

### **Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin**

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#### **CONTACT DETAILS:**

Fr. Donal Cotter: (021) 4347815

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#### **Mass Times:**

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

**Holydays:** As Announced

**Bulletin 21st December, 2025**

**14th Dec. Collection: €1956**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**Shrines: €435**

#### **Mass Intentions : 20th December, to the 27th December 2025**

Saturday, 20th Dec, - 6.15pm - (1) Mary Meade, (2) Denis Healy, (3) Donal King  
(4) Brian Keating (6) Daniel Walsh.

Sunday, 21st Dec. - 9.00am - (1) Des McCarthy (2) Kevin & Edmond Twomey  
11.00am - (1) Tony Canty (2) Ollie Moloney (3) The Holland Family

Monday, 22nd Dec - 9.30am - Des McCarthy

Tuesday, 23rd Dec. - 9.30am - In Thanksgiving

Wed. 24th Dec. - 9.30am - Jane Murray

**Thurs. 25th Dec - All Masses for People of the Parish**

Fri. 26th Dec. - **10.00am** - Mary Murray

#### **CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

The collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses is one of only two collections taken up for the Priest's income in the year, the other being at Easter. All other church collections are for the maintenance of the parish.

We thank you in advance for your generosity.

#### **PARISH NOTICES:**

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

**Christmas Mass Times:** Available on the Parish calendar for 2026 which is available at all doors in the Church and notices on the walls.

**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.

#### **The Quiet Man**

**Into** the Advent picture presented to us in the gospel of Matthew this weekend comes two people vital to the Christmas story: Mary and Joseph. They were 'betrothed', meaning not only that they were engaged, but their two families were united together for their future, and were 'promised' to each other in accordance with Jewish custom. In fact, if either one of them were to die before the official marriage occurred, the survivor was deemed to be widowed. It was in the midst of this betrothal that the mysterious and disturbing message came to Mary. What follows shows a wonderful understanding between the young couple.

**Joseph** was a public figure, of a direct line from King David, and going all the way back to Father Abraham. He has a dilemma; he wanted to do the right thing, but what was that? He must have loved Mary and wanted her as his wife, but he also wanted to keep the law requiring a letter of Dismissal or Divorce. But he was a just and righteous man and it appears clear that he was more concerned about Mary than he was about himself. He was willing to divorce her informally, to save her from possible disgrace. Then came the first of the dreams, *'do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife'*. So that's what he did, they named their child together and built up their life and their home, even if it remained a mystery to them both. Without their understanding of each other, it is hard to see how either could have survived the way they did in those hidden years.

**Joseph** says not a single word in all of the gospels, and Mary says very little. Their story and their life with this unique child is still largely unknown to us. Until the beginning of the ministry of Jesus which occurs soon after his baptism on the Jordan river by John, their home life is hidden.

**This** quiet, silent man was a father figure like no other, a foster father whose role was also superseded by the Heavenly Father. How he managed to convey family life and love, helped this child to speak, feel safe, grow in the Jewish faith together with Mary, mature as a young man; we can only imagine how great that challenge was. There are hints in the gospel that this was not easy. Nazareth was never mentioned once in the Old Testament, either in the prophecies or as a place for trade. It thus had no status. More than once, Jesus was generally dismissed because of where he lived, who his father was, and how they were known. They asked *'could anything good come out of Nazareth?'*. They looked down on his family: *'he came to his own people, and his own people would not accept him'*.

**The** quiet, silent man and his wife Mary prevailed; they remained true to each other and to the unique path in life they had to undertake, and to the unique child Saviour of Christmas.



Fr Donal

**Wishing all our Parishioners a Peaceful and Holy Christmas**

**Fr. Donal, Fr. Tom, Fr. Prasad, Fr. Dan and Parish Staff.**