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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

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      22      15/29

JANUARY      5/19      12/26

### VISIT BALTINGLASS PARISH WEBSITE

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

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

### WE REMEMBER

#### MONTHS MIND

Luke Nolan, Parkmore, Baltinglass

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Pat Rogers, Edward Street

John (Seán) Kinsella, Tankardstown

Rosie Nolan Shortall, Pine Grove, Baltinglass

Margaret Nolan, Bawnogues

Mary B. Byrne, Chapel Hill

Michael Connors, Parkmore

John O'Neill, Mount Kelly, Rathvilly

Jack & Ciss Kelly, The Dales, Carrigeen

Jack Doyle, Tinoran

James Nolan, Gilbertstown, Rathoe & deceased

members of the Nolan Family

Lorcan Cogan, Kilmurray & London

*Rest in Peace*



### CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM IN OUR PARISH

Baptism takes place on the second Sunday of every month.

All arrangements should be made through the Parish Office at least three weeks prior to the date of baptism.

Members of our Baptism Preparation Team will host a meeting of parents to prepare for the ceremony.

# The Irish Catholic

Ireland's biggest and best-selling religious newspaper!

**ON SALE €3**

in St. Joseph's Church each weekend.

Highly recommended reading for all!

**IF YOU TAKE ONE PLEASE PUT MONEY IN BOX!**

BALTINGLASS - BIGSTONE - GRANGECON - STRATFORD

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8TH DECEMBER 2024



*Second Sunday of Advent*

*For the desert places in which we walk, the streets we roam, the paths we cross, guide our feet, take us to places where You would go. Give us words that You would use that in this Advent season of promise and preparation we might point the way with John the Baptist to the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*

### A Central Figure of Advent: John the Baptist

Over the weeks of Advent, we encounter a number of key characters in the unfolding story of our salvation. In the Gospel this Sunday we are introduced to John the Baptist. An older cousin of Jesus, he was a prophet sent by God to prepare people for the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. His life was one of continually pointing others to Jesus. When his mother, Elizabeth, was pregnant with John, she was visited by Mary, and John leapt in his mother's womb. This revealed to Elizabeth that the child Mary carried was the Son of God.

John's desert ministry was all about calling people to be ready for Jesus and the change he would bring to their lives. John's call to repentance is not mere fire and brimstone, scare tactics, but is a call rooted in the belief that God is coming to His people, and we need to be ready. John's message provokes us into action, calling us to turn back to God and to ready ourselves for Christ to come into our lives. Crucially, this personal readying involves looking beyond ourselves, to how we treat others and live with others. As followers of Jesus, it calls us to lives of justice and right relationship with one another; it calls us to acts of kindness and charity to neighbour and stranger. This Advent how am I readying myself to truly let Christ into my life? (Julie Kavanagh)

### From Pope Francis' Jubilee of Hope Letter:

*'Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring...the signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope.'*



### Looking Ahead to Next Sunday - Rejoice & Bambinelli Sunday

Families are invited to bring their figure of the infant Jesus from their family Christmas Crib to Mass next Sunday for a special blessing. This is a tradition begun in Rome by St John Paul II that continues today. As well as being Rejoice Sunday, in Italy the day is now also known affectionally as Bambinelli Sunday, the Italian for babies. In many places the blessed figure is wrapped and placed under the family Christmas tree to be unwrapped & finally placed in the crib on Christmas Eve night – reminding us of the first & most important gift of Christmas!



## RADIO MARIA IRELAND

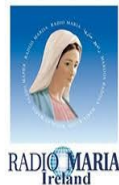
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## ADVENT 2024

### PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Resources to help us through our journey towards Christmas are available on [kandle.ie](http://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. See [www.kandle.ie](http://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

01, 05, 17, 21

#### No Jackpot Winner



**3 Match 3 Winners** - €70 each  
Ciara Hanley, Irene Kinsella, Angie Moore  
**Sellers Prize:** Grangecon Kitchen  
**Extra Prizes:** €50 each.  
Tom Jnr & Gertie, Niall McCarthy, Eamon Kelly  
**This week's Jackpot: €8,000**

### BALTINGLASS GAA LOTTO



#### Winning Numbers

01, 02, 12, 30

#### No Jackpot Winner



**4 Match 3 Winners** - Share €300  
Maree Horan, Seán Doyle, Paddy Bergin, Catherine Fenton  
**This week's Jackpot: €6,600**

### LINK PEOPLE



Please call to the Parish Office to collect the annual parish envelopes which are ready for distribution  
**FROM THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER.**

### FAMILY MASS



We invite families to join with the children preparing for Confirmation & First Holy Communion for Mass next  
Sunday 9.30am Stratford /11am Baltinglass  
**Both Masses will be celebrated by Bishop Nulty.**

### STRATFORD ON SLANEY FORUM CHRISTMAS EVENT

Sunday 8th Dec on The Green at 5pm  
Carol singing. Surprise Guest Expected  
Refreshments and Goodies served.

### BALTINGLASS LIBRARY FREE EVENTS

**Tuesday 10th Dec:** Crafting with Olha for Children - ages 5 -8: 3.30 - 4.30pm (B.E.)  
**Friday 13th Dec.** Crafting with Olha (Adults) Make a Christmas Card - 3 - 4.40pm (B.E.)  
Please book at the Library on 059 648 2300 or [baltinglasslib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:baltinglasslib@wicklowcoco.ie)  
B.E.= Booking Essential.

### CONGRATULATIONS

to Edward Timmins on his election to Dáil Eireann.  
We wish him every success!

### BALTINGLASS PARISH FUNDRAISING DANCE



In Bigstone Community Centre (R93 E956) on Saturday April 26th

**Music:** Tommy B from 8.30pm - 9.30pm.

**Music:** Limelite from 9.30pm - 12am.

**Tickets:** €15 including raffle entry.

**1st Prize:** Weekend break for two in Woodford Dolmen Hotel.

**Full Bar & large Dancefloor**

Tickets available from the Parish Office, Pattersons,

P.J. O'Reillys and Fishers Centra.

**Tickets would make a lovely Christmas Gift!**



Clean up after your dog

**When out walking clean up after your dog if the need arises. Think especially of people coming after you who may have poor eye sight.**

### IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOP'S CONFERENCE DIGITAL ADVENT CALENDAR

The Irish catholic Bishops' Conference are delighted to be bringing you our digital Advent Calendar again this year. Advent marks the beginning of the new calendar year for Christians. The digital Advent calendar offers a distinctive and spiritually enriching way to journey through this holy season. Based on the Jubilee Year's theme of #Hope, the 2024 calendar offers prayers & resources designed to guide individuals, families and faith communities to reflect on the hope that Christ brings to the world, while also preparing for the upcoming Holy Jubilee Year in 2025.

To access the calendar please visit: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar/>

### CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Castledermot Parish Choir present Carols by Candlelight in Castledermot Church  
**on Saturday 14th December at 8pm.**  
With special guests: Coláiste Lorcáin Choir, Scoil Diarmada Choir, Cairde Ceol agus Damhsa & Soloists.  
Tickets €12. Concession €10, U16 free.  
Available from Castledermot Parish Office, Choir Members, Revolut or on the door.  
Proceeds towards sound equipment and instruments for the Parish Choir.  
Parish Office - 059 91 44 888.

### BALTINGLASS SINGS



The Community Choir Christmas Concert in St. Joseph's Church on Friday December 13th at 8pm.  
Doors will open at 7.20pm.  
Entry is free but there will be a raffle on the night and a donation box if anyone wishes to support. All are welcome!