

Parish Priest: Fr. Ger Ahern Phone: 059 6482768

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

	<u>GRANGECON</u>	<u>STRATFORD</u>
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DECEMBER	22	29
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JANUARY	5/19	12/26
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WE REMEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

Tommy Andrews, Moneymore & Dublin
Pat & Mary McDonagh & their son Ignatius,
Edward Street

Michael & Margaret Germaine, Bessina
Mary Whitty, Hughestown

Pierce & Annie O'Neill, 49 Parkmore

Patrick & Mary O'Neill, 47 Parkmore

Marie Molloy, Dunboyke, Hollywood

Bill Nolan, Parkmore

Bridget Dooley, Chapel Hill

Jimmy & Ena Doyle, Parkmore

Edward O'Keeffe, 1 Parkmore

Ann Groves, Baltinglass

STRATFORD: 9.30AM

James Barrett, 3 Church Street, Stratford

Mick Kehoe, Chapel Street, Stratford

Rest in Peace

CHURCH PAINTING

Work is almost completed.

All doors now open for weekend Masses.

Thanks to George Bradley and his crew for their wonderful work and giving the church a well over due facelift.

BALTINGLASS - BIGSTONE - GRANGECON - STRATFORD

PARISH NEWSLETTER

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15TH DECEMBER 2024

On this third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we ask ourselves: 'What is Joy?'

The words of the Catholic Priest and writer Henri Nouwen give us a good insight into what we mean by Christian joy.

He writes that:

'Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved [by God] and that nothing—sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death—can take that love away.

Joy is not the same as happiness.

We can be unhappy about many things, but joy can still be there because it comes from the knowledge of God's love for us. . . .'

He goes on to write:

'Joy does not simply happen to us.

We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.

It is a choice based on the knowledge that we belong to God and have found in God our refuge and our safety and that nothing, not even death, can take God away from us.'

As we ready ourselves to celebrate the coming of Christ, may these words of wisdom speak to us today.

May we remember that joy does not simply happen to us.

We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day, firm in the knowledge of God's love for us.

Today's antiphon of the Mass proclaims:

'Rejoice in the Lord always;

again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Let us hear the Advent call to rejoice, let's choose joy.'

RADIO MARIA IRELAND

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



ADVENT 2024

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

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

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Rathvilly: Thursday 19th 7.30pm
Baltinglass: Friday 20th 7.30pm
Celebrate God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Confessions: Baltinglass
After 6pm Mass Saturday 21st
Christmas Eve: 10



BINGO



MONDAYS 8PM FATIMA HALL

STRATFORD/GRANGECON GAA LOTTO

Winning Numbers

02, 07, 22, 23

No Jackpot Winner

3 Match 3 Winners - €70 each

Callia Keane, Rena O'Toole, Karen Mangan

Sellers Prize: Jim Cush

Extra Prizes: €50 each.

Sheila Barrett, Eileen Channing,
David Bosnell

This week's Jackpot: €8,300



BALTINGLASS GAA LOTTO

Winning Numbers

07, 11, 18, 24

No Jackpot Winner

Match 3 Winners - Share €300

Brendan Drea, Ken Quirke, Harry Worth
Catherine Lord, Martin & Bernie Doogue,
Mick McGrath, G Bishop

This week's Jackpot: €6,800



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.

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve (24th)

6pm Baltinglass & 8pm Stratford

Christmas Day (25th)

9.30am Grangecon
11am Baltinglass



LINK PEOPLE

Please call to the Parish Office to collect the annual parish envelopes which are ready for distribution.



BALTINGLASS LIBRARY FREE EVENTS

Tuesday 17th: Crafting with Olha for Children (ages 8 -13) 3.30 - 4pm (B E)

Wednesday 18th: Christmas Movie Morning! 11am - 1pm

Friday 20th: Crafting with Olha (Adults) 3- 4.30pm (B E)

Saturday 21st: Crafting with Olha (Adults) 11am - 1pm (B E)

Please book at the Library on 059 648 2300 or baltinglasslib@wicklowcoco.ie

BALTINGLASS PARISH FUNDRAISING DANCE

Bigstone Community Centre
Saturday April 26th

Music: 'Tommy B' 8.30pm - 9.30pm.

'Limelite' 9.30pm - 12am.

Tickets: €15 including raffle entry.

Prize: Weekend break for two in Woodford Dolmen Hotel.

Full bar & large dance floor!

Tickets available from the Parish Office, Pattersons, P.J. O'Reillys and Fisher's Centra.

Tickets would make a lovely Christmas Gift!



LIVE CRIB

at Rural Revival, Church Lane
December 23rd and 24th 2-5pm.

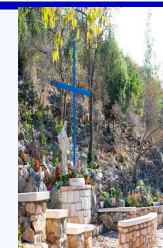
PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

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



SENIORLINE

Would like someone to talk to over Christmas? SeniorLine is Ireland's national telephone service for older people open every day of the year 10am-10pm, Freephone 1800 80 45 91. You may feel isolated, alone, bereaved or far from family. SeniorLine's older volunteers are trained to listen, to support and refer to other helpful services if necessary. So don't be alone and lift the phone. Phone SeniorLine 1800 80 45 91. No problem too big or too small.

EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE

An employment & recruitment service to assist people over 18 years who may have different types of disabilities such as: **Intellectual - Mental Health - Physical - Sensory - Hidden** and who are job ready & need the support of a job coach to get a job. Contact Jackie McHenry **086 0496875** Who runs an outreach service based in Baltinglass Parish Centre twice a month.

UNWANTED KNITTING WOOL



The Conglais Crafters are busy knitting, blankets, caps and jumpers for small babies.

They would be delighted to get any wool you might have left over or donations of wool for their work. Wool can be left into the Parish Office. Thanks!