



## Parish of Killavullen and Annakisha

### First Week of Ordinary Time (January 10-16, 2021)

21.2



#### **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah wrote six centuries before Christ when the people of Israel were exiles in the land of Babylon. The prophet announces that their tragedy was not the end: destruction was not the end. God's would send a Saviour who would make all things new. It is not for us to understand how God's will is delivered, but isn't it true that all bad things (including the Covid-19 crisis) will be eventually be resolved?

*Psalm: Is 6:2-6:* God presence is compared to refreshing / cleansing water. Our response is to spend some time with a grateful heart.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: When we are baptised we become God's children.

*Gospel:* John the Baptist knows that Jesus is the Son of God, and knows that he does not require his baptism of repentance. The baptism of Jesus marked the beginning of his public ministry when he came to be known as God's beloved Son.

**Fallen asleep in the Lord: 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversaries:** Brian Morrisroe (Kilcanway); Hannah Griffin (Ballygown). **Died this week:** Nancy O'Connor (Ballysheehan); Philomena O'Connor (Doonawanty); David Curry (Shanballymore).

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**Level 5 Restrictions have been imposed on Church activities** until January 31, when a review of the situation is expected. In the meantime, Mass will continue to be offered privately for your intentions each day. Churches remain open for personal visits (please visit our beautiful cribs to say a prayer!), but public worship in groups is not permitted with the exception of the following:

- Baptisms: attended by the immediate family only.
- Weddings: 6 guests can attend.
- Funerals: can be attended by ten mourners only.

When making a private or household visit to the church, please sanitize your hands on entering and exiting the building and wear a face mask at all times.

**Mass is broadcast** live every day at RTE NewsNow TV at 10.30am. On every second Sunday, Mass is broadcast at 11.00am on RTE TV One; on the other Sunday it is found on RTE NewsNow at 2.15pm. The readings of the day are found at the parish website: [www.killavullenparish.ie](http://www.killavullenparish.ie)

**Bon Mot:** Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world.  
Today I am wise, so I am changing myself. (Rumi)

**The Custom of "Chalking the Door"** is a popular tradition in for Catholics in parts of Europe, to ask God's blessing and protection for the year ahead (needed more than ever in our current circumstances). Using a piece of white chalk, the following formula is written on the lintel or frame of the front door:

**20 + C+M+B + 21**

The digits refer to the year, 2021. The letters are often read as Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar, the names that tradition gives to the Wise Men. It is really an abbreviation for **Christus Mansionem Benedicat** (May Christ bless this house)

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Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the **Christmas Offerings** as well as the **Weekly Offerings and Buildings Fund** collections. Weekly Offerings to support the maintenance of the parish can be made at the Office in Ballygriffin.

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**Pope Francis has nominated Dermot Farrell**, the current bishop of Ossory (Kilkenny/ Laois) as the next Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland. He will take up the appointment in February. Earlier this week he was interviewed by *The Irish Times* ... *On Church decline and the crisis of vocations:* "It is a crisis. We should always remember the Church was born in a crisis. Crisis is different to conflict, we shouldn't be afraid of it because it maybe prompting us to examine the way we do things and see if we can do things differently and have the courage to do so."

It "has to be addressed through prayer. Maybe we need to work with smaller groups of people who are more committed. Teaching people about prayer - I don't think we've been good at that in the past. We really didn't form people in prayer. Prayers ended up being the recitation of a formula...A deeper prayer life is important alongside the reading of sacred scripture."

**ALONE** manages a national telephone line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm by calling **0818 222 024**.

*This newsletter and other resources are forwarded each weekend to households that are registered with the parish. Registration forms are available at church doorways and can be returned at the ballot boxes at the churches or to the parish office.*