

Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall

Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes

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

The Holy Family 31st December 2023

Parish Website www.ballygallparish.ie Email ballygallparish@outlook.com

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

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Mass Intentions Monday 1st to Sunday 7th January 2024

Monday	Mass in Corpus Christi @ 11am		
Tuesday	10.00	Funeral Mass	
Wednesday	10.00	Betty O Reilly	
Thursday	10.00	Josephine Devaney & William, Jean & Frank	
Friday	10.00	Altar List of the Dead	
VIGIL	6.30pm	Feast of the Epiphany	
Saturday Feast of the Epiphany (Holy Day)	10.00	Thomas & Eileen Hughes	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.
	6.30pm	Des Byrne, Stephen Burns, Ambrose, Elizabeth & John Murray, Eddie Ryan, Margaret Daly, Paddy O Brien	
Sunday	10.00	Free	
	11.30	Free	

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased, Patrick Melia, Vicky Farrell & Margaret Gallagher and Dessie Finnan, Griffith Rd, funeral mass Tuesday 10am.

Christmas/End of Year Thank You

A sincere thanks to all those who helped to make the Church so special for Christmas in so many different ways. The church was gleaming, the crib and tree looked fantastic, the decorations elegant and the flowers beautiful. Thanks to choirs, stewards, ministers of the Word & Eucharist, secretary, our new sacristan, along with so many others who gave willingly of their time. The return of so many to Ballygall on Christmas Eve and Day cannot but bring hope to us here in the parish and well done to so many of you for your support not just last weekend but throughout the year. May 2024 help us to look forward with hope as we journey into the future. May we rejoice that He is truly alive here in Ballygall.

New Year's Week Church Arrangements

During this week the Church will open shortly before 10am Mass and remain open each day as normal. You are welcome to come and spend some time in quiet prayer before the crib as we continue the 12 days of Christmas. A time for us to ponder the great mystery of the Incarnation and its implications for us in 2024.

New Year's Day: Monday 1st January 2024

Our Mass will be celebrated at 11am in Corpus Christi Church, Drumcondra. This is one of the initiatives of the grouping of parishes. On Bank Holidays there will be just the one mass in the wider area. There will be no 7.25 or 10am in Ballygall.

Please note: We will have just the one Mass during the week which will be at 10am, apart from 6th January when we will also have the Vigil Mass on Friday, 5th at 6.30pm.

Christmas Dues

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the Christmas Offering through the envelopes and 'Tap & Go' machine. Your support is greatly appreciated by not only the priests of the parish but also the priests throughout the diocese including sick and retired priests. This along with the weekly first collection at Mass supports the 'Common Fund'.

Epiphany of the Lord (6th January)

On this day through the visit of the wise men from the East, Jesus is made known to all people throughout the world. Jew or Greek, slave or free. May we on the feast day (also Holyday of obligation) continue to make Jesus known throughout our world and in this way the feast of Christmas is never forgotten. The King of kings, born in a stable. Let our gifts be not Gold, frankincense and myrrh but the gift of our faith, love and hope in the future.

First Friday

This Friday is the First Friday of January. We remember the 'Altar list of the Dead' at 10am Mass. If you know someone who is house bound and would like Holy Communion brought to them, please leave in their name, address and phone number into the sacristy/office during the week.

Holy Family Prayer

Jesus Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul,

Jesus Mary and Joseph, assist me now and in last agony,

Jesus Mary and Joseph, may I breathe out my soul in peace with you.





Tangible Holiness

Jesus lives in each of our hearts. When we reach out to one another, we become instruments of grace, growth, healing and encouragement. Is it not this which makes our families holy? Holiness is not something pretentious or 'up in the air'. Holiness is tangible.

The Heroism of Parents

Today we celebrate the bonds that draw us into the mystery of the Son of God, the One who is holy by nature; the one who came to make us holy by his grace. Today we also celebrate the special vocation of parents, and the powerful witness to their sacrifice in raising a family. This is shown especially by parents who care for a handicapped child. This is a living testimony to the love of Jesus. It was a grace-filled moment, nearly a year ago, to hear James Martin's dad speak after his Down Syndrome son won an Oscar for his part in 'An Irish Goodbye'.

Moving On ...

Every family has its ups and downs, disagreements and fallouts. Being able to rise above these upsets and move on with life is a special grace. It is never easy. In his Angelus address for this family feast two years ago, Pope Francis said:

"Each of us has our own story and the family is the story from which we originate ... Jesus too is the son of a family story ... we come from a story that was woven with the bonds of love ... If we cut ourselves off from our roots, life dries up! God did not create us to be lone rangers, but to walk together. God thinks about us and wants us to be together: grateful, united, capable of preserving our roots. And we have to think about this, about our own story." (Angelus: 26th Dec 2021)



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Vol.45; No.58; Holy Family, Year A; 31 Dec 2023; Readings: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3, Psalm 104, Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19, Luke 2:22-40; Next Week: Wed 27 Dec St John : Sun 31 Dec Holy Family : Mon 1 Jan Mary Mother of God : Tue 2 Jan Basil the Great, Gregory : Wed 3 Jan Weekday, Holy Name : Thu 4 Jan Elizabeth Ann Seton : Fri 5 Jan Weekday : Sat 6 Jan Epiphany.

Summary

Today we celebrate the bonds that draw us into the mystery of the Son of God, the One who is holy by nature, who came to make us holy by grace.

Today we celebrate the special vocation of parents, and the powerful witness of their sacrifice in raising a family.

Question

What moments of your family life do you think especially reveals the love of God?

Prayer

Lord, I thank you for my family, for my parents and for all our household.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Morality; The Holy Family, Year B; 31 Dec 2023

Family Bonding



A well-known psychotherapist and broadcaster spoke on the Tommy Tiernan Show recently about the difficulties he and his wife experienced in their struggle to have a family. Tears welled up in his eyes as he recounted, with huge emotion, the sheer joy he experienced when his son was born. Holding 'this tiny miracle' in his arms, for the first time, was a moment of profound gratitude and ecstatic love.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

In the readings we meet Abraham who spoke to God of his sadness and heartbreak: 'I go childless...'

But a tender-hearted God rewarded the faith of this childless couple, and looked kindly on Sarah, his wife, who gave birth to their son, Isaac.

Recently, I listened to John Betjeman reading his magnificent poem, 'Christmas'.

"And is it true?

*This most tremendous tale of all ...
the maker of the stars and sea
Became a child on earth for me"*

Real Celebration

Christmas is a special time for parents and children to celebrate as a family. I am delighted when I hear of families who switch off their mobile phones as they gather at table to celebrate Christmas dinner. Warmth, closeness, re-connecting, joy, peace and love are what people experience. Parents and children, brothers and sisters, grannies and granddads, all confirm that this quality time of sharing with, and listening to, each other, is one of the most precious gifts they can give to each other.