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

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Aisling Higgins 085 8021633



MASSES

St. Paul's Oratory

Tues.- Fri. 10am

St. Joseph's Church

Sat. 6pm / Sun. 11am

Available on webcam & radio 100.2fm

Grangecon\Stratford

Alternate Sundays 9.30am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



ST. PAUL'S ORATORY

WEDNESDAYS 7.30-8.30PM

Spend an hour in quiet reflection before Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament.

NEWSLETTER

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

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Mon, Wed, Fri. 9.30am - 1.00pm

Tues. & Thurs. 9.30am - 1.00pm

& 1.30pm - 2.30pm

SUNDAY MASSES

GRANGECON STRATFORD

DECEMBER 8/22 15/29

JANUARY 5/19 12/26

VISIT BALTINGLASS PARISH WEBSITE

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

www.baltinglassparish.ie

WE REMEMBER

RECENT DEATH

Cynthia McBride, Deerpark View

MONTHS MIND

Oliver Fintan Kavanagh, Carrigeen

Winnie Byrne, Newtown Saunders

ANNIVERSARIES

Paddy, Maura, Oliver & Anna O'Brien Holohan

Kitty Patterson, Old County Road

Anthony & Mai Farrell, Rathmoon

Billy Doody, Weaver Square

Seán McLoughlin, Newtown

Justin Wall, Bawnogues

Jim McKeever, Lathaleere

Mary Hanlon, Broadstown & her daughter

Mary, Broadstown & San Francisco

Kathy Collins (née) Moran, Tinoran & UK

Sheila Fitzmaurice, Tuckmill

Dermot O'Neill, Newtown

Seanie O'Neill, Newtown

Paddy & Elizabeth Rooney & their Son Colm,

Parkmore

STRATFORD : 9.30 AM

Pat & Sarah Moore, Saundersgrove

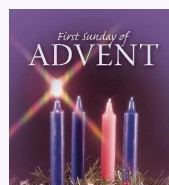
Rest in Peace

BALTINGLASS - BIGSTONE - GRANGECON - STRATFORD

PARISH NEWSLETTER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1ST DECEMBER 2024



ENTERING INTO THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The traditional prayer of Advent, 'Come, Lord Jesus', brings us straight to the heart of what this season is about. The word Advent stems from the Latin Adventus, meaning, 'coming' or 'arrival'. It speaks to our yearning for the presence of Jesus in our lives and to a deep-down recognition for the need of this presence above all things.

At the beginning of a new Church year, over the Four Sundays of the Advent season we ready ourselves for the joy of Christmas when we remember and commemorate the birth of Christ. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for His second coming, at the end of time. We are reminded of this second coming in many phrases that we hear or say at Mass, for example 'as we look forward to his second coming', 'when he comes again in glory', 'as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour'. This second coming is a central theme from the beginning of Advent right up to 17 December. After that point, our attention and preparation move more exclusively to the commemoration of His first coming on the Feast of the Nativity.

And yet, as we prepare to remember his coming at Christmas and to anticipate his Second Coming, we also recognise that the risen Christ is always coming to us. In these Advent days, Jesus, 'God with us', the Lord who is HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE, reaches out to us and walks with us. As we journey through these days are we ready to welcome him again and again into our life? Are we ready to pray, 'Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!'.



A JUBILEE – or Holy Year is marked every twenty-five years by the Universal Church as a time of dedicated prayer so as to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

The theme for the Jubilee Year is 'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'. This theme invites us to recognise the Christian hope that is at the centre of our faith, a hope we carry with us into every experience of our life. It also encourages each of us to be messengers of hope in our very troubled world.

The Jubilee Year 2025 opens in Rome on Christmas Eve, 24 December, with the opening of the HOLY DOOR in St Peter's Basilica by Pope Francis after the celebration of Mass in St Peter's Square. Further doors will open at the basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome and, perhaps, at a prison. Unlike in the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, holy doors will open in Rome only in this Jubilee.

ADVENT 2024

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Resources to help us on our journey towards Christmas are available on kandle.ie



SUGGESTION FOR THE HOME

Why not create a prayer space in your home for Advent? You might like to make your own Advent wreath or have a special Advent candle to use in the prayer space, including perhaps purple coloured clothribbons and evergreens. You'll find a short video on creating an Advent prayer space on kandle.ie

ADVENT SCRIPTURE SHARING

This Advent why not spend time with the Sunday readings. The Advent Scripture Sharing resources provides prayers and a reflection on the Sunday gospel. This year the reflections come from the book of homilies of the late Fr John Cummins. www.kandle.ie

A FAMILY PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Loving God,

as your light grows in the dark of winter, bring its strength and its hope to all people who suffer through war & conflict, poverty & injustice.



Just as you sent the star of Bethlehem to lead the way to your Son, guide all people to follow your ways of peace and justice.

As we remember the difficult journey of Mary and Joseph, may the Holy Family be a source of courage for each of us, helping us to reach out in friendship to all in need in this world and in our community.

Help us to see in the Christ-child we welcome this Christmas, the one who came to bring an end to all divisions & injustice. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BINGO

MONDAYS 8PM FATIMA HALL

STRATFORD/GRANGECON GAA LOTTO



Winning Numbers

13, 16, 19, 22

No Jackpot Winner

1 No Match 3 Winner - €200

Elaine Tynan

Sellers Prize: McGreal's

This week's Jackpot: €7,700



BALTINGLASS GAA LOTTO



Winning Numbers

16, 17, 24, 30

No Jackpot Winner

5 Match 3 Winners - Share €300

Mary Doran, Alex Murphy, Jack Fitzgerald

Michael Lawlor, Mary Doran

This week's Jackpot: €6,400



"PLANET SOIL"

Free Film Viewing in the Visual Carlow:

You are invited to see the "Planet Soil" film on Tues 3rd of Dec in the Visual, Carlow town at 7pm. This film showcases the secret world beneath our feet. Hear a powerful call to action with practical solutions to nurture and restore the soils. Short discussion about soil and soil related issues upstairs in the Visual bar after the film. FREE admission, but booking is necessary:

<https://visualcarlow.ie/whats-on/film>

CULTURE BUS WILL DEPART DUNLAVIN

on Sat Dec 21st at 11am for a shopping trip to Kilkenny. Returning at 5pm. Phone 087 969 3960 to book a seat.



'IT'S A CRACKER'

Bigstone School are looking forward to putting on their Christmas play in Bigstone Community Hall on Thurs 5th Dec. at 7pm. There will be calendars for sale that the students have produced themselves and also a raffle on the night. Everyone is welcome to come join us for a wonderful evening of music and song!



STRATFORD ON SLANEY FORUM CHRISTMAS EVENT

5pm Sunday 8th Dec on The Green

Carol singing. Surprise guest expected. Refreshments & goodies served.



BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT ACTIVE RETIREMENT

CHRISTMAS DINNER: for Seniors, Active Retired members and Non-Members in Germaine's on Wed 4th Dec at 1.30pm. Tickets €25 available from Mary on 086 062943 5 or 087 2999571.

COFFEE MORNINGS: December in the Golf Club each Friday at 11am.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH: 20th Dec at 12.30pm in the Golf Club.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES: (Bridge, Yoga, Art) will cease in December, and resume in the New Year.

AN OUTING: is being planned for Thursday 2nd January 2025 to the **National Concert Hall** to see the Musical 'Annie'. For information, and bookings, contact Mary on 087 299 9571

MONTHLY MEETING: At our next monthly meeting on Wed Jan 29th **nominations** will be invited for the election of Officers.

KILDARE WICKLOW ETB

January 2025 courses Information Session at Athy Further Education and Training Centre.

Drop in for information on our full and part-time courses on Mon 2nd Dec 10am-12.

For info contact Rachel Doyle 059 8632044 at Further Education and Training Centre, Carlow Road, Athy. www.athyfetc.ie or email bteiathy@kwetb.ie

BALTINGLASS SINGS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

As part of the Creative Places Baltinglass programme, 'Baltinglass Sings' will perform an enchanting evening of music at their **Annual Christmas Concert**

Friday 13th in St. Joseph's Church

Baltinglass Sings is a community choir comprising over 50 local participants. The choir which began in September 2023, is led by conductor Paula Phelan. The choir members, conductor, and accompanying musician Halyna Fler Obshta extend a warm welcome to people to drop into St. Joseph's Church for an entertaining evening of traditional carols, seasonal classics, and contemporary favourites. Admission is free and no booking is required. Doors open at 7:20pm. Show starts at 8pm.

BALTINGLASS LIBRARY FREE EVENTS

Tues 3rd Dec:

Crafting with Olha for Children - 8-13 yrs
3.30 - 4.30 pm (BE)

Conversational English Group. 6.30 - 8pm
New volunteers welcome to chat with adult English learners in an informal setting.

Fri 6th: Crafting with Olha (Adults)

Watercolour Painting: 3 - 4.40pm. (BE)

Sat 7th: Crafting with Olha (Adults)

Coffee Painting - 11am - 1pm. (BE)

Please book at the Library on 059 648 2300 or baltinglasslib@wicklowcoco.ie
B E = Booking essential. Events are FREE.

THE SCHOOLHOUSE COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE CENTRE- CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly, on Sunday 8th Dec. at 7pm. Starring the Celtic Brothers.

Tickets €30 and available from Lawlor's Bar, Brennan's Centra and the Green Lemon.

DANNY'S CORNER

Well done to the Committee who put up all the beautiful Christmas lights & decorations. The Santa truck was a huge success and enjoyed by all. The town is looking great & very festive.