

# Church of the Holy Spirit Ballyroan

19th December 2021

4th Sunday of Advent (Year C)



## Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to the families of Betty Maher and Con Daly whose funerals took place during the week.

*"Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them".*



## Readers Roster - 18th & 19th December

Saturday 7pm: Tessa Dagg : John Daly  
Sunday 10am: Gerry Moore : Helen Vysotska  
12pm: Rose Sullivan : Diarmuid Kelly

## Readers Roster - 24th, 25th & 26th December

Fri 6pm: Ann Walsh : Rose Sullivan : Sophie Banks  
9pm: Helen Vysotska : Hilary Kenny  
Sat 10am: Margaret Howett : Moira Hanbidge  
12pm: Felicity Coll :  
Sun 10am: Helen Vysotska

## Christmas Arrangements:

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

7pm Penitential Rite  
(Christmas Confessions)  
(Visiting priests will be in attendance)



### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December

11am – 12pm Christmas Confessions  
6pm - Mass for the young & young at heart  
9pm - Christmas Vigil Mass

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December

10am & 12pm Mass of the Nativity

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December

10am - Mass

### Please note:

**Thu 23rd Dec** - The church will be closed from 1pm—4pm for mist sanitising  
**Sat 25th Dec** - The Church will close after 12 Mass  
**Sun 26th Dec** - The church will close at 3pm  
**Mon 27th Dec** - Prayers with communion at 10am  
**Tue 28th Dec** - Prayers with communion at 10am

The parish office will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 22nd Dec and will reopen on Tuesday 4th Jan.

## Finance Corner

1st Collection last week : €1,205.00  
2nd Collection (V de P) €10,620.00  
Shrine : €1,140.00

Our local conference of the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul wish to thank most sincerely the kind generosity of all those who donated to the annual collection. Total raised was €10,620

Please note that the two collections for the Common Fund and Share will take place as normal at all the Christmas Masses.

Fr. Michael and the Finance Committee wish to thank you most sincerely for your generous contributions during the year. In addition, the special collections for Crosscare, The Missions and other organisations have been acknowledged by them and are much appreciated especially during these troubling times.

Your continued support of our parish is deeply appreciated and allows us to plan into the future for the needs of the parish. Thank You!

## Health and Safety:

Due to the expected increase in the number of people in the church over Christmas we kindly remind people to be conscious of Covid procedures by ensuring that you wear a face mask and sanitise your hands when entering the church.

We would also ask people not to leave face masks in the church and also to please take away your newsletter with you as it cannot be reused.

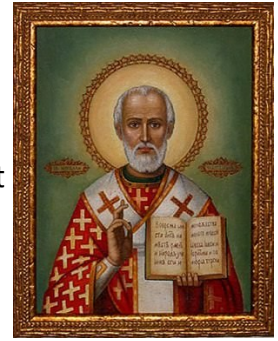


## Saints of the Day 18th—24th December

Saturday: St. Flannan  
Sunday Of the day  
Monday St. Fachanan  
Tuesday St. Peter Canisius  
Wednesday Of the day  
Thursday St. John of Kanty  
Friday Of the day

## The Man Behind the Story of Father Christmas/Santa Claus

**St. Nicholas was a Bishop who lived in the fourth century**, in a place called Myra in Asia Minor (now called Turkey). He was a very rich man because his parents died when he was young and left him a lot of money. He was also a very kind man and had a reputation for helping the poor and giving secret gifts to people who needed it. There are several legends about St. Nicholas but the **most famous story about St. Nicholas** tells how the custom of hanging up stockings to put presents in first started! It goes like this:



**There was a poor man who had three daughters.** The man was so poor that he did not have enough money for a dowry, so his daughters couldn't get married. (A dowry is a sum of money paid to the bridegroom by the bride's parents on the wedding day. This still happens in some countries, even today.) One night, Nicholas secretly dropped a bag of gold down the chimney and into the house (this meant that the oldest daughter was then able to be married). The bag fell into a stocking that had been hung by the fire to dry! This was repeated later with the second daughter. Finally, determined to discover the person who had given him the money, the father secretly hid by the fire every evening until he caught Nicholas dropping in a bag of gold. Nicholas begged the man to not tell anyone what he had done, because he did not want to bring attention to himself. But soon the news got out and when anyone received a secret gift, it was thought that maybe it was from Nicholas.

### How St. Nicholas Became Santa Claus

In 1821 an anonymous poem called 'Old Santeclaus with Much Delight' was published in New York. It was the first time that Santa/St Nicholas was described in a sleigh being pulled by a reindeer. The poem was published with eight illustrations in a book called 'The Children's Friend: A New-Year's Present, to the Little Ones from Five to Twelve' and it's the earliest images of 'Santa Claus' rather than St Nicholas or Sinterklaas.

In 1823 the famous poem 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' or 'T'was the Night before Christmas', was published. In the poem, St. Nicholas is described "He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf" and as coming with "a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer". This was the first time we found out the names of the reindeer. They became well known in the song 'Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer', written in 1949. **Do you know all eight names?**

Some people say that Santa lives at the North Pole. In Finland, they say that he lives in the north part of their country called Lapland. But everyone agrees that he travels through the sky on a sledge that is pulled by reindeer, that he comes into houses down the chimney at night and places presents for the children in socks or bags by their beds, in front of the family Christmas tree, or by the fireplace.

Most children receive their presents on Christmas Eve night or early Christmas morning, but in some countries, they get their presents on St. Nicholas' Eve, December 5th.

**Have a lovely Christmas everyone**, it is a time to show our love and generosity to others. The good news of Christmas is that we are loved by our loving God our creator and who decided to reveal God's divinity in the humanity of a baby called Jesus!

By Deacon Frank.



### Mass Cards /Anniversary Masses/Special Intentions

**Mass Association cards** for the Deceased and the Living are available at the back of the church.

**Anniversary Masses and Special Intentions** can only be booked through the office.

**Individual Mass cards:** that is, a Mass to be offered for a deceased on an unspecified day/time can only be booked through the office.



An image from our recent “Night Fever” evening, Friday 3rd December. Many people found it a very moving experience as we sat in candle light with our own thoughts and prayers. Each person was given a candle to light to place on one of the crosses for their own intentions. Thanks to Fr. Michael and everyone involved in the preparation and running of the night.

#### Mass Intentions 18th—24th December.

Sat: Sean O’Neill (A) : Ailbhe O’Connell (A)  
Peggy Wood (RIP)

Sun 10am: Teresa Coghlan (RIP) : Noel Anderson (A)  
Peter Grant (A) : Peter O’Byrne (A)

Sun 12pm: Bernadette Hogan : Special Intention  
Jo & Pat Moriarty (A)  
Bernadette Hurley (A)

Monday: Special Intention Living

Tuesday: Joseph & Margaret Staunton (A)  
Special Intention Living

Thursday: Peter Hannon (A) : Fr John Ryan (Spec Int)

#### Band Concert.

We would like to thank the Rathfarnham Concert Band for giving us a wonderful recital last Sunday. It was a pleasure to have had the three bands. We look forward to seeing them again during 2022.

#### Parish Information

**Parish Priest:** Father Michael Murtagh  
**Deacon:** Frank Browne  
**Parish Secretary:** Mary McDade  
**Email:** ballyroanparish@gmail.com  
**Parish Office:** 01 4947303

#### Parish Office Opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 10.00am – 12.00 noon

#### Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 10am  
 Saturday: 7pm  
 Sunday: 10am & 12am

#### Pope Francis’ prayer intention for December is for catechists.

*“Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit,”*

A catechist is a Catholic who instructs others in Christian doctrine and the Gospel. Earlier this year, Pope Francis instituted a new ministry of catechist for lay people who have a particular call to serve the Catholic Church as a teacher of the faith.

*“The lay ministry of catechists is a vocation; it’s a mission. Being a catechist means that you ‘are a catechist,’ not that you ‘work as a catechist.’ It’s an entire way of being,”* the pope said.

*“We need creative people who proclaim the Gospel, but who proclaim it neither with a mute nor with a loudspeaker, but rather with their life, with gentleness, with a new language, and opening new ways,”* he said.

#### Security.

CCTV please be aware security cameras are in operation in the Church and throughout the grounds.

#### Publications.

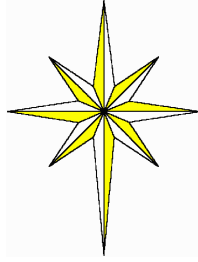
The Irish Catholic newspaper, The Messenger magazine and other booklets are available for sale at the back of the church. A gentle reminder that the money for these items should be placed in the small wall mounted box marked “Books and Papers”.



**6 Sleeps to  
Christmas for little  
people !!!!**



# *A child's Christmas*



*O Come let us adore him*



**Baby Jesus was born in a town called Bethlehem. There was no room in any house so he was born in a stable. The animals in the stable kept him warm with their breath.**

**An Angel appeared to shepherds and told them the good news that baby Jesus was born. They went to visit him and brought their sheep with them.**

**Three wise men followed a star and came to Bethlehem after a long journey to visit baby Jesus. They brought him gifts called gold, frankincense and myrrh.**