

# CASTLEBAR PARISH NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.castlebarparish.ie](http://www.castlebarparish.ie)

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## Sunday Mass Times

Parish Church: 7pm (Sat), 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm Breaffy Church: 10am Ballyheane Church: 8.00pm (Sat.)

**PRIEST ON CALL: Tel 094 9021844**



## Mass Intentions for the Week

### **PARISH CHURCH**

*view at [churchtv.ie/castlebar](http://churchtv.ie/castlebar)*

*Parish Radio - 105.3 FM*

#### **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January:**

- 10.00am - Agnes & Michael Tuffy, Raheens.  
Zoifia Lewandowska, Poland.
- 7.00pm - Peggy Quinn, Windsor.

#### **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January:**

- 8.00am - Private Intention.
- 10.00am - Sean Kelly & dec. Kelly family, Castle Street.  
Una & Jimmy Feeney, Knockthomas & dec. Egan & Feeney families.  
Christina Noble & Vietnamese Orphanage.

#### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January:**

- 8.00am - Private Intention.
- 10.00am - Mary, Tom & Jack McGough & Paddy McHugh, Castlebar.  
Dec. McMahan & McDonnell families, Newport Road & Gerard Thoby, Eastbourne.  
Kate & Michael Holmes, UK & Brendan Holmes, Mulranny.

#### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January:**

- 8.00am - Private Intention.
- 10.00am - William & Bridget Moran, sons Michael & Jim, Patrick Gibbons & Katie Fahey.  
Bridie Moran, Rush Street.

#### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January:**

- 8.00am - Private Intention.
- 10.00am - Brendan Parsons, Joe & Ann Mitchell, Castlebar.  
Alice & Anthony Egan & dec. Egan family, Ballina.  
James & Bridget Johnson, Errew.  
Dec. members of the Parish Choir.

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January:**

- 10.00am - Richie Bourke, Boradruma. Michael Francis McDonagh, Knock.  
Jack & Annie Flanagan, McHale Road, daughter Angela Kelly & daughter in law Angela Flanagan.  
Michael Shaughnessy, Spencer Park.
- 7.00pm - Mary Carney, late of Chestnut Grove & Cloondesh. (M.M.)

#### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January:**

- 10.30am - Mary McDonnell, Kennedy Gardens. (1<sup>st</sup> Anv.)

### **BALLYHEANE CHURCH**

*view online at [churchtv.ie/ballyheane](http://churchtv.ie/ballyheane)*

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January:**

- 2.00pm - Kathleen Gallagher (M.M.) & Lorcan Deasy.
- 8.00pm - Paddy & Kate Kilcoyne, Errew & dec. Kilcoyne & Tuffy families.

### **BREAFFY CHURCH**

*view online at [churchtv.ie/breaffy](http://churchtv.ie/breaffy)*

- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January: 10.00am



## *Rest in Peace*



**Mary Kerins**, Lacke, Turlough, sister of  
Michael & Dorothy Kerins, Rathbawn Drive.

## Come To The Water

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the moment when God reveals who Jesus is. Our readings are rich with water imagery. Water is a powerful symbol throughout the Scriptures, from the story of creation and the crossing of the Red Sea, to the wedding feast at Cana and Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. It is a symbol of life and newness, an opportunity for God to reach out to us, be present with us and teach us something, as well as an opportunity for cleansing and a fresh start.

Our gospel today tells of Jesus being baptised by John in the river Jordan.

This immersion in water marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

By approaching John for baptism, along with all the others, Jesus is identifying with the people and allowing himself to be counted among sinners. It is a sign that he submitting to God's will. At this crucial moment, as soon as he emerges from the Jordan, Jesus sees the heavens open and the voice of God confirming him as 'Beloved Son'. It is a moment of divine approval, confirming Jesus' identity and launching him on his new mission.



The baptism of Jesus is a reminder of our own identity and mission. We are beloved daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers of Jesus, members of God's family. In today's first reading we are invited: 'Come to the water all you who are thirsty'. We are called to the water, to that moment when we recognise who Jesus is, who we are, and our mission to live as children of God.

'In order to live a life of holiness, we must first receive new life from God -  
we must be born from above.' J. Vernon McGee

*(Triona Doherty, Intercom Magazine)*

## Holy Hour (online only)

Every Sunday from 7pm – 8pm in the Parish Church. View at [churchtv.ie/castlebar](http://churchtv.ie/castlebar)

## Weekly and Priests' Collections

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has returned their weekly and Priests' collection envelopes. Thanks for all your support and generosity.

## The Christmas Robin

Why is the robin our Christmas bird?

Maybe because it breaks the long silence of winter:  
no other species sings so sweetly in the cold months.

Perhaps because its red breast splashes colour on grey December days.

Or it could be that robins grow winter-tame. Following gardeners, they wait for us to disturb the soil and expose juicy worms – I've lost count of the times a little redbreast has appeared from nowhere, when I've been out planting trees.

Musical, colourful, trusting; no wonder these birds perch on our Christmas cards, Christmas trees and in our hearts. In the past, robins flew right into the feast of Christmas itself. People believed that robins used to be brown, and only received their red breast when one ventured into the Bethlehem stable. The baby Jesus was cold; who could warm him? Feeding a fire with moss and branches, the robin fanned the flames with her wings. Her red breast shows where the warming flames leapt. Another legend hurries after the bird as she follows the Holy Family fleeing Herod. Cut by brambles and thorns, Mary's feet bleed in the snow. To stop the blood being seen by Herod's vengeful soldiers, the robin rolls in it and absorbs the drops into her own heart.

Here's to the robin: our Christmas bird!

*(Jonathan Tulloch, The Tablet)*

