

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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Parish APP: Dennehy's Cross Church — Google and Apple.

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CONTACT DETAILS:

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Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil: 6.15pm : **Sunday:** 9.00am & 11.00am **Weekdays:** Mon- Fri. 9.30

Saturdays: 10.00am **Holydays:** As Announced

Bulletin 27th July, 2025

17th Sunday Ordinary Time

20th July, 2025

Offertory: €1416 Shrines: €450

Diocesan Needs: €965

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK - 26th July to the 2nd August, 2025

Saturday, 26th July - 6.15pm - (1) Finbarr Barry
(2) Elizabeth Moloney

Sunday, 27th July - 11.00am - (1) Michael Lombard
(2) Special Intention
(3) John & Mary Burton

Friday, 1st August - 9.30am - Cornelius & Ellen O'Callaghan

REMINDER:

From Saturday, 26th July, 2025, there will no longer be a 10.00am Mass on Saturday mornings.

Vigil Mass as usual at 6.15pm.

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.

Check out our APP and Facebook page (above) for more info about this weeks readings.

The Bargain

There is an Irish Short Story I remember reading with the title 'Deeply Regretted By'; I don't remember the author's name. It's about a middle aged man living with his elderly parents on a small farm. It is not a happy place; the son is very bitter over his aimless life in a small holding still firmly in the hands of the old couple. They hardly talk, but when they do, the one topic is death notices in the daily paper: they were very important before RIP.ie; and for them it was a status symbol: not every death used be published, maybe because of cost. In a bitter moment, the son said to them 'I'll make a bargain! If the two of ye die on the one day, I will put the death notice in the paper' . Days came and went and the house became silent. And then, the final lines; 'deeply regretted by', the bitter bargain was kept.

Not all bargains are bitter. In the first Reading from Genesis we see Abraham bargaining with God over the number of just people needed to save two cities from destruction. It's almost comical the way the numbers keep going down and down, like an auction, with God as the patient auctioneer, and God agrees on the final bargain. Jump forward to the Gospel which is about prayer and then we see the connection.

How often is our prayer about bargaining? We might promise God something if.....he hears our prayer. There is nothing at all wrong with that.....it shows that there is a relationship there and if we are occasionally stubborn and persistent, all the better. Many of us are not naturally stubborn like that, but, occasionally at least, we might like to be. Like Abraham, we might be listened to more often, if, like him, our persistence is gentle and respectful. The one opposing thought is there may be a danger of fitting God into our own plans, rather than submitting to His grace, which is a free gift.

'I will not bargain or huxter with God!', so said the poet George Herbert. His faith lay in submitting to the will of God, denying all his own desires. But when Jesus gave us his prayer, we see a lifting up of the heart in the first part and a release of requests in the second. We must always ask, don't be afraid to put what we need into words, don't give up, stay firm that you will be heard. In the history of our salvation prayers have always been answered, sometimes much later and differently. A little bargaining, gentle and respectful, is no harm at all.



Fr. Donal