

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 20th September 2026,
25th Sunday Ordinary time**

**13th September : Collection: €1771
Shrines: €375**

PARISH NOTICES

Priesthood Education: The annual collection will be taken up at all Masses **this** weekend - 19th/20th September.

Season of Creation 1st Sept—4th Oct.: Our annual Harvest Thanksgiving and Sharing Celebration will take place on **Sunday, 27th Sept.** Our Thanksgiving Mass will be at 11.00am, followed by the Harvest Sharing in the Crypt. Everyone is invited to **bring** something from their garden or kitchen or some locally grown produce and to **buy** something to take home. All proceeds of the Sharing will go to our sister parish in Turkwel, Kenya. **Faith in Action Group.**

Reminder re Photography Exhibition: - Closing date 28th September. Entry form and full details are available from creation.photographyexhibition@gmail.com

Cork Scripture Group: Four Monday nights (28th Sept, 5th, 12th & 19th October) on **"I, Paul....The Life and Letters of St. Paul"**. Presenters: Sean O'Sullivan, Marian Mortell, Phil Mortell. Saturday workshop (10th Oct) on **"Two contrasting prison letters: Philemon and Philippians"** facilitated by Sr. Mary T. Brien PBVM. Cost €50 for the entire course including workshop (€10 for those who wish to attend the workshop only). To book please **email** corkscrepturegroup@gmail.com

Youth Encounter: I have been chatting with a number of young people here in our church recently and they have indicated an interest in coming together for a meeting to share some of their faith. It is a very multicultural group and it might be a happy occasion for us to gather in the Parish Room on a Monday in October. No precise date yet but I hope to chat to a few more soon. More next week. **Fr. Donal**

Mass Intentions the 19th September, 2026 to the 26th September, 2026

Saturday, 19th September - 6.15pm - Seamus Murphy

Sunday, 20th September - 9.00am - Brian Bermingham

11.00am - Deirdre Fox

Wednesday 23rd September - Fr. Jack O'Shea

Dennehy's Cross Active Retirement Group: Returning **Thurs. 24th Sept**, from 10am to 12 noon in the Crypt with a visit from Gaelscoil Ui Riada's School Band. All welcome for a cuppa & chat.

The late arrivals

In Irish tradition the youngest child, particularly the youngest son, of a large family had to emigrate. Any land or prospects that there was, was likely to go to the first born. Even in wealthier, particularly landowning society, the same could be said. As the novels of Jane Austen will show, the youngest sons were destined for a 'career' in the Church, of all things, because their prospects were so poor. But at the heart of the stories we encounter in both the Old and New Testament there is the wisdom of reversal; the youngest son, the last to arrive and the most unlikely winner of anything, marries the princess and inherits the kingdom. Something is seen in them that others do not see, we just need to look no further than the call of the unlikely youngest, David, from the fields to the anointing as the first king. Generally, children love these type of stories, and Jesus had an instinct with regard to the ability of children to show adults the way to a greater wisdom. In a world that rewards people for their efforts and results, that acknowledges public success by wealth and influence, these stories turn that value upside down and threatens the status quo. Instead of being paid a certain way, there is a mysterious generosity from someone else.

The life of Jesus in this world and the companions he draws to him, is full of latecomers. Some of them are the sick, the possessed, the failures, the outcast, the prodigal. Jesus met them all, he saw the people waiting in the street corners waiting for someone to offer them work; some of them late in the evening with no hope. I often tell the story of seeing such people myself waiting at the street corner of Villa and North Fair Oaks in Pasadena of migrant workers, a taco stand nearby, for construction day jobs or further away in the fruit groves. Many of these were made famous by a man called Cesar Chavez who campaigned for fairer conditions and safer health when crops were being sprayed from small planes with weed killer. These were also known by Jesus, these were the latecomers, not just for a day's work but for life itself. That was why the owner of the vineyard becomes the generous one. And he does so by drawing out the story, the third hour, sixth hour, ninth hour, to emphasize all the more the new wisdom of the late arrival being of equal merit.

Sadly the migrant workers at the street corner I used to know are no more, too frightened now to appear, in case they are picked up, not for work but for deportation. I hope the mysterious generosity of God will look after them, through other people.

My next message will be from Lourdes.

Fr. Donal

