

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

BALTINGLASS - BIGSTONE - GRANGECON - STRATFORD  
**PARISH NEWSLETTER**  
 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 22ND DECEMBER 2024

**RADIO MARIA IRELAND**

Saorview - Channel 210  
 Stream on [www.radiomaria.ie](http://www.radiomaria.ie)  
 By phone (01) 437 3277  
 (no extra charges apply) FREE APP - "RADIO MARIA IRELAND"



**CHRISTMAS 2024**

**MASSES TIMES**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

6pm Baltinglass  
 8pm Stratford

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

9.30am Grangecon  
 11am Baltinglass



**PARISH OFFICE**

**CLOSED ON MONDAY 23RD AT 11AM**  
**REOPENS TUES. 7TH JAN 9.30AM**

**PRIEST'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

Envelopes 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.



**CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024**

'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.

*God is With Us*



**MASSES THIS WEEK**

**WEEKDAYS:** Thurs. 26th\Fri. 27th  
 10am Baltinglass

**WEEKEND:** 6pm (Sat 28th) Baltinglass  
 9.30am (Sun 29th) Stratford  
 11am (Sun 31st) Baltinglass

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

**SUNDAY MASSES**

	<u>GRANGECON</u>	<u>STRATFORD</u>
DECEMBER		29
JANUARY	5/19	12/26

*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*



**Kildare & Leighlin Christmas Message 2024**



At the very centre of the word 'incarnation' is the noun 'caro' meaning flesh. God assumes our flesh. He who is everywhere, allows himself to be restricted in our human body, in our broken and bruised world. Christmas is once again marvelling at this becoming flesh, the fact that He "became flesh" (Jn. 1:14).

Christmas reminds us that God completely assumed our human condition. We sometimes ask, why did He do it? Because He cares for us, loves us, wants to hold us close to Him and particularly those who are fragile or tender.

As we contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation this Christmas, our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude for God's immense gift to humanity. But we can't just leave it there, Christmas calls us to be to be that gift to others.

As Pope Francis reminded us in his homily at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve 2023 in St. Peter's Basilica "Christ does not look at numbers, but at faces". This Christmas, as we prepare to step into a Jubilee Year of Hope, may we realise He sees our face and He smiles at the greatest gift we can give, the gift of being present to and for one another, the gift of our hearts. Pope Francis' latest encyclical *Dilexit Nos* means "He Loved Us". He invites us to draw closer to one another and to allow our hearts to be transformed. Looking on the crib at Christmas allows us to do just that.

May our hope, this Jubilee Year, be grounded in the incarnate Christ. As the Jubilee Prayer prays "may your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the gospel".

Blessings and good wishes to all for Christmas and 2025.

Bishop Denis



### 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.**

### MARRIAGE AND THE JUBILEE OF HOPE

Bishop Denis and Accord will mark the Jubilee of Hope, celebrating with engaged and married couples on the Feast of the Epiphany, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan in Carlow Cathedral at 7pm. All are invited: those preparing for marriage, all married couples – particularly those celebrating Jubilees and those remembering the love of their departed spouses. Come along, pray, celebrate & give thanks. After Mass all are invited to refreshments in the Cathedral Parish Centre.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Coinciding with the Jubilee for Teenagers, during the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Diocese is travelling for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis from 25th - 29th April. This pilgrimage includes a day trip to Assisi, trips to the pilgrims' sites of Rome and of course the Mass on Sunday in St. Peter's Square when Blessed Carlo will be declared the first 'Millennial Saint.' Bishop Denis will join us for the pilgrimage as well as Fr. David Vard.

Places are limited and can be booked through Marian Pilgrimages, Dublin (01 8788159) or forms, and itinerary is available from Portlaoise Parish Centre 9057 8621142).

### STRATFORD/GRANGECON GAA LOTTO



#### Winning Numbers

06, 08, 18, 21

#### No Jackpot Winner



**2 Match 3 Winners - €100 each**  
Matt Reid, Winnie Keogh

**Sellers Prize:** Maurice Mangan

**This week's Jackpot:** €8,600

**Additional Prizes - €50 each**

Kieran & Carmel, Seamus Keogh,  
Eamon McEvoy

### BALTINGLASS GAA LOTTO



#### Winning Numbers

04, 05, 18, 20

#### No Jackpot Winner



**7 Match 3 Winners - Share €300**

Ann Patterson, Eoin Woulfe, Paula Doyle,  
Breda Osborne, Ái + Se + Co,  
Bernie Kavanagh, Karen Foster

**This week's Jackpot:** €7,000.

#### Nine Voucher Winners

Deirdre Norton, Laura Cullen, Julia O'Neill,  
Danielle O'Neill, Brendan Doogue,  
John McMahan, Breda Keogh, John Fitzgerald  
Jonathan Stapleton



**Thanks to everyone for their support throughout the year.**  
**Next bingo will be on Monday 6th January.**

### WE REMEMBER—ANNIVERSARIES (21ST /22ND DEC.)

Everett Lord, Bawnogues  
Patrick & Elizabeth Donegan, Mount Neill & deceased members of the Donegan Family  
Jean Staines, Allendale  
Kevin Kennedy & his son Kieran & his daughter Aileen, Chapel Hill  
Peter & Anna Fennell, The Pike  
William Coogan, Knockfield  
Marie Ryan, Crumlin

Mark Heffernan, Eadestown  
Johnny Furlong, Woodfield & London  
Kitty & Tom Burke, Weaver Square & deceased members of the Burke Family  
John O'Kane, Edward Street  
David & Ellen Roche, Wexford  
Donal McDonnell, Woodfield & his parents Patrick & Roseanne & his sister Marie Cooke (nee McDonnell)  
Roisín Murphy, Sruthan

### WE REMEMBER

#### CHRISTMAS EVE - 6PM BALTINGLASS

Brian & Cora Brennan, Mill Street  
The Byrne Family, Chapel Hill & Mark Dalton  
Billy Walshe, Woodfield  
James & Marie & Eithne Molloy, Hollywood  
Aileen Robinson Cronin, Dublin  
Kathleen Moynihan, Donard  
Michael & Mary Nolan, Bawnogues  
James Gahan, Carrigeen Hill  
Michael & Edward O'Toole, Tankardstown  
Billy O'Toole, Main Street  
Willie Swaine, Hughestown  
Jim & Nina McEntee, Bawnogues  
Mary, Edward & Rose Connors, Shroughaun  
John & Kathleen Toner, Letterkenny  
Bill & Margaret Whelan, Winetavern  
Bridget Byrne, Winetavern  
Ann Hogan, Lisdoonvarna  
Billy Whelan, Liverpool  
Esther Kennedy, Tullaroan, Kilkenny  
Mary & Martin Burke, Rathmoon  
Michael & Therese Doherty, Carrigeen & deceased members of the Doherty Family  
Monica Mullen & the deceased members of the Mullen Family  
Michael O'Neill, the Wood, Glencannon  
Pat Burke, Ratheniska, Portlaoise & Baltinglass & deceased members of the Burke Family

#### CHRISTMAS DAY - BALTINGLASS 11AM MONTHS MIND

Elizabeth (Ann) McNamara, Bawnogues

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Tony Duffy, Deerpark  
Jack & Annie Murphy & deceased members of the Murphy Family, Carrigeen  
Patrick & Bridget Geraghty & deceased members of the Geraghty Family, Carrigeen  
Jim Nolan & deceased members of the Nolan Family, Carrigeen  
Jim & June Cahill & deceased members of the Cahill Family, Carrigeen  
Richard & Emma O'Neill, Oldtown & deceased members of the O'Neill & Hoxey Family  
John & Brigid Hunt, Belan Street  
Josephine & Daniel McDonnell, Parkmore  
Jimmy & Elizabeth Nolan, The Wood & their sons & daughters  
Pam Nolan, The Wood  
Ger & Ann O'Reilly, Kildangan  
Laurence & Sheila Murphy, Randalstown  
Richard & Julia Dalton, Woodfield & their daughter Margaret  
Ann Curran, Allendale  
John, Christina, Ger & Mary Lally, Main Street & deceased members of the Nolan Family  
Thomas, Lorcan & Matt O'Brien, Carrigeen

#### STRATFORD 8PM

Elizabeth & William Byrne  
Lill, Jack, Bill & Joe Byrne  
Michael Moore, Main Street, Stratford & deceased members of the Moore Family  
Thomas & Anna Whittle, Rathbran  
Noel Brady, Manger & all deceased members of the Brady Families

Jack Barrett, Winetavern  
James Moore, Manger  
Jimmy Moore, Randlestown  
John Barrett, Manger  
James, Sarah, Paddy, Mary & Robert Barrett, Winetavern



### PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

Wednesday 27th Aug to 3rd Sept. 2025

Dublin to Medjugorje return. Half Board. Cost: €865

**€50 discount if €200 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

