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Newsletter available on www.baltinglassparish.ie
Diocesan website: www.kandle.ie

BALTINGLASS - BIGSTONE - GRANGECON - STRATFORD

PARISH NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS

25th December 2021



God is With Us



MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

WEEKDAYS: Tues. 28th—Fri. 31st	10am	Baltinglass
NEW YEARS DAY: Sat. 1st Jan	11am	Baltinglass
WEEKEND 1ST/2ND JAN:	6pm (Sat)	11am(Sun) Baltinglass 9.30am (Sun) Stratford
Tues 4th	10am	Baltinglass
Wed. 5th	No 10am Mass	
FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY 6TH JAN		
Wed. 5th	7.30pm	Baltinglass
Thurs 6th	11am	Baltinglass
Fri. 7th	10am	Baltinglass

SUNDAY MASSES

	GRANGECON	STRATFORD
January:	9/23	2/16/30
February:	6/20	13/27
March:	6/20	13/27

PARISH OFFICE REOPENS

9.30am Tuesday 4th January

No Newsletter W/E 1st/2nd Jan.

PRAYER AT THE CRIB

Loving God,
as we look upon the crib we thank you for all who are part
of the Christmas story and part of our story, too.
As we look upon these animals, we thank you for the gift of
creation and the beauty of the world you have created.
We thank you for the shepherds and we remember that it
was they who were looked down on by society who
were the first to hear the good news of Christmas.

We thank you for Mary and for Joseph,
who trusted in you and did what you asked.
And finally, we thank you for the gift of Jesus, your Son,
who was born like us, lived like us, struggled like us,
and who has shown us how to be fully human.

Emmanuel, God with us, come to each of us and stay with us.
Protect us and guide us as a family.
Free us from any worry and let your love grow in our hearts
so that we may be Emmanuel, God with us, to one another
over these Christmas days and beyond. Amen.

*I pray that each of you will be blessed and enriched as
you look on the face of Jesus at Bethlehem and that
2022 will bring you abundant blessings. - Bishop*

*Wishing you every blessing for Christmas and
the New Year - Fr. Ger & Sr. Eileen*

TEARMANN COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

Greetings for a healthy, peaceful and Happy Christmas and New Year to all who supported us in any way during the past year.

Thanks to the groups, teachers and TY students from Scoil Chonglais, and all volunteers for their contribution to the work of the garden. Take care and stay safe!



Synod – what is it all about?

A 6 minute video, 'All you need to know – synod on synodality' can be viewed on www.kandle.ie/synod at the bottom of the page in the dropdown box 'synod resources'. Please take this Advent – Christmas time to pray for the synodal journey we are setting out on in the months ahead.

Bishop Nulty's Christmas Message



Christmas introduces us to strange places like Bethlehem. And into peculiar buildings like stables, sheds, outhouses. The prophet Micah pinpoints with precise accuracy "and you Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel". Scripture scholars remind us that Ephrathah is also called Bethlehem. Bethlehem means 'house of bread'. Pope Emeritus Benedict in his beautiful work 'The Infancy Narratives' reminds us that from the moment of his birth, Jesus belongs outside the realm of what is important and powerful in worldly terms. It is this unimportant and powerless child that proves to be the truly powerful one, the one on whom ultimately everything depends.

We forget that too easily. The very birth of Christ helps to realign our values, our priorities, our concerns. Maybe the Covid pandemic has also helped us somewhat to readjust our lives, living in a huge time of uncertainty. The pandemic has robbed us of loved ones whom we have lost in death; it has robbed us of the usual gatherings and encounters that are so life giving and it has robbed us of normality, of having some sense of control on what's happening around us. We are living indeed in times of profound change and uncertainty. And this change and uncertainty were also part of the world that Christ was born into 2,000 years ago.

Today it's into this uncertainty that God comes to us and is born in our stables, sheds and outhouses. But we must make room for him and not lose sight of what Christmas is really about. The pandemic has made us experts at using apps like Facetime, let's take time to look on the face of Christ. In that face we see a reflection of ourselves, our world, our insecurities, our uncertainties. Christmas is not about sending cards, receiving presents, visiting friends and yes we will nonetheless do all three; essentially Christmas is about looking on the face of Christ, and allowing that face to profoundly change us. Let us go to be nourished in the 'house of bread', in Bethlehem.

BALTINGLASS GAA LOTTO

Last Week's Winning Numbers
No Jackpot Winner
03, 06, 09, 26

This Week's Jackpot €8,600

Match 3 Winners - Share €300
Ella Brielle Cara Emily Nancy & Aoibh Fleming, Joan Sheerin, Helena Dowling, Con Murphy, Elizabeth Gavin, Patricia Doody, Lill Kelly, Joan Hallahan

STRATFORD/GRANGECON GAA LOTTO

Last Week's Winning Numbers
07, 10, 23, 27
No Jackpot Winner
This week's jackpot: €4,750

2 Match 3 Winners €125 each
Fiona Cullen & Frances H O'Neill
Sellers Prize: Maurice Mangan
Extra Cash Prizes
Margaret Metcalfe, Kellyann Bollard, Emily & Tadhg

WE REMEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE - BALTINGLASS: 7PM

Willie Swaine, Hughestown
Mary Burke, Rathmoon
Brian Brennan, Mill Street
Deceased members of the Byrne Family,
Chapel Hill & Mark Dalton
Billy Walshe, Woodfield
Mary, Edward & Rose Connors, Shroughaun
Thomas, Lorcan & Matt O'Brien, Carrigeen & deceased members of the O'Brien Family,
Carrigeen & Irongrange
Michael & Mary Nolan, Bawnogues
Deceased members of the Lally, Nolan & Claffey Family, Main St., Baltinglass
James Gahan, Carrigeen Hill
Michael & Eddie O'Toole, Tankardstown
Billy O'Toole, Main Street
Johnny & Sheila Farrell & deceased members of the Farrell Family, Yellow Ford
Michael O'Neill, The Wood, Glencannon & deceased members of the Kearney Family,
Tinoran
Josephine & Daniel McDonnell, Parkmore
Pat Burke, Belan Street & Ratheniska & deceased members of the Burke Family

STRATFORD: 9PM

Noel Brady, Manger & deceased members of the Brady Family
Michael Moore, Main Street & deceased members of the Moore family
Jack Barrett, Winetavern
Jimmy Moore, Randalstown
James Moore, Manger
John Barrett, Manger
Kevin Moore, Main Street
James & Sarah Barrett, Winetavern
Paddy & Rovert Barrett, Winetavern
Anna Whittle, Rathbran
Charl Kelly, Stratford

Rest in Peace

CHRISTMAS DAY: 9.30AM & 11AM BALTINGLASS

John & Brigid Hunt, Belan Street
Jimmy & Lizzy Nolan, The Wood & their sons and daughters
Pam Nolan, The Wood
Gerr & Ann O'Reilly, Kildangan
John & Kathleen Toner, Letterkenny
Bill & Margaret Whelan, Winetavern
Brigid Byrne, Winetavern
Ann Hogan, Lisdoonvarna
Johnny Furlong, Woodfield & London
Freda Keogh, Parkmore
George Hyland, Rathmoon & deceased members of the Phelan Family, Rathmoon
Monica Mullen, Whiterock & Bawnogues
Mark A Heffernan, Eadestown
Maurice Byrne, Glencannon

SUNDAY 26TH DEC. 11AM: BALTINGLASS ANNIVERSARIES

P.J. Kavanagh, Bawnogues
Paddy Cullen, Deerpark
Annie Burke, Woodfield
John Connolly & his daughter Margaret & deceased members of the Connolly Family,
Carrigeen
William Bradley, Edward Street

JANUARY 1ST & 2ND: BALTINGLASS MONTHS MIND

John Kinsella, Tankardstown

ANNIVERSARIES

Paddy Harper, Parkmore
Aileen Walshe, Woodfield
Charles Shortt, Chapel Hill
Martha Shortt, Tuckmill
Mary McGeer, Knockrigg, Grangecon
Sr Gabrielle Thornton, Galway
Kathleen Curran, Galway
Tim Conneally, Galway
Liam O'Meara, Wexford
Jane, Michael, Margaret & John Clynch, Lathaleere