

## WE REMEMBER

### CHRISTMAS EVE /CHRISTMAS DAY BALTINGLASS

Mary Burke, Rathmoon  
Brian Brennan, Mill Street  
Billy Walsh, Woodfield  
John & Brigid Hunt, Belan Street  
Michael & Theresa Doherty, Carrigeen  
James Gahan, Carrigeen Hill  
Michael & Eddie O'Toole, Tankardstown  
Billy O'Toole, Main Street  
Willie Swaine, Hughestown  
Peter & Anna Fennell, The Pike  
Johnny Furlong, Woodfield & London  
Freda Keogh, Parkmore  
Ann & Ger O'Reilly, Kildangan  
Pam Nolan, The Wood  
Thomas, Lorcan & Matt O'Brien, Carrigeen  
Edward, Mary & Rose Connors, Shroughaun  
Michael & Mary Nolan, Bawnogues  
Josie & Jack Byrne, Main Street & their son Noel  
Murth & Elizabeth Byrne, Carrigeen  
Joe, Eithne & Peggy Byrne, Carrigeen  
Christina & Joseph Byrne, Aughrim  
Mary & Joseph Dillon, Aughrim  
Laurence & Sheila Murphy, Randalstown  
Richard & Julia Dalton, Woodfield  
Maurice Byrne, Glencannon  
John & Kathleen Toner, Letterkenny  
William & Margaret Whelan, Stratford  
Ann Hogan, Lisdoonvarna  
Jim & Rita O'Brien, Carrigeen  
Brigid Byrne, Winetavern  
Mark A. Heffernan, Eadestown  
The Hanly Family, Rathvilly  
Seamus O'Reilly, Woodfield  
Maura Lyndsey, Ballyduff Upper, Waterford  
William Coogan, Knockfield  
Michael O'Neill, The Wood, Glencannon

Johnny & Sheila Farrell, Yellow Ford &  
deceased members of the Farrell Family  
Monica Mullen, 7A Bawnogues & Whiterock &  
deceased members of the Mullen Family  
Pat Burke, Rathineska & Belan Street &  
deceased members of the Burke Family  
Richard & Emma O'Neill, Oldtown & deceased  
members of the O'Neill & Hoxey Families  
Nina McEntee (nee Hooper), Bawnogues & deceased  
members of the Hooper Family, Chapel Hill  
Larry & Hilda Cogan & all deceased  
members of the Cogan Family, Redwells  
Deceased members of the Lally & Nolan  
Families, Main Street  
P.J. O'Reilly, Woodfield & deceased  
members of the O'Reilly Family  
Anna O'Rourke, Maganey & deceased  
members of the O'Rourke Family  
All deceased members of the Byrne Family,  
Chapel Hill & Mark Dalton  
Jimmy & Lizzie Nolan, The Wood &  
their sons & daughters

### STRATFORD: 8PM

James & Sarah Barrett, Winetavern  
Robert & Paddy Barrett, Winetavern  
Chris Burke, Stratford  
Jimmy Moore, Randalstown  
James Moore, Manger  
John Barrett, Manger  
Tony Moore, England & Stratford  
Anna Whittle, Rathbran  
Jack Barrett, Winetavern  
Les Halstead, Ballinacrow  
Michael Moore, Main Street & deceased  
members of the Moore Family  
Charl Kelly, Stratford & deceased  
members of the Kelly Family  
Noel Brady, Manger & deceased  
members of the Brady Family  
Elizabeth & William Byrne, Ballyhook &  
deceased members of the Byrne Family

Rest in  
Peace

BALTINGLASS - BIGSTONE - GRANGECON - STRATFORD

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS DAY

25TH DECEMBER 2022



### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DENIS

*"You'll never guess what Santa brought, a train set"* the young boy tells his grandad early Christmas morning in the television advertisement. I think it's an ad for Barry's Tea, but it always gets my vote for the best and simplest Christmas message.

Christmas is a time for gift-giving. Children, like that little boy in the television ad., are attracted by the gifts; we all are. But we also need to be attracted to the crib, to the Christmas creche, where we will learn the message that God's greatest gift to us is His Son. Whatever we receive this Christmas, we will be very grateful for; but the gift that will last the longest is the knowledge and realisation that we are loved, cherished and held by God.

To understand Christmas we have to understand the language of God, the greatest gift-giver. We find the language of God as we look into the crib. The inn-keeper closed one door but left the stable door ajar, enough for Mary and Joseph to squeeze through, exhausted by the census journey. The empty manger has been filled. God's gift comes not in tinsel and glitter but *"wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger"* (Lk. 2:12). God speaks to us from that manger, in the simplest of languages; we are the ones who too often complicate that message.

Christmas brings out the best in all of us. It's a busy time, it's a hectic time, but we wouldn't want it any different. I am so impressed by how the commercialisation of Christmas is matched by the generosity in giving to those in need: the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with their outreach in every parish, the local food kitchens, the Ukrainian appeals, support for Trócaire as it enters its fiftieth year and the many other causes that command our attention these days. Christmas brings out the best in all of us. As much as is spent in gifts, a huge amount is generously donated to charities.

And every gift doesn't necessarily cost hard-earned money, such as the gift of generosity, so obvious in the great response to those charitable appeals. Christmas is a celebration centered on generosity, God generously sharing with us His Son. The gift of time, spending time with those close to us is a precious gift, enjoying one another's company. The gift of kindness, words used to heal rather than hurt.

Christmas doesn't have to be complicated. The message is simple, like the boy's train set. The message that God's greatest gift to us is His Son Jesus, and that's a gift that keeps on giving all year round.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be in your heart and every good wish and blessing for 2023.

*May the peace of Christ be  
yours this Christmas and  
throughout the New Year.  
Fr. Ger & Sr. Eileen*



Parish Team: Fr. Ger Ahern PP: 059 6482768. Sr. Eileen Deegan.

Parish Office: 059 64 81 254. Email: [admin@baltinglassparish.ie](mailto:admin@baltinglassparish.ie)

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Fiona Kavanagh, Anne Leigh, Martina Kennedy

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Kathleen Sherry 085 8021633



### MASSES

St. Joseph's Church  
Tues. - Fri. 10am  
Sat. 6pm / Sun. 11am

Available on Webcam  
& Radio 100.2fm



### WEEKLY ENVELOPES

Thanks to our 'Link People' who have distributed this year's boxes of envelopes. If you did not receive one & wish to have a box to make your contribution please contact the Parish Office.

*Thanks also to all who have contributed to the financial support of the parish by using their envelopes or by other means.*



### CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2022

'Thank You' to all who supported this year's appeal and contributed in any way to helping those in need this Christmas season. Your generosity is much appreciated.



Have you received gifts that you could pass on to others?

Have you over-stocked with non-perishable food items?

If so you can bring them to the Parish Centre on Wednesday 28th from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

They will be distributed by St. Vincent de Paul to local people and by Catherine Whelan to homeless people in Dublin.

*This initiative is being organised by Baltinglass Tidy Towns Committee.*



### NEWSLETTER

Articles for the Newsletter must be received by 12noon on Thursdays.

### PARISH OFFICE

Closed for Christmas

REOPENS: TUES 3RD JAN.

### SUNDAY MASSES

	GRANGECON	STRATFORD
Jan:	8/22	1/15/29
Feb:	5/19	12/26
March:	5/19	12/26



### PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

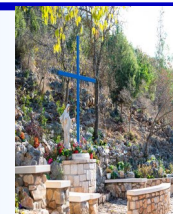
Wednesday 30th Aug. to 6th Sept. 2023

Dublin to Medjugorje return. Half Board. Cost: €795

€50 discount if €100 deposit paid by 31st January

For information contact: Parish Office 059 64 81 254,

Fr. Ger 087 629 8881, Andy Murphy 087 09 00 819



### STRATFORD/GRANGECON GAA LOTTO

Last Week's Winning Numbers

05, 11, 14, 21

No Jackpot Winner



1 Match 3 Winner: €250

Deirdre Flynn

Sellers Prize: Jason Barrett

3 Extra Prizes of €50

Seamus Keogh, Ciaran Walsh, John Eager

This week's Jackpot: €13,250

Next draw: Monday 9th January

*Thank you for your support in 2022.  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

### BALTINGLASS GAA LOTTO

Last Week's Winning Numbers

01, 07, 15, 25

No Jackpot Winner



3 Match 3 Winners - €100

Emma Colgan, Samantha Lennon, Josie Duffy

This week's Jackpot: €11,500

### VISIT BALTINGLASS PARISH WEBSITE

For Weekly Newsletter, Information, to make a donation etc.

[www.baltinglassparish.ie](http://www.baltinglassparish.ie)

### DANNY'S CORNER

All at the Lalor Centre wish everyone a very happy Christmas. Thank you for your support throughout the year.

We hope that 2023 brings you health, wealth and happiness

### AL HOMECARE

ALHomecare provides a safe and affordable alternative to nursing homes to those in need of care. For further information call Tom 087 7440729 or Eileen 087 9916791

### MESSAGE FROM AN GARDA SIOCHANA



An Garda Síochána wish to warn people of a doorstep fraud and theft offence which has become prevalent over the last number of weeks. Elderly People are being targeted at their homes by Criminals who are impersonating Gardaí. The offenders are fraudulently pretending to be plain clothes Gardaí who are checking for dud money. They have duped people all around the country and stolen their cash on the pretence of checking to see if it is genuine money. They are producing false identification to assist the process.

### ADVICE:

- An Garda Síochána will never ask people about their finances on the doorstep of their homes and will never ask to check money
- Always ask for Identification and do not be afraid to question it. If in doubt politely tell the caller that you want to verify their true identity. If necessary contact your local Garda Station who will be able to establish quickly if the caller is a member of An Garda Síochána.
- Report any such activity to your local Garda Station even if you have not been the victim of a theft. That report could save a neighbour or someone else close by.

Please check on elderly neighbours, family and friends and advise and reassure them.