

## 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 1st February, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time**  
**St. Brigid's Day (Bank Holiday)**

**25th Jan. Collection: €1956**  
**Shrines: €440**

**Bank Holiday (Monday) - Mass Time - 10.00am only**

**Feast of St. Blaise: Tuesday 3rd February**

Blessing of throats before and after the 9.30am Mass

**First Friday** - 6th February - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 9.30am Mass until 11.00am. Please come and support.

### Annual Collection Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund 2026

The annual collection will be taken up at all Masses **next weekend 7th/8th February 2026**. The Cork and Ross Diocesan Pilgrimage will take place from Friday 18th September to Wednesday 23rd September this year. People are encouraged to join the pilgrimage as helpers (male & female), nurses and doctors to assist the pilgrims. For further information see the Cork & Ross Diocesan website or by emailing to: lourdes@corkandross.org or phoning (085)2525040. Thanking you in advance for your generosity.



Fairtrade Fortnight has changed to a whole month event, known as **Fairbruary**. To celebrate **Fairbruary 2026**, you are invited for free Fairtrade refreshments in the Crypt after 11.00 Mass on **Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February**. All welcome!  
**Faith in Action Group**

### Mass Intentions : 31st January to the 7th February, 2026

**Sunday, 1st Feb** - 9.00am - Ollie Moloney

- 11.00am - (1) Eileen McIntosh (2) Denis Murphy

**Monday, 2nd Feb** - **Bank Holiday** - 10.00am - Margaret Byrne

**Wed. 4th Feb.** - 9.30am - Denis O'Donovan

**Thurs. 5th Feb.** - 9.30am - Mary McCarthy

**Fri. 6th Feb.** - 9.30am - John Foley

### Feast of St. Brigid (Matthew 5:1-12)

The first day of February is the Feast of St. Brigid, one of the three Patrons of Ireland, along with Saints Patrick and Columba. When the Feast falls on Sunday, the Mass Prayers are taken from the Feast of Brigid but the Readings are those of the Sunday. Since Brigid was known for hospitality, almsgiving, care of the sick, and compassion with all who were suffering, the text of the 8 Beatitudes is most appropriate.

Brigid lived 454-524, a time when Ireland was known as the Isle of Saints and Scholars. Barbarian tribes from Northern Europe had virtually crushed Christianity in Europe but the Irish missionaries restored the faith. Brigid did not travel with the missionaries but her reputation did. Her virtues were a model of life according to the Gospel.

Last Sunday the Gospel was about the mission of Jesus to restore the world to the kingdom of God. Today we start the Sermon on the Mount which summarizes the vision of Jesus for the world, beginning with the Beatitudes which may be regarded as a summary of the great Sermon. Ghandi's favourite reading was the Sermon on the Mount, especially the Beatitudes. He was deeply impressed by the life of Jesus Christ but not by the lives of Christians.

### Christian identity card

To quote Pope Francis: "Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are like a Christian identity card. So, if anyone asks: 'What must I do to be a good Christian?' the answer is clear. We must do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, we find a portrait of the Master, which we are called to reflect in our daily lives." Am I guided by the teaching of Jesus? Would my life impress Ghandi? If I was on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me?

True followers of Jesus do not worship material prosperity: they are humble and gentle. They mourn in repentance for past sins. They work for justice and peace. Because they are pure in heart they can see the presence of God. And they are courageous in the face of persecution. Notice that the Beatitudes are spoken of in the present tense but the consolations belong to the future. Sharing in the passion of Jesus is the entry door to sharing in his resurrection.  
"They shall see God."

**Fr. Sylvester O'Flynn is the writer of this message; he will shortly give a talk to our Ministers of the Word.**