

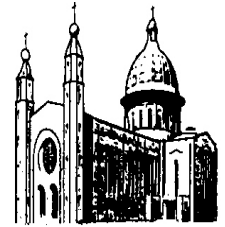
## Ballineaspaig Parish Bulletin

Parish Office: (021) 4344452

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Parish APP: link <https://app.dennehyscrossparish.ie>



**Bulletin 31st  
December, 2023  
The Holy Family**

### 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

#### Fr. Donal Cotter

(021) 4347815

#### Fr. Tom Clancy

(021) 4347616

#### Parish Office

(021) 4344452

#### Emergency Number:

**087-251 9940**

### Collections:

**23rd/24th**

**December**

**Offertory:**

**€1962**

**Shrines:**

**€935**

### 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.



## Early Days

We are at the dawn of a new year. The past week has been quiet enough, although St Stephen's Day was always a lively time with Singing the Wren and lots of sports. But the buying and selling, the eating at the restaurants, the traffic, they all go quiet for a while. In the life of the Church, the celebration is only beginning. This week alone we remembered the first Christian martyr, Stephen; the apostle and writer of the Fourth Gospel, John; the Holy Innocents, murdered children; St Thomas a Beckett, martyred at Canterbury. All of these have an enormous story to tell and are a huge witness: through their lives they each bring to light different aspects to this holy season. Then, this weekend, we celebrate a most unusual family, of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They could not be more different than the ones we know: the child is a human being and the Son of God, immaculately conceived in Mary's womb and thus Joseph is not his natural father. Somehow all three must work out their family life together. We will know very little of these 'hidden years' in Jesus, just little snatches of stories along the way.

It is early days for these three together, helping this child to grow 'in wisdom and insight'. Think of it, most of his years will be spent in the quietness and ordinary family living, only a few short years will mark his public life. The remains of their home and of Joseph's workshop are still in Galilee, in northern Israel, not too far from Tiberias which is at the edge of the Lake. They would have attended synagogue on the Sabbath, the same synagogue that rejected Jesus on his first time preaching there. They would not listen to him because 'nothing good could come out of Nazareth'. We have no real idea if Jesus learnt anything of carpentry or about building from his foster father, Joseph. The same Joseph never speaks in the gospel. We believe that Jesus studied to be a rabbi and his followers always called him that. Later on, he will almost ignore his family as he grows away from them and they rarely appear in his public life. But what is clear above all else is that he had to have learned all about human love from Mary and Joseph. Everything in his words begins with love. There can be no doubt that their mutual love and support for each other gave the child Jesus the security and freedom which will enable him to become himself. That love from their home carried him a long way when he began using the message of love for himself. In those early days and years, we can only imagine how deep that love became rooted in him.

The new year will celebrate, Mary, Mother of God, the young woman who with her husband gave love and nurturing to a child who would bring the world to a new reality. It all began, as indeed it does for us, with those early days. We pray for all the early days of the young in our parish. May they also grow in wisdom and in insight. Until next year,



Fr. Donal

### PARISH NOTICES:

#### **Feast of the Epiphany: - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIMES:**

Mass times: Friday, 5th January (Eve of Epiphany) - 6.15pm

Saturday, 6th January (Epiphany) - 10.00am

#### **Weekly Collection Envelopes 2024:**

There are still a lot of boxes in the Sacristy to be collected! **Please collect your box**, as soon as possible, so that they can be used for the first weekend in January 2024.

#### **Mass Intentions for Week 30th December, 2023 to the 6th January, 2024**

Saturday, 30th December	- 6.15pm	- (1) Paddy Langford (2) Chris Hayes
Sunday, 31st December	- 9.00am	- Pat O'Sullivan
	- 11.00am	- (1) Donal McCarthy (2) John O'Connor
Monday, 1st January	- 9.30am	- Michael, PadJoe, Nora & Michael Murphy
Tuesday, 2nd January	- 9.30am	- John, Mary, Moss & Bridie Lyons
Wednesday, 3rd January	- 9.30am	- Matt and Maeve Murphy
Friday, 5th January	- 9.30am	- Rory Doyle
	- 6.15pm	- Dermot Murphy