

Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall

Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 21st January 2024

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

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

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Mass Intentions Monday 22nd to Sunday 28th January 2024

Monday	7.25	Available	10.00	Deceased members of O'Dea & O'Sullivan Families.
Tuesday	7.25	Gerard O'Reilly	10.00	Annie & William Hickey
Wednesday	7.25	Martin O'Doherty	10.00	Fiona Haughton
Thursday	7.25	Available	10.00	Marie Ryan
Friday	7.25	Available	10.00	Annette Flynn.
Saturday	10.00	Available	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
	6.30pm	Months Mind Remembrance Michael Rooney, Anne Quinlan, Gabrielle Reid, James Moore Caulfield, Paddy McDermott, Maria McConnell, Bridget Flanagan, Sean Peyton, Jenny Murphy, Carmel Walsh, Desmond Smyth, Bridie O'Loughlin, Patrick Melia, Vicky Farrell, Margaret Gallagher, Dessie Finnan.		
Sunday	10.00	May O'Reilly		
	11.30	Patrick & Teresa Monahan, Joan & Carla Monahan, Gerry Gillen, Michael Murphy.		

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased, Frank Tobin and Marie Ryan.

Diary Dates - January 2024:

Annual Laudate Music Festival

Tuesday 30 January - Our Lady of Victories Church, Ballymun Road & 7pm.

Year of Prayer

In preparation for 2025 Jubilee year 2024 has been designated as a year of prayer. To help us be more aware of this on Monday 29th January an evening of prayer and song will take place entitled, "Journeying in Prayer with the Desert Mothers and Fathers", and takes place in The Monastery of St Alphonsus - 8.00p.m All are welcome to attend or to join online www.rednuns.com The reflective Music will led by Dublin Diocesan Music Group.

This weekend marks 'Sunday of the Word of God'.

The Sunday of the Word of God is a profoundly pastoral initiative with which Pope Francis wants to make it clear how important it is in the daily life of the Church and our communities to refer to the Word of God, a Word that is not confined to a book, but which remains ever alive and becomes a concrete and tangible sign. Each local community will be able to find the most suitable and effective ways to live this Sunday to the fullest, helping the people of God «to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures» (*Aperuit illis*, 15).

Confirmation Programme

As part of the parish preparation for our Confirmation celebrations this year, a second session takes place during this week. A zoom meeting for parents will take place on Thursday evening and on Friday morning the children will be invited to the church. The Diocesan initiative 'Confirmation Connect' is being used as a resource in this journey.

First Holy Communion 2024

Saturday 27th April - Sacred Heart Boys School.

Saturday 25th May - Mother of Divine Grace School.

Baptisms in Our Church

Baptisms are here on the First Saturday (4pm) and the Third Sunday (12.30) of each Month. A preparatory meeting takes place monthly generally on the Monday before the first Saturday. If you would like to arrange a Baptism, please ring the parish office.

Church unity week 18th - 25th January

The theme for this year's Church unity week is "Go and do the same likewise" based on the gospel of the Good Samaritan. As we share a common faith, all Christians are reminded of our duty to live out our faith. The week is a build up to the feast of the conversion of St. Paul on 25th. From being a persecutor of those baptised to being the greatest advocate of the early Church.

Catholic Schools Week

Today sees the launch of Catholic Schools Week. Here in Ballygall the children preparing for their First Confession & First Eucharist are invited to the 10am Mass as part of this week. On Wednesday, Grandparents Day, special ceremonies take place in the schools.

We are blessed to have Sacred Heart, Mother of Divine Grace primary schools along with Scoil Chiarain, St Kevin's and St Michael's providing education for our young. Keep our schools, children and staff in your prayers.

Ballygall Active Retirement Group

Keep Fit is back! Thursdays at 3.00pm in the Fr. Maloney Centre, All are welcome.

Celebrating the Faith

Along with other major feasts – such as Corpus Christi or The Most Holy Trinity – we could genuinely ask why we need to set aside a day as *Word of God Sunday*; surely we are called to celebrate these foundational



aspects of our faith every Sunday; indeed, every day. However it is appropriate to pause and to give special attention to those aspects of our faith with which we have become too familiar. Instead of being enlivened and inspired by the words, we might simply be taking them for granted. After all, do we not celebrate our birthday once a year?

The Spirit's Activity

We are reminded by the Holy Spirit, again and again, that the Word of God is alive and active. It is the 'Living Word of God', God's Word is not only descriptive, but also active, especially in our prayer and worship.

God's Word is for All

This Sunday we rejoice that the Word is truly Good News ... the Good News of God's plan for us, God's love, mercy and compassion. The news is that God loves us so much that He sent his only Son, Jesus, to set us free from sin and open the gates of heaven for us. The Good News is that God's Word is for all humanity, and so must be shared. God calls each of us into the unity of the Holy Trinity.

Daily Practise

We are encouraged to focus, every day, on the place of the Scriptures in our personal, sacramental and liturgical lives. Maybe today we could commit ourselves to some aspect of bible study – whether personal, with others, or via an online course. Do we realise just how much the Scriptures can draw us into profound and contemplative prayer? We are encouraged to re-acquaint ourselves with the ancient scriptural method of prayer called *Lectio Divina*: To Read, to Meditate, to Pray, to Contemplate and to put into Action.

Let us not allow this day pass without asking Our Lady, The Mother of the Word Incarnate, to pray for us and draw us to her Son. ■

Summary

Instead of being inspired by some aspects of our faith, we may simply be taking them for granted.

We are reminded by the Holy Spirit that the Word of God is alive and active.

Question

How do the Scriptures draw us into contemplative prayer?

Prayer

Mother Mary, draw us ever closer towards your Son.



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Next Week: Moses' Prophecy.

Sat 20 Jan St Fabian; St Sebastian : Sun 21 Jan Ordinary 3 : Mon 22 Jan St Vincent : Tue 23 Jan Weekday : Wed 24 Jan St Francis de Sales : Thu 25 Jan The Conversion of St Paul : Fri 26 Jan St Timothy and Titus : Sat 27 Jan St Angela Merici : Sun 28 Jan Ordinary 4.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: The Scriptures; Third Sunday of Year B; 21 Jan 2024

On the 30th September 2019, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be known as 'The Sunday of the Word of God'. The same day also marked the 1600th anniversary of the death St Jerome, the great scripture scholar who famously translated the Scriptures into Latin, and who warned us that ...

"Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."

(Commentary on the Book of Isaiah, Pt. 24,17B)



The title and opening words of the papal document, *Aperuit Illis*, come directly from the Gospel of St Luke:

He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. (Lk 24:45)

Pope Francis then challenged the reader to acknowledge that God's Word ...

"has the power to open our eyes and to enable us to renounce a stifling and barren individualism, and instead to embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity".

On This Day

On this day we take time to celebrate, study, and share the Word of God with others. We are reminded of the ecumenical opportunities present, of the importance of good preaching, of the link with the sacraments and the constant challenge to practice mercy in response to hearing the Word of God.