

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 27<sup>TH</sup> December

A day to pray with and for our family; to give thanks to God for them; to pray for healing of divisions and bitterness.

We pray that we may grow in respect and love for our extended family throughout the world.

Vigil Saturdays 6p.m.      Sundays 9a.m. & 11a.m.

### **HOLY DAYS.**

(Working) Vigil 6p.m.      Holy Days 10a.m. & 7.30p.m.  
Weekdays.                      Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.

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Webcam: [mcnmedia/Our Lady of Lourdes](#).



Dear People of Ballinlough,

On this, my first Christmas in Ballinlough, I want to thank everyone for your warm welcome to me since arriving last September. Even in challenging circumstances, you have been thoughtful, considerate and welcoming to me.

At this special time of the year I also want to thank so many people who contribute to the functioning of our parish. To our Sacristans, parish secretary, Ministers of the Eucharist, those who look after the flowers and decorating of the church, church cleaners, parish finance committee, people who distribute dues envelopes, our parish schools and so many others. In a particular way, I want to pay tribute to our covid stewards who work to ensure our safe gatherings in the church. Your work is very precious in these times.

May I wish all of our parishioners, a blessed and safe Christmas and the graces of the Christ child to sustain us in 2021.

*Beannachtaí Na Nollag,*  
Monsignor Gearóid Dullea



Please visit our new website at  
[www.ballinloughparishcork.ie](http://www.ballinloughparishcork.ie)

All our Masses are streamed live from  
our webcam.  
[mcnmedia/Our Lady of Lourdes](#)

## Community News

Ballinlough Community Association and Community Gardai Anglesea Street recently held a Gift Drive. The idea was inspired by local resident Niki Ffrench.

Members of the community kindly donated gifts which were distributed to local senior citizens organisations.

The beneficiaries were St Luke's Nursing Home, Beaumont Residential Centre, Share and Cope. Thank you to all for your kindness and generosity towards our residents in Nursing Homes



## How much does a prayer weigh?

Mary, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery shop. She approached the owner of the shop in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work, they had six children and they needed food. John the grocer scoffed at her and requested that she leave his shop.

Visualising the family needs, she said: "Please, I will bring you the money just as soon as I can."

John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at his shop. Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocer that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family. The grocer said in a very reluctant voice. "Do you have a grocery list?" Mary replied, yes.

O.K. he said, put the grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries.

Mary, hesitated a moment with a bowed head, then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scales carefully with her head still bowed. The eyes of the grocer and the customer showed amazement when the scales went down and stayed down.

The grocer, staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it."

The customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scales did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The grocer stood there in utter disgust.

Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement. It was not a grocery list; it was a prayer which said: "Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands."

The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence. Mary thanked him and left the shop. The customer handed a €50 note to the grocer and said, "It was worth every penny of it."

It was some time later that the grocer discovered the scales were broken; therefore, only God knows how much a prayer weighs



Generosity is a wonderful gift. To have a big heart is a blessing that is to be open and compassionate in love to the needs of others. Generosity is contagious and beneficial. Fact...The more we give the more we receive.

Generosity is measured in our ability to engage and be present to the needs of others. It is also very important to be generous to ourselves. The more I care for myself the greater I can care for others. Christmas is a celebration of generosity. God's love is so overwhelming that he embraced our human vulnerability and became one of us. A birth that evoked generosity from shepherds to wise men. May we all be blessed with generous hearts this Christmas?

<p><b>NOVENA PRAYERS TO ST. ANTHONY AFTER 10A.M. MASS TUESDAY MORNINGS</b></p>	<p><b>MIRACULOUS MEDAL PRAYERS AFTER 10A.M. MASS WEDNESDAY MORNINGS</b></p>
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**We tend to push sickness to one side so that we can concentrate on the real things of life. Sickness has and will always be a part of life. It may be our story right now or perhaps some member of our family or a friend. Our response is always important.**

**Jesus spent much of his time with sick people. He didn't preach to them or never told them to 'offer it up'. His miracles with sick people were not done to show off. His down-to-earth humanity, love and compassion are a reminder that he cared deeply about those who were sick. He reminded them of their dignity and that even in their darkest hour he would be with them. Nothing has changed. Every sickness is uniquely personal, a challenge and an opportunity.**

**We pray for all our sick and for all who give of their time, love and energy in looking after them.**



**As from now the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ballinlough will be live streaming our Masses for anyone who wishes to tune in from their homes. Although our suppliers have the camera focused on the Sanctuary, please be aware from time to time you may be seen.**

**These are the instructions for the people to avail of this service.**

- 1. Key this web address into goggle [www.mcnmedia.tv](http://www.mcnmedia.tv)**
- 2. Select cameras OR Republic of Ireland.**
- 3. Select Cork.**
- 4. Select Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Cork.**

**A prayer of Saint Louise, Most Holy Virgin  
I believe and confess, your holy and Immaculate Conception.**

**Pure and without sin, most pure Virgin  
Through your virginal purity, your Immaculate Conception,  
Your privilege of being the Mother of God, obtain for us from  
your Divine Son,  
Humility, charity, great purity of mind and body,  
The gift of prayer, a holy life, a happy death..... AMEN**

### **MEMORARE.**

**Remember O most compassionate Virgin Mary,  
That never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection  
Implored your assistance, or sought your intercession, was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you  
O Virgin of Virgins our Mother, to you we come,  
Before you we kneel, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions  
but in your clemency hear and answer them.**

### **NOVENA PRAYER.**

**O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
With confidence we come to implore your unfailing help.  
Bearer of life, Mother of our Saviour  
Give birth in our hearts to Jesus your son,  
Who forgives our sins, and brings healing to our lives.  
Mother of the Church on earth, hear the cry of the lowly and the poor,  
Who hunger for Jesus the bread of life,  
And in your loving wisdom, make our prayers your own.  
*(we pause to make our needs known to our Immaculate Mother.)*  
Virgin gentle in mercy, queen of the universe  
Cover us with the veil of your protection, and deliver us from the  
darkness of evil.  
Teach us by prayer and self-control,  
The meaning of truth and the beauty of love  
That with minds that are healed and hearts that are pure  
We may come in the end to where you are,  
The Queen of Angels and of Saints.**



### **An Act of Consecration to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.**

**O Virgin Mother of God Mary Immaculate  
At the message of an angel you received the Word of God  
In your heart and in your womb and gave life to the world.  
O Temple of the living God, throne of the eternal King  
Sanctuary of the Holy Spirit, we consecrate ourselves to you  
Lady of the Miraculous Medal.  
May this Medal be a sign of your love for us,  
And a witness of our devotion to you.  
May your promise to St. Catherine Labouré  
Bring grace to us and peace to all who say  
O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.**

### **A Prayer for Vocations.**

**O Jesus, send labourers into your fields,  
Which are awaiting holy apostles,  
Saintly priests, heroic missionaries and,  
Dedicated Sisters and Brothers.**

**Enkindle in the hearts of men and women  
The spark of a vocation.  
Grant that Christian families may  
Desire to give your Church,  
Helpers in the work of tomorrow.**

