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

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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

'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.



MASSES TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE 6pm Baltinglass 8pm Stratford CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30am Grangecon



God is With Us

the Trail A A T **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	
	GRANGECON	STRATFORD
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



BALTINGLASS - BIGSTONE - GRANGECON - STRATFORD NEWSLETTER PARISH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22ND DECEMBER 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).

Kildare & Leighlin Christmas Message 2024

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

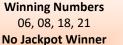
Bishop Denis and Accord will mark the Jubilee of Hope, celebrating with engaged and married couples on the Feast of the Epiphany, Monday 6th Jan in Carlow Cathedral at 7pm. All are invited: those preparing for marriage, all married couples - particularly those celebrating Jubilees and those remembering 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 incudes 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

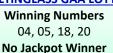




2 Match 3 Winners - €100 each Matt Reid, Winnie Keogh

Sellers Prize: Maurice Mangan This week's Jackpot: €8,600 Additional Prizes - €50 each Kieran & Carmel, Seamus Keogh, Eamon McEvoy

BALTINGLASS GAA LOTTO





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 McMahon, Breda Keogh, John Fitzgerald Jonathan Stapleton



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

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



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

CHRISTMAS EVE - 6PM BALTINGLASS

The Byrne Family, Chapel Hill & Mark Dalton

James & Marie & Eithne Molloy, Hollywood

Michael & Edward O'Toole, Tankardstown

Mary, Edward & Rose Connors, Shroughaun

Brian & Cora Brennan, Mill Street

Aileen Robinson Cronin, Dublin

Michael & Mary Nolan, Bawnogues

Kathleen Moynihan, Donard

James Gahan, Carrigeen Hill

Billy O'Toole, Main Street

Willie Swaine, Hughestown

Bridget Byrne, Winetavern

Ann Hogan, Lisdoonvarna

Billy Whelan, Liverpool

Jim & Nina McEntee, Bawnogues

John & Kathleen Toner, Letterkenny

Bill & Margaret Whelan, Winetavern

Esther Kennedy, Tullaroan, Kilkenny

Michael & Therese Doherty, Carrigeen &

Monica Mullen & the deceased members

Michael O'Neill, the Wood, Glencannon

deceased members of the Doherty Family

Pat Burke, Ratheniska, Portlaoise & Baltinglass &

deceased members of the Burke Family

Mary & Martin Burke, Rathmoon

of the Mullen Family

Billy Walshe, Woodfield

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 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

