

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 20<sup>TH</sup> February

It is natural to stand up to people and 'get even' with them. The message of the gospels runs differently: we must learn to be as compassionate and forgiving as God our Father is when we turn to Him for forgiveness.

### MASSES

Vigil Saturdays 6p.m. Sundays: 9a.m. & 11a.m.  
Weekdays: Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.

### CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30am and 5.30pm

Monsignor Gearóid Dullea P.P.

Tel: 429 2296

Emergency Mobile 087 – 239 5434

Parish Office: 429 4332

Email: [parishoffice@ballinloughparishcork.ie](mailto:parishoffice@ballinloughparishcork.ie)

Web: [www.ballinloughparishcork.ie](http://www.ballinloughparishcork.ie)

Webcam: [www.churchservices.tv/ballinloughlourdes](http://www.churchservices.tv/ballinloughlourdes)



Do Not Judge  
And You Will  
Not Be Judged

### Feast days of the week in February

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> St. Peter Damian, 1007-72,** gave up teaching to become a hermit. Later he was Cardinal Bishop of Ostia. He was an outstanding reformer of Church life and discipline.

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> The Chair of St. Peter.** This ancient feast relates to early Roman custom of this time of year of remembering the ancestors of the family, those who presided over the family fortunes. The feast celebrates Peter as Bishop of Rome and the focus of unity in the communion of one faith.

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> St. Polycarp** was Bishop of Smyrna or Izmir in modern Turkey. Born around the year 69, he was a disciple of St. John the Apostle. He was martyred in 155.

### Prayer to St. Joseph

God, our heavenly Father, grant us the fortitude of Christ your Son to face the Covid-19 crisis with trust, patience and compassion.

Give us the grace of the Holy Spirit to free us from fear and look forward together to the future with healing and hope.

Through the intercession of Saint Joseph, the guardian of Jesus, and Mary his mother and Mother of the Church, may we be guided through this time of peril.

Preserve us in peace; heal the sick, protect the vulnerable; keep safe our health care workers and all who serve society, at home and abroad.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



### Ballinlough Summer Festival.

A fun Table Quiz will be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March in the Orchard Bar and Squash Club at 8.00p.m. This is a fundraiser in aid of the Ballinlough Summer Festival. Table of 4 is €40. Raffle during the night. Please support us.



### Story of Compassion – The Story of the Hummingbird

One day, a terrible fire broke out in a forest. As flames engulfed the huge woodlands, all the animals rushed out of the forest to safety. The snake slithered steadily away. The rabbit hopped, the wolf leapt, and the big bear lumbered out, even the birds flew away. Frightened by the raging flames and dark smoke, the animals ran and ran until they reached the edge of a nearby stream.



"I can't do anything to put out the fire," hissed the snake.

"What can I do?" asked the rabbit, "The fire is so hot and I'm so little."

"The fire is so big," cried the wolf, and I am frightened.

"My fur will burn!" cried the big bear.

Full of despair, the animals looked back in silence to watch the blazing fire destroying their homes. Each thought that there was nothing they could do.

Except for one tiny hummingbird.

Hummingbird decided she would do something to help. She flew as fast as she could and swooped into the stream. She picked up a single drop of water and returned to the forest and put it on the fire. Hummingbird kept going back and forth. All the animals watched in disbelief as the brave bird continued her work drop by drop by drop.

"Why are you bothering?" said the snake.

"Your wings will burn," said the rabbit.

"It's too much, you are too little," said the wolf.

The animals just stood around, but Hummingbird carried on gathering drops. The bird noticed how hopeless they all looked.

The big bear growled, "Hummingbird, you are so little. What do you think you are doing?"

Hummingbird did not stop to argue. Without losing a beat, she looked back and said, "I am doing everything I can."





### **Prayer to St. Joseph**

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**Give us the grace of the Holy Spirit to free us from fear and look forward together to the future with healing and hope.**

**Through the intercession of Saint Joseph, the guardian of Jesus, and Mary his mother and Mother of the Church, may we be guided through this time of peril.**

**Preserve us in peace; heal the sick, protect the vulnerable; keep safe our health care workers and all who serve society, at home and abroad.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

In desperation, I asked Jeeves  
My searches to refine  
The reply from him was negative  
Not a thing was found 'online.'

So if inside your 'Inbox'  
My Grandma you should see  
Please 'Copy,' 'Scan' and 'Paste' her  
And send her back to me!

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy  
of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

## The Computer Swallowed Grandma

The computer swallowed grandma  
Yes, honestly its true  
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'  
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely  
The thought just makes me squirm  
She must have caught a 'virus'  
Or been eaten by a 'worm.'

I've searched through the 'recycle bin'  
And files of every kind  
I've even used the 'Internet'  
But nothing did I find.

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy  
of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

