

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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**Bulletin 7th
January, 2024
The Baptism of
the Lord**

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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Parish Office
(021) 4344452

Emergency Number:
087-251 9940

Collections:

30th/31st

December

Offertory:

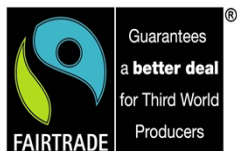
€1986

Shrines:

€360

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.



Two Journeys

This weekend is marked by two journeys as we draw the Christmas season to a close. The first, from Matthew's gospel, is by the three figures called the Magi, astrologers, wise men who are following the star. They are given names but no one exactly knows who they are. But one thing is certain; they know something the locals do not know, that this baby that shepherds spread news about, is the king of the Jews. This is what frightens Herod, the known king at the time, a kind of puppet or false figurehead. These three men have made a huge sacrifice. TS Eliot in his poem Journey of the Magi begins with these words:

*A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year for a journey,
And what a journey....*

But they persisted. Was it curiosity? What drove them? Whatever it was they made endless sacrifices, asked Herod for advice, but a dream kept them on the right path to where the star came to rest. Their story adds to the mystery, we never hear from them again. Was the journey worth it? The Eliot poem says

"it was, you may say, satisfactory".

The second journey was made by Jesus from Galilee, a three day journey to Judaea where this man John, known as the Baptizer, was bathing people in the Jordan river....and Jesus joined the queue. No one knew who he was, John was the famous one. John does point him out, but it is early days. There was nothing yet to let people know that Jesus was the One...many people thought it was John.

The two journeys are parallel, years apart...the Birth and the Baptism. One marks the beginning of life, the other marks the beginning of ministry. Nowadays the distance in time between birth and baptism is much shorter. But they really are two separate journeys and we probably should have better means of preparing people for that second journey, accompany them on a journey of faith so that it can be a true Epiphany, or Discovery that led the three Wise Ones to make their sacrifice or that led the Chosen One, Jesus to join the queue at the Jordan river all those years ago.



Fr. Donal

PARISH NOTICES:

Diocesan Needs:

The first of the quarterly collections for Diocesan Needs will be taken up at all Masses next weekend, 13th/14th January, 2024.

Alpha Training Day - 27th January

The office for Mission & Ministry are hosting an Alpha training day for Parishes/Family of Parishes at Blackrock Parish Centre on Saturday, 27th January, 2024 from 10.00am to 3.30pm. Please contact the Office for Mission & Ministry to book in as soon as possible through the Diocesan website: <https://corkandross.org/alpha-training-day>

Mass Intentions for Week 6th January, 2024 to the 13th January, 2024

Saturday, 6th January	- 6.15pm - (1) Noreen Sheehan (2) Mary Ann McCarthy (3) Agnes Walsh
Sunday, 7th January	- 11.00am - (1) Denis Dennehy, (2) Phil, Bill & Ted Moriarty
Monday, 8th January	- 9.30am - Clement & Annie O'Regan
Tuesday, 9th January	- 9.30am - Cecilia Kehoe
Thursday, 11th January	- 9.30am - Bridie Stritch
Friday, 12th January	- 9.30am - Jim Corbett