

## Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

Parish Office: (021) 4344452

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

Parish Facebook Page: Dennehy's Cross Cork

### CONTACT DETAILS:

Fr. Donal Cotter: (021) 4347815

Fr. Tom Clancy: (Retired - In residence)

Parish Office: (021) 4344452

Emergency No: (087) 2519940

### Mass Times:

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

**Holydays: As Announced**

**Bulletin 14th December, 2025**

**7th Dec. Collection: €1971**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Shrines: €390 Holy Day: €550**

### Mass Intentions : 13th December, to the 20th December 2025

Saturday, 13th Dec. - 6.15pm - (1)Tony & Sean Herrick, (2) Siobhan, Matt & Joan Dunne, (3) Peggy Scriven

Sunday, 14th Dec. - 9.00am - Jean Keating

11.00am - (1)Nora & John Healy, (2)Bridget Bradley,  
(3)Raymond O'Mahony

Monday, 15th Dec. - 9.30am - Mary Kenneally

Tuesday, 16th Dec. - 9.30am - Mick Costelloe

Wednesday, 17th Dec. - 9.30am - Sheila Barry

Thurs. 18th Dec. - 9.30am - Michael Clifford

Fri. 19th Dec. - 9.30am - John & Kathleen Ruddy.

### PARISH NOTICES:

**Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection:** At all Masses **this weekend.**

**Reconciliation Service:** Next Sunday, 21st December at 5.00pm.

**Sacred Heart Church, Western Road, Cork:** We are looking for a part-time Sacristan. Hours are negotiable. For more details contact Fr. John Fitzgerald on (086) 8626007. Training will be provided.

**#Have Your Say about your Catholic School:** for attention of Parents of children attending Primary Schools or have yet to start: The Department of Education is currently conducting a Primary School Survey In simple, direct terms, you are being asked if you want your school to stay a Catholic school or if you want that to change. Don't leave it to others, have your say before 16th Dec. 2025. See — gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey

**Weekly Envelopes:** Many thanks to all our parishioners who use the weekly numbered envelopes for the church collections. The new sets for 2026 are **now ready to be collected from the Sacristy at Mass times.** Please collect your box as soon as possible so that they can be used for the first week in January, 2026. If you no longer wish to partake in this system, **please advise the Parish office,** as you will appreciate there is a very big cost involved in printing these weekly boxes. Your attention to this would be appreciated.

### It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

For a country that does not often use the name of Christmas to describe the coming season, it seems to have wonderful festive songs that stay in people's memories. The United States of America has often called the season 'the holidays', possibly because it also coincides with the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. Yet it does not lose any of its meaning; after all, strictly speaking, holidays come from 'holy days', which signal rest, like the Sabbath. The opposite is beginning to take place here: our Christmas seems to be more like a winter festival, where the child Jesus is lost in Christmas trees, tinsel and lights. Trees have really nothing to do with Christmas at all; except maybe to signify evergreens of winter. Yet we set them up as a centre piece and gaze at them in wonder. But the real wonder is in a child, a human being fulfilling a promise, not an ornament that we bring out each year and light up. There is a certain excitement about the whole preparation of decorations but we should not forget it sort of misses the point.

The whole purpose of Christmas is to reflect on a story, a story of a blessed moment in time that was unsurpassable; where heaven and earth met, where years of waiting were rewarded by the birth of a child 'a child called Emmanuel, God with us'. This is the centre piece, this is the moment, this is the light. And this weekend the prophet tells us it is a joyful light, the light that brings happiness. So when a candle was lit against the window of your house, particularly in times past, that child and his parents would be welcome in your house, precisely because that is why he came: to be a guest in your house and in your life. By all means light your trees and hang your tinsel but do not crowd out the child Jesus; bring out your crib, not as an ornament but as the Christmas story of your house and your life. Put it on your window and light it, put it in your hallway, put it into your heart. When that child's birth is in your heart, all the decorations will surround it. But if it's lost in empty merriment, and that merriment becomes an end in itself, what are we left with? We just repeat a yearly gesture and gather up the decorations again. You might wonder, why were they out at all.

In a world that has got very cold and forgotten the warmth of human understanding and patience, it is good that we reflect also on good works and good cheer that are shared with others. Because there is pressure to 'enjoy' Christmas, so much effort takes place particularly for food and drink and companionship. But not everyone gets to share, not everyone 'enjoys' it in that way. It may be that we can rest, remember, give thanks and raise a thought, a prayer, a remembrance in the human company we are in, or simply on our own.



Fr. Donal

**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.