



## Our Mother of Divine Grace Church, Ballygall

Part of the Glasnevin Grouping of Parishes

(Glasnevin, Iona Rd, Corpus Christi, Ballymun Rd & Ballygall)

### Christmas Newsletter 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> December 2021

#### Parish Team

Fr. Joseph Ryan Co-P.P: Ph 8573776 Fr. Harry Gaynor Co-P.P: Ph 8342248

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The Parish Team wish to thank all who support our work in the Parish of Ballygall and wish you all a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas. May the kindness of God be your strength in the year ahead.

Fr. Joe Fr. Harry Fr Paul.

#### Some Customs Associated With Christmas

**Holly:** Traditionally used to decorate homes in the winter and believed to contain magical properties because it could ward off witches. For Christians, the red berries and thorns represent the blood and crown of thorns of Christ on the Cross.

**Mistletoe:** mistletoe was an all-rounder for Druids. It could heal injuries, neutralise poisons, aid fertility and act as a shield from wickedness. It is linked with the goddess Frigga whose son was killed by a spear dipped in mistletoe. She wept. Her tears landed on the mistletoe and transformed it into white berries. From that day on, Frigga said that mistletoe was to be associated with joy rather than sorrow and promised to kiss anyone who walked under the plant. Mistletoe was also used as a peace pledge between enemies.

**Tinsel:** Once upon a time a poor widow could not afford to decorate the family Christmas tree. During the night a family of spiders weaved their webs all around the tree. Jesus then transformed the spiders' webs into silver strands. The next morning the widow and her children could not believe their eyes. Originating in Germany in the early seventeenth century, tinsel was once made of silver wiry shreds.

**Yule Log:** In Norway, as part of the winter solstice celebration, workers would return from the forest with a large tree trunk to burn on Christmas Eve. The log was soaked in water and the fire could last up to one week. When the log was finally reduced to ashes the workers had to return to work.

#### Mass Schedule Week Commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Also available online [www.ballygallparish.ie](http://www.ballygallparish.ie)

Monday	10.00	Michael (Kit) Murphy
Tuesday	10.00	Anne O'Doherty
Wednesday	10.00	Billy Kelly & deceased members of the Kelly & Campelli families.
Thursday	10.00	Maureen & Hugh Friel
Friday	10.00	Maureen Montgomery & deceased family.
Saturday	10.00	Josephine & William Donnelly, & sons Frank, & John.
	6.30	Stephen Burns
Sunday	10.00	Pro Populo
	11.30	Alice Keogh, John Byrne, Michael Kelly, Joe Marron. Anne O'Doherty.

#### Christmas Church Arrangements

The Church will close after 11.30am on Christmas Day, and will open as usual, after Mass each day, from St. Stephens Day.

#### Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased, Aileen Traynor, Anthony Butler & Vera Murray.

#### Christmas Dues

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the Christmas Offering your support is greatly appreciated.

