

Parish Team: Fr. Ger Ahern PP: 059 6482768. Sr. Eileen Deegan  
Parish Office: 059 64 81 254. Email: admin@baltinglassparish.ie  
Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Fiona Kavanagh, Anne Leigh, Martina Kennedy  
Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Aisling Higgins 085 8021633



### MASSES

St. Paul's Oratory  
Mon.- Fri. 10am

St. Joseph's Church

Sat. 6pm / Sun. 11am

Available on webcam & radio 100.2fm

Grangecon/Stratford

Alternate Sundays 9.30am

### NEWSLETTER

Articles for next week's  
Newsletter must be received by  
12 noon on Wednesday.

### PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Mon. Wed Fri. 9.30am—1.00pm

Tues. & Thurs. 9.30am - 1.00pm

& 1.30pm - 2.30pm

OFFICE CLOSED ON GOOD FRIDAY  
RE-OPENS MONDAY 8TH APRIL



### BLESSING OF FOOD

Saturday  
12 noon

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION CONFESSION

Holy Thursday 8.15pm  
Good Friday 4pm  
Holy Saturday 11-12



### LITURGIES

Holy Thursday: 7.30pm

Good Friday: 3pm

Stations of the Cross: 6pm

Holy Saturday: 8.30pm

### EASTER SUNDAY MASSES



Grangecon 9.30am  
Baltinglass 11am

## WE REMEMBER

### RECENT DEATH

Eoin Kearney, Tinoran

Margaret Kearney, Mattymount

### MONTHS MIND

Tommy Malone, Parkmore

### ANNIVERSARIES

Edward (Ned) Gahan & his wife Sarah & their

Son James & grandson Eddie, Carrigeen

Margaret (Peg) Byrne, Walkinstown & Edward

Street

Sr Breda Wall, Portlaoise & Baltinglass

William & Margaret Crampton, Parkmore

Brendan Whelan, St. Maelruan's Park,

Tallaght & his son Brendan Whelan Junior

James Geraghty, Rathmines, Dublin

Joe & Bridget Doody, Tuckmill

Kevin Kearney, Tinoran

Edward O'Brien, Raheen

Catherine O'Neill, Tinoran

John Burke, Woodfield

Rest in  
Peace

### STRATFORD: 9.30AM

April Amy Nolan, Ballinatone, Stratford

Susan Byrne, Randalstown, Stratford

James & Sarah Barrett, Winetavern, Stratford

BALTINGLASS - BIGSTONE - GRANGECON - STRATFORD

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

PALM SUNDAY

24th MARCH 2024

## "Celebrating Holy Week is not an obligation, but it is an opportunity."

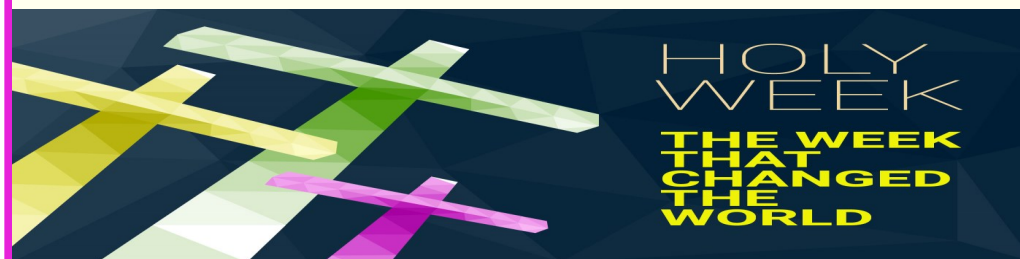
In one sense, there's nothing special about "Holy Week." Just another sequence of eight days each spring — nothing is intrinsically holy about this Sunday to Sunday that moves around the calendar each year. We have no mandate from Jesus or his apostles to mark these days for particular observance.

### Opportunity, Not Obligation

Celebrating Holy Week is not an obligation, but it is an opportunity. It is a chance to walk with the church, throughout time and throughout the world, as she walks with her Bridegroom through the most important week in the history of the world. It is a chance to focus our minds on, and seek to intensify our affections for, the most important and timeless of realities.

### Seize the Week

Without any arm-twisting or conscience-pressing, consider how you might make the most of this week for yourself and others. These are some of the darkest and brightest days in the history of the world, and they are rich with soul-sustaining food and life-clarifying vision. In the chaos of our increasingly fast-paced and hectic society, Holy Week is a reminder to pause and ponder, to carefully mark each day and not let this greatest of all weeks fly by us like every other.



May God make this to be for you a week of being  
newly grounded in the love of Christ,  
so plainly on display from the resolve of Palm Sunday,  
to the ultimate sacrifice of Good Friday,  
to the triumph of Easter Sunday.

And may you freshly know the love of Christ,  
in all its breadth and length and height and depth —  
and wonder upon wonder, be filled with all the fullness of God.

David Mathis



**TEARMANN COMMUNITY GARDEN - AGM**  
 On Wednesday 27th March at 11.30am in the Garden Cabin.



**BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT ACTIVE RETIREMENT**  
**SHORT HOLIDAY BREAK:** Castlerosse Hotel, Killarney: Places still available.  
**Dates:** Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June for three nights.  
**Price:** €400. Single supplement: €30 per night  
**AFTERNOON TEA DANCE:** in early May.  
**NEW COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS** have been elected. The next monthly meeting for members will take place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm in Germaines, as we celebrate 20 years of Active Retirement in Baltinglass. New membership is always welcome. Contact Judy on 087 94 28 389.

**ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN**  
 This is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects. One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction in Ireland. The good news is that you can help by making your garden pollinator friendly. Every garden, no matter its size, can be a haven for hungry pollinators. See the link below for more information: [pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/](http://pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/)

**National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock**  
 Calling ALL ADORERS of the Blessed Sacrament in the Kildare & Leighlin Diocese for the National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Please ring 086 1637311 (Barbara Kinsella) to enquire or book a seat. Full bus details on [www.eucharisticadoration.ie](http://www.eucharisticadoration.ie).

**STRATFORD/GRANGECON GAA LOTTO**

**Winning Numbers**  
 09, 17, 18, 19  
**No Jackpot Winner**  
**1 Match 3 Winner** - €200  
 John Bollard  
**Sellers Prize:** Brigid Barrett  
**This week's Jackpot:** €11,100

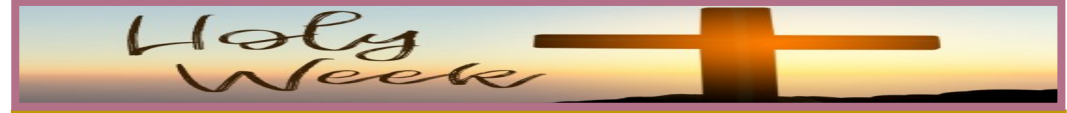
**BALTINGLASS GAA LOTTO**

**Winning Numbers**  
 09, 15, 21, 24  
**No Jackpot Winner**  
**6 Match 3 Winners** - Share €300  
 Seán O'Brien, Mikey English, Declan & Bob Barrett, Michael Farrell, Aisling O'Neill, Pat Ivory  
**This week's Jackpot:** €11,800


**EPILEPSY IRELAND**  
 Annual Church Gate Collection next weekend 30th/31st March.




**TRADITION OF BLESSING EASTER FOOD**  
 In many Eastern European countries, it's a tradition to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday. This Catholic ritual has been cherished for centuries among many families. It has now been adopted by people of all ethnic backgrounds who enjoy this richly symbolic custom. Since Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians fast during Lent, none of the blessed food is eaten until after Mass on Easter Sunday. This then becomes the traditional Easter breakfast. Generally, each member of the family eats a sample of everything in the basket.  
**BLESSING OF FOOD**  
**will take place on Holy Saturday at 12noon**




**7.30pm** At the heart of **Holy Thursday** is Jesus' command to serve others, modelled by Jesus in the washing of feet and the gift of himself in the Eucharist. 'Do this in memory' is a call to us as members of the Christian community to be a Eucharistic people. This means not only receiving the precious gift of Christ in the Eucharist but living Eucharist in our daily actions of care and service to one another.



**3pm** On **Good Friday**, a day of fast and abstinence, the Church gathers in silence as we take up our prayer from the liturgy of Holy Thursday. In his Passion, Christ has taken upon himself the sufferings and the sins of our world.




**8.30pm** On this greatest of nights in the life of the Church we keep vigil with the Lord. The Easter Vigil is rich in symbol and ritual action. It typically unfolds in four parts. The celebration begins around the light of the Easter fire. The fire is blessed, the Easter Candle is lit and this light is shared before we sing our great proclamation of Easter, the Exsultet. In the second part of the night we vigil with the stories of our salvation, the great stories from the Old Testament proclaimed in the light of our Easter faith and culminating in the proclamation of the resurrection in the Gospel reading. Now in the third part we are ready to do what our whole Lenten journey has been about – to welcome new members in baptism and to renew our own baptism before we complete our celebration of the vigil with the Liturgy of the Eucharist in which we receive the nourishment and grace of the Body of Christ to sustain us in the Christian journey.




**PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK**  
 The celebration of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is encouraged during the season of Lent in preparation for the liturgies of Holy Week when we commemorate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.  
 On **Tuesday (26th) at 7.30pm in Baltinglass Church** we will have a Service during which people will have the opportunity to individually receive absolution for their sins. Service in Rathvilly on Wednesday at 7.30pm




**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
 Beginning at St. Mary's Church at **6pm on Good Friday** we make our way along the street to St. Joseph's Church. We encourage people to come together to make the way of the cross as we reflect on the passion of Jesus.



**WASHING OF FEET**  
 On Holy Thursday we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper when Jesus instituted the Eucharist and washed the feet of his disciples. If you would be willing to participate in the washing of feet during Mass on Holy Thursday contact the Parish Office or Fr. Ger.



**CHRISM MASS**  
 Carlow Cathedral on **Monday 25th March at 7:30 pm**. During this Mass, the oils for use in the celebration of sacraments in the coming year will be blessed and consecrated, and the priests of the diocese will renew their priestly promises.



**LENTEN COLLECTION**  
 Thanks to those who have already contributed to this collection for the support of clergy. Envelopes in your box for this purpose.

**Good Friday National Holy Face Public Prayer Vigil St. Joseph's Church Grounds**  
 Human Life (Ire.) are holding over 100 public prayer vigils in each county in Ireland, at 12noon – 1pm on Good Friday to make reparation to the Holy Face of Jesus, & for the protection of life, faith and family in Ireland. **"Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven."**  
 Phone .....087 4112136 for details

