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BALTINGLASS - BIGSTONE - GRANGECON - STRATFORD

PARISH NEWSLETTER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24TH DECEMBER 2023

RADIO MARIA IRELAND

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CHRISTMAS 2023

MASSES TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

6pm Baltinglass
 8pm Grangecon

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am Stratford
 11am Baltinglass



WEEKLY ENVELOPES

Thanks to our 'Link People' who have distributed this years boxes of envelopes. If you did not receive one and wish to have a box to make your contribution 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.

God is With Us

MASSES THIS WEEK

WEEKDAYS: Tues. 26th—Fri. 30th
 10am Baltinglass

WEEKEND: 6pm (Sat 30th) Baltinglass
 9.30am (Sun 31st) Stratford
 11am (Sun 31st) Baltinglass

NEW YEARS DAY 11am Baltinglass
 All in St. Joseph's Church (not Oratory)

SUNDAY MASSES

	GRANGECON	STRATFORD
Dec:		31
Jan:	7/21	14/28
Feb:	4/18	11/25

PARISH OFFICE

REOPENS
WED. 3RD JAN 9.30AM

RATHVILLY PARISH MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

6pm Rathvilly 8pm Talbotstown

CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Tynock 11.30am Rathvilly

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



There is something about a baby that captures all our attention. It's magnetic. Even the most stubborn heart softens in the presence of a new born baby. I saw it recently on a visit to bless a school extension, in the staff room later when their colleague on maternity leave, called in with her new bundle of joy, everyone just wanted to see the baby. The adult in us becomes the child again, cooing and making all sorts of funny faces! Babies make people smile and that's such a good thing.

Christmas is about smiling, it takes much less face muscles to smile than it does to frown. We adults complicate matters. In the words of Pope Francis "Jesus is God's smile ... when we look down at the nativity scene; when we look at Baby Jesus, we can feel God smiling at us". It all began in Bethlehem, in the simplicity of a stable. This is the essence of what we celebrate at Christmas. God becoming a baby. God stooping down to be like one of us.

We are all conscious of the turmoil in the world at present. War in Ukraine and absolute terror in Gaza and Israel, the Holy Land, the place of that Bethlehem stable. Sadly too many babies and children are caught up in conflicts.

My prayer and hope to all is that you will feel God smile on you this Christmas. Also that you might smile, as you thank God for those around you, family, friends and colleagues.

And next time you see a new born baby, remember that as you smile, God is smiling on you. We need to realise this, this year more than ever, in our war-weary and broken world. Into it a fragile baby is born, a baby whose smile has the capacity to soften the hardest of adult hearts.

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

+ Denis Nulty
 Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin.

*May the blessing of joy abide within you.
 May the blessing of peace rest upon you.
 May the blessing of love flow out through you.
 May all the blessings of the Lord be yours
 at Christmas and in the new year.
 Fr. Ger & Sr. Eileen*



MESSAGE FROM SR. EILEEN

I would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and all that is good in 2024. In the new year I will be cutting back on my work in the parish. Travelling from Tullow every day is getting more challenging for me. While you may not see me as much around the parish I will continue to maintain contact and be as involved as much as possible.

PRIEST'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Envelopes are available in your box to enable you to contribute to this collection during Christmas time. You may also do so by using your own envelope or making a payment on-line by using the facility on Baltinglass Parish website.

PIONEER ASSOCIATION 125th ANNIVERSARY



Pioneers around the world are invited to attend Mass next Wednesday 27th December and to prayerfully mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Association in 1898. Mass and prayers will be live-streamed on that day at 10am around the world via www.pioneerassociation.org



CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023

'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.

DANNY'S CORNER

We would like to thank everyone for all of their support throughout the year, it means so much to us. Hope everyone has a great Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. Danny and all in the Lalor Centre.

STRATFORD/GRANGECON GAA LOTTO



Winning Numbers

08, 15, 25, 27

No Jackpot Winner



2 Match 3 Winners - €100 each

Becky & Tom, Adrian Graham

Sellers Prize: Maurice Mangan

This week's Jackpot: €7000

Additional Prizes - €50 each

Danielle Byrne, Dinah Ryan,

Elizabeth Maguire,

BALTINGLASS GAA LOTTO



Winning Numbers

01, 13, 19, 29

No Jackpot Winner



3 Match 3 Winners - €100 each

Anna-Marie Sheerin,

Kevin Lord, Julia O'Neill

This week's Jackpot: €8,900.



*Thanks to everyone for their support of our bingo since resuming in October.
Next bingo will be on Monday 8th January.*

BIGSTONE NS CALENDARS AVAILABLE

€10 per calendar

Please call or text 085 2120952

Email - office@bigstonens.ie

Thank you for your support.

RAMPERE RECYCLING CENTRE

CLOSED: 24th to 28th Dec. inclusive

OPEN: Sat 23rd, Fri 29th & Sat 30th Dec
8.30am to 1pm.

Normal hours resume Tuesday 2nd January

WE REMEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE - BALTINGLASS

Brian Brennan, Mill Street

Billy Walshe, Woodfield

John & Bridget Hunt, Belan Street

Deceased members of the Byrne Family, Chapel Hill & Mark Dalton

Ann Curran, Allendale

Lorcan, Paddy & Fintan Cogan, Kilmurry

Michael O'Neill, The Wood & Glencannon

Monica Mullen, Bawnogues & the Mullen Family, White Rock

Jim & Rita O'Brien, Carrigeen

James Gahan, Carrigeen Hill

Michael & Edward O'Toole, Tankardstown

Billy O'Toole, Main Street

Willie Swaine, Hughestown

Michael & Mary Nolan, Bawnogues

Seamus O'Reilly & deceased members of the O'Reilly Family, Woodfield

Anna O'Rourke & deceased members of the O'Rourke Family, Castleroe, Maganey

The Cashin Family, Ballyduff Upper, Waterford

Edward, Mary & Rose Connors, Shroughaun

John Connolly & his daughter Margaret, Carrigeen

Johnny & Sheila Farrell & his family members

Brigid, Ciss, Julia, Josie, Patrick, Myles, Peter,

William & Jim, Yellow Ford

Paul O'Brien, Edward Street

Mary & Martin Burke, Rathmoon

Pat Burke, Ratheneska & Belan Street & deceased

members of the Burke Family

Daniel & Josephine McDonnell, Parkmore

GRANGECON

Mary Grant & her son Johnny, Knoxter's Hill,

Colbinstown

Jim & Sheila Norton, Breda Clancy, Knockrigger

CHRISTMAS DAY - BALTINGLASS

Jim & Lizzie Nolan, The Wood & their sons & daughters

Pam Nolan, The Wood

Ger & Anne O'Reilly, Kildangan

Laurence & Sheila Murphy, Randalstown

Margaret Dalton, Woodfield

Richard & Emma O'Neill, Oldtown & all deceased members of the O'Neill & Hoxey Families

John, Christina, Gerard & Mary Lally & deceased members of the Nolan Family, Main Street

Larry & Hilda Cogan & deceased members of the Cogan Family, Redwells

John & Kathleen Toner, Letterkenny

Bill & Margaret Whelan, Winetavern

Billy Whelan, Liverpool

Ann Hogan, Lisdoonvarna

Esther Kennedy, Tullaroan

Thomas, Lorcan & Matt O'Brien, Carrigeen

Maurice Byrne, Glencannon

STRATFORD

Noel Brady, Manger & deceased members of the Brady Family

Jimmy Moore, Randalstown & his son James Moore, Manger

Jack Barrett, Winetavern & his son John Barrett, Manger

James & Sarah Barrett, Winetavern

Paddy, Mary & Robert Barrett, Winetavern

Terry & Nan Allison & deceased members of their families

WE REMEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES (23RD/24TH DEC.)

Patrick & Elizabeth Donegan, Mountneill, Rathvilly

& deceased members of the Donegan Family

Johnny Furlong, Woodfield & London

Jim & Nina McEntee, Bawnogues

Mark A. Heffernan, Eadestown

Peter & Anna Fennell, The Pike

Rest in
Peace