step...

Until next week !

Fr Donal



First Holy Communion

Next Saturday, **6th May, 2023, at 11.00am** the girls from St. Catherine's Primary School will receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. We wish them God's blessing on this very special day.

PLEASE NOTE NO 10.00AM MASS THAT DAY.



PARISH NOTICES

First Friday:

Next Friday, 5th May, is the first Friday of the month. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 9.30am Mass until 11.00am.

Irish Catholic Paper:

Please note that due to increased publication costs the price of the Irish Catholic will increase to €3 from 1st May. There is a new section in the publication entitled "Your Faith" which many readers find very interesting. Give it a read !!!

Mass Intentions for week commencing 29th April to the 6th May, 2023

Saturday, 29th April	-	6.15pm	-	Niamh Cronin (anniv)
Sunday, 30th April	-	9.00am	-	Maria Hanafin (months mind)
	-	11.00am	-	Patrick & Linda Sweeney (anniv)
Monday, 1st May	-	9.30am	-	David Doyle (anniv)
Tuesday 2nd May	-	9.30am	-	Ann Cuppage (living intention)
Wednesday, 3rd May	-	9.30am	-	Fr. Finbarr Buckley (anniv)
Thursday, 4th May	-	9.30am	-	James Higgins (1st anniv)
Friday, 5th May	-	9.30am	-	Daniel Hayes (anniv)
Saturday, 6th May	-	11.00am	-	First Holy Communion Mass