



MAINISTIR BHUITHE (MONASTERBOICE) PARISH BULLETIN

Mary, the Holy Mother of God, 1st January 2023 - Year A

Parish Priest: Fr. Paddy Rushe; 086 880 7470



grace ~ grace ~ grace ~ grace

Reflect on the past, and embrace what's ahead: Happy New Year to you all. On this first day of 2023, we ought to appreciate the new, by looking back.

Reflecting on the past is part of what makes Christmas so poignant for Christians. Jesus' birth **did** make everything new. It marked a new life for everyone who had been waiting and wondering if the promise of a Messiah was true. But Jesus' arrival did not mean that people threw out memories of the past as quickly as they could.

Have A Blessed New Year!

Instead, remembering the past was part of what made the birth so powerful. They remembered the past with honesty, recognising how grim and dark things had been for so long. They remembered the broken relationships, dashed dreams, bleak political situation and senseless violence. They remembered how desperate they were for hope.

And then they remembered the promise of a light shining in the darkness and the depths of their gratitude only grew when they recognised that the Christ child had been born into such a dark world. The promise of newness was and is **a promise that even in the dark, light can break through.** If we begin this year trusting that light will arrive to even the darkest places of our lives, then we'll find newness that can't be bought with a gym membership, a beauty regimen, a technological gadget or a meal plan.



Once again, I want to thank all those who have helped keep our parish going; You, our Parishioners; Our Sacristans; Parish Choirs & their leaders, Siobhan & Mary; Ministers of the Word & Eucharist; our Secretaries; The Parish Pastoral Council; The Parish Finance Committee; Stewards & Collectors; and all those who helped in any way. I am so grateful for your support. **I am thankful too to everyone who sent cards, gifts, and presents. I'm sorry I cannot acknowledge everyone individually, but I am so appreciative of your support.**

Fr Paddy

Prayer: *Holy One, from long ago people have sought your light to guide their way. As the new year opens, enable me to be more fully yours. Guide me in letting go of what keeps me from growing. Lead me to know and welcome what will enlarge my love for you. Amen.*

Parish Office: Tuesdays from 2.30pm - 5.30pm; Our secretaries, Mary/Ann (087-3791443) will be able to take phone calls, & answer emails about parish (*certificates, etc*). **reopening Tuesday 3rd.**

Thanks to our Sacristans - Kathleen & Teresa - and ALL who help in the work of preparing the Churches for Christmas. Do let us know if you would be available in an ongoing way to support the work of caring for our church buildings - inside and out!

Pope Francis has called us to pray for the health of our Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI saying: *I would like to ask you all for a special prayer for Pope Emeritus Benedict, who in silence is supporting the Church. Remember him - he is very ill - asking the Lord to console him, and sustain him in this witness of love for the Church, until the end."*



This year was the first time in two years when we were able to celebrate Christmas as a Parish. The crowds present at all our Masses is testimony that the Faith is very much alive in our Parish and that people are eager to celebrate and come together as a vibrant, worshipping and committed family of believers. Let's hope and pray that this spirit and enthusiasm will continue and grow.

Finance: IN-Church donations last weekend €2370 (General); €4670 (Dues) The parish regularly receives **online** donations approx. **€200** weekly. **Thank you for your generosity!**

New Parish Envelopes: are now available for collection at either Church (*we have tried to place them in the Church closest to where you live*);

1. Your Envelope Number may have changed. This is a normal part of the computer system.
2. If your box is not in **either** Church, please contact the parish Office.
3. Those who subscribe ONLINE **do not receive a box** of envelopes.

Remembering the Deceased: Pray for those on the parish list of the dead, the deceased benefactors of the parish, & those who have died recently including; **Breda Egan**, Old Road; **Paddy Dunne**, Tenure; **Brian Reynolds**, Drogheda; **Declan Kehoe**, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow **Molly Halligan**, Rathkenny; **Ann**

NB <u>ALL</u> Masses can be accessed via www.churchservices.tv/monasterboice	
Day\Mass\Location	Intention
Saturday 31st Dec. @ 6.30pm (T)	John Mulroy (9th Av.)
Sunday 1st Jan. @ 9.45am (F/T)	Jimmy & Detta Meegan (Av.)
Sunday 1st Jan. @ 11.15am (T)	Pro Populo (For The People)
Tuesday 3rd Jan. @ 9.30am (T)	Fr. Thomas Cassidy (107th Av.)
Wed. 4th Jan. @ 9.30am (F/T)	-
Friday 6th Jan. @ 9.45am (F/T)	-
Friday 6th Jan. @ 7pm (T)	Bridie Carolan (95th Birthday Remembrance)
Saturday 7th Jan. @ 6.30pm (T)	Richard Campbell MM
Sunday 8th Jan. @ 9.45am (F/T)	Ann Cowley MM
Sunday 8th Jan. @ 11.15am (T)	Parish List of The Dead

Cowley (née McKinney), Fieldstown; **Richard Campbell**, Castlolumney; **Phyllis Da Costa**, Sussex, England; *Let us know of family members outside the parish who have died, so we can include them in prayer.*

Epiphany House Blessing: The traditional way of blessing the home is to use chalk to write above the home's entryway(s), **20+C+M+B+23**. The letters C, M, and B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: **Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar**. They also abbreviate the Latin words, "**Christus Mansionem Benedicat.**" which in English means, "May Christ bless the house." The '+' sign represents the cross, and '2023' is the year.



Psalm Response this week: *O God, be gracious and bless us.*

The Feast of the Epiphany: is celebrated on 6 January. This feast is also called Little Christmas and Women's Christmas. The Three Kings have arrived from the East to honour the Infant Jesus. They represent the Gentiles and were directed by a star to Bethlehem.

They knew that a King was born who deserved homage and respect. They knelt to worship Him and offered Him precious gifts of **gold, frankincense and myrrh**. They returned home a different way disregarding Herod's request. If we follow Jesus Christ we will reach heaven.

Calling all those who've had a Baby Baptised in the last year: Next Sunday is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and we would love you to come to Mass. Fr. Paddy will be offering a '**Blessing of Babies**' at all the Masses next weekend, and members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be distributing a little gift to the families - a book of prayers for use in your home with the children;

We would also like to display photographs of the babies baptised last year - **50 in all!** Please place your pictures on the display boards in either Church, Or email to the parish office.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Christmas is a time of year when we generate huge volumes of wastepaper, food, glass and plastic. As we hear and read in the media about the negative effects global warming has on our planet we are encouraged to help protect



our environment by disposing of it in a proper manner either through your local bin collector, at any bottle bank or at the Drogheda Recycling Centre.

SwapShop & Car Boot Sale (Cars €10): A chance to exchange unwanted Christmas Gifts for something different - **Drumshallon Forge 15th January from 2-6pm**

Cherished Retreat: "Discovering my Identity as a Woman of God". Catholic Women's Ministry Retreat: Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan: **Jan 20th - 22nd 2023**. Led by Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia (Limerick). Mass, Adoration, rosary, confession, healing service, talks, testimonies, creative workshops, fellowship, tea and chats! Full Board accommodation €210 pps. Contact **Sh a u n a (0 8 7) 1 3 7 8 3 6 4 . info@holymission.ie**

Pope's Prayer Intention for January: for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

The Baptism of the Lord (8th January 2023): **Reading I:** Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; **Responsorial Psalm 28 (29) 1-4,9-10;** **Reading II:** Acts 10:34-38; **Gospel:** Matthew 3:13-17.

Mullary Cemetery Draw: Winning #44; No winners.

Please take a copy of the bulletin home with you for a neighbour, relative or friend. **OR** Subscribe on our website for an advance copy by email.