

Ferbane Parish Bulletin

Sunday 17th December 2023 Third Sunday of Advent

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CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, FERBANE

SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER - 7pm

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER - 11am

1. Margaret Molloy (3rd A).
2. Tommy & Kitty Flaherty.

Mon. 18th: 10am

Tues. 19th: 10am - People's Mass.

Wed. 20th: 10am

Thurs. 21st: 10am

Fri. 22nd: 10am

Sat. 23rd: 10am - Hugh Gleeson.

SATURDAY 23rd DECEMBER - 7pm

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER - 11am

CHRISTMAS EVE - SUN. 24th DEC.
5pm Vigil for Christmas Day.
9pm Vigil for Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS DAY - MON. 25th DEC.
9am and 11am

PATRICK & SARAN, HIGH STREET

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER - 12 noon

1. Michael & Margaret Daly, their daughter Margaret, her husband James Murray & their daughter Mary Connaughton and deceased family members.
2. Patrick & Nan Kearns, their daughter Anne and deceased family members.
Patrick & Mary Rourke and their sons Pat, Tom, Joe & James.

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER - 12 noon

CHRISTMAS EVE - SUN. 24th DEC.
7pm Vigil for Christmas Day. *Pray & Play.*
CHRISTMAS DAY - MON. 25th DEC.
12 noon

ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT, BOORA

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER - 9.30am

1. Nancy Colgan, Leamore and deceased members of the Colgan & Boland families.
2. Mary Kate & Peter Grogan, Leamore.

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER - 9.30am

CHRISTMAS EVE - SUN. 24th DEC.
7pm Vigil for Christmas Day.
CHRISTMAS DAY - MON. 25th DEC.
9.30am

CONFESSIONS

Ferbane: Mon. 18th - Fri. 22nd Dec: after 10am Mass.
Sat. 23rd Dec.: 11am - 3pm.
High Street: Sat. 23rd Dec.: 12 noon - 1pm.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

In Ferbane Church on Tuesday 19th Dec. at 8pm.

NIGHT PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

For Advent continues in Ferbane Church on Wednesday 20th December at 8pm.

MASSES - All ceremonies can be heard on 106.5FM Parish Radio. Parish bulletin is available on www.ferbaneparish.ie.

PARISH OFFICE - Open every Wednesday from 9am-1pm and 2-5pm. Tel: 090 6454309 or email parishoffice@ferbaneparish.ie.

SVP - Confidential phone line 087 9272877.

CONCERN - *Church Gate Collection* will take place in all our Parish Churches this weekend. Your support is greatly appreciated.

DEATH - Please pray for *John Robbins, England* (son of Maureen, nee Brazil, Derrica and nephew of Jim Brazil, Derrica and Regina Dolan, Athlone Road), who died recently. RIP.

COLLECTIONS - December 10th:

Offertory/Shrine €3,295. Thank you.

THE COLLECTION ENVELOPES FOR 2024 - Are ready for distribution. We would be very grateful if the distributors can call to the Presbytery to collect them. If you cannot deliver the envelopes this year, please let Fiona or one of the priests know. If you have not obtained a box of envelopes and would like to get one, please let us know. Your support is greatly appreciated.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH CHOIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE - Will take place in St. Mary's Church, Cloghan this Sun. 17th Dec. at 8pm. All donations from this Service will be donated to the Irish Red Cross. *Wishing you all a very happy Christmas.*

GALLEN UNITED - *Lotto Draw* (Prize fund €7,200 Jackpot €1,900; Star Prize €5,300). Winning numbers were 5, 10, 16, 23. Bonus 2. No jackpot or match 3 winner. Two book prizes. Next draw on Monday 18th December.

FERBANE GAA - *Lotto*: Winning numbers in last week's draw 12, 19, 27, 30. Bonus 9. No jackpot winner. One match three winner. Next week's jackpot is €11,600. Draw on Tuesday 19th December.

FERBANE BRIDGE CLUB - Continues on Wed. 20th December at 7.30pm. All welcome.

PROGRESSIVE 25 - Cards every Friday night in Ferbane Heritage Centre at 9pm. More card players needed for game to continue.

ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WALK - Is being held at Ballinahown SportsPark on Wednesday, December 27th from 10.30am - 4pm. Why not put it in your diary and get out in the fresh air to walk and talk with your family, friends and neighbours. Festive refreshments available. Any donations received will be shared with the Premature Baby Unit in Temple Street Children's Hospital. Your support would be much appreciated.

BELMONT SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY Will be held on Sunday 7th January 2024 starting with Mass at 3pm in High Street Community Centre.

BELMONT GUN CLUB - Draw cards are currently on sale. Proceeds to Senior Citizens party. Kindly support.

HIGH STREET / BELMONT WOMEN'S GROUP - A huge thank you to all who supported the Christmas Market. €900 was raised for Offaly Hospice which will be handed over in the new year. *Wishing each and every one of you a happy and peaceful Christmas.*

FERBANE BELMONT CE - Have vacancies on our scheme for 2 Groundsperson/Caretaker, 2 General Operatives and 1 Caretaker Cleaner. Successful applicants will continue with all existing benefits with a scheme top up. All participants can also avail of training and upskilling. Call 090 6454068.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

'Rejoice the Lord is near'

This is 'Gaudete' Sunday. The pink candle is lit on the Advent wreath. It is a call to rejoice because the Lord is near. Is it possible to be joyful in a world laden with bad news, groaning under the shadow of environmental catastrophe and brutal war? It is possible and the surest way to find it is through building a friendship with Christ. Joy is not the absence of suffering; it is the presence of God. With Him we can look at the world through a different lens, see His fingerprint even in the worst circumstances on earth and know that all moments can be healed and that all shall be well. John the Baptist, the 'greatest of the prophets' came to understand this truth during his time of prayer, fasting and reflection in the wilderness and when he emerged he constantly and steadfastly directed the attention of his followers beyond himself to Christ. In so doing, he was actually pointing the way to true joy. He had discovered the pearl of great price and from then on, his words and deeds would bear eloquent witness to that discovery. For us as for John the pathway to joy will always look like this:

Jesus first; Others second; Yourself last.