

**Clarecastle - Ballyea Parish**

[www.clarecastleballyeaparissh.ie](http://www.clarecastleballyeaparissh.ie)

**Fr. Pat Malone 6823011 / 086 8572023: Fr. Harry Brady 086 2349798**

**Sunday Mass:** Clarecastle 9am & 12noon & Ballyea 10.30am

**Saturday Mass:** Clarecastle 7pm **Weekday Mass:** Clarecastle 10am

**All items for Newsletter to Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesday**

**or email: [parish@clarecastleballyeaparissh.ie](mailto:parish@clarecastleballyeaparissh.ie)**

*13<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Third Sunday of Advent*

**Clarecastle Mass Intentions**

Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	7pm	Anniv	Beatrice & Christy Tully, Mary & Miko McNulty & Killoughrey Family
				Anniv	Betty, Johnny & Stephen Cullinan, St. Joseph's Tce Stephen Moloney, Killoo
Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	12noon	1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv	Eamonn Kelly, St. Joseph's Terrace
Mon	14 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	10am	Anniv	John Nagel, Ballyveskill, Tiermaclane
Tue	15 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	10am	Anniv	Michael Bruen, Sligo & Canada
Wed	16 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	10am	Anniv	Maureen & Danny Collins
Fri	18 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	7pm	Anniv	Mary & Michael Starr, St. Flannan's Ave.
				Anniv	John & Louise Hayes
Sat	19 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	7pm	Anniv	Nancy McMahon, Maddens Terrace & Ian McMahon, Manus
				Anniv	Michael Murphy, St. Michael's Terrace
				Anniv	Elizabeth Crosby (Nee McCarthy)
Sun	20 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	9am	Anniv	Patsy O'Loughlin, Madden's Terrace

**Ballyea Mass Intentions**

Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	10.30am	Anniv	Willie Burke, Drimeen
				Anniv	Patrick Quinn, Edenvale/London
Sun	20 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	10.30am	Anniv	Frank Costello, Kilmorane
				Anniv	John McNamara, Darragh

**Priests Collection:** The Christmas Collection for the priests of the parish will be this weekend 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> December. Please use an envelope from your yearly pack envelopes or an envelope of your own to make your contribution, and these can be dropped into or posted to the Parish Office or Parochial House. Alternatively, you can use the Parish Donate button by selecting Priests Collection and make your contribution online. See separate notice about the Donate button in this week's newsletter. Thank you for your support.

**Virtual Christmas Crib Crawl for Clarecastle Ballyea Parish 2020:** Take a picture of a crib, create a crib, build a crib, draw a crib, colour a crib, be a live crib, be creative- send a picture of your crib to Facebook/messenger @clarecastleballyea or email [clarecastleballyeaparissh@gmail.com](mailto:clarecastleballyeaparissh@gmail.com) Publication on Facebook Dec 23rd Spot prizes draw for entries.

**Christmas Mass Schedule 2020:** This Christmas we are experiencing a very different Christmas. Many of the traditions and customs of Christmas are suspended for this year. In line with the current health situation and out of concern for the safety of our people we have adjusted our Christmas schedule for this year. Please see the accompanying statement outlining the thinking behind our change in approach this year to Christmas Eve & Christmas Day, and see the times of masses from 19<sup>th</sup> Dec – 27<sup>th</sup> Dec, all of these masses are Christmas masses.

**Donations to Parish:** In these times of government lockdown and restrictions on attendances at public masses, many people are unable to attend church services and are interested in contributing to the support of the parish, priests and various other collections. Sincere thanks to our very dedicated and committed parishioners who have and are continuing to contribute during these very unusual times. Please continue to contribute as you have using your parish envelope or an envelope of your own to make that contribution. Many parishioners have asked about making an online payment to the parish and various collections. The Pastoral Councils have made enquiries about this and have now launched a DONATE button on the parish website for those who wish to use it. It is now possible to make a contribution by credit card or debit card directly to the various parish collections by using the parish website [www.clarecastleballyeaparissh.ie](http://www.clarecastleballyeaparissh.ie). Simply go to the website and click the green "Donate" button a menu of funds will emerge **Clarecastle Parish Funds, Ballyea Parish Funds, Priests Collection, Other Collection.** Choose the account (collection) you wish to pay and your contribution will be made directly to that fund. Please indicate your name and if you have an envelope number include that information also. Your support is greatly appreciated and we invite you to contribute in the manner that best suits you. Continue to contribute as you always have if that method suits you best. Once again Míle Buíochas.

**Triduum of Masses:** Last year we introduced a Triduum of Masses in the parish between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The proceeds of that Triduum went to the local Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and proved a very beneficial source of funding for the conference. This year we will continue the Triduum. It will be three masses celebrated at 11.00am in Clarecastle Church on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020, January 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021. Those who wish to include a person in the Triduum as a gift or remembrance at Christmas/New Year can do so by getting the Triduum Card in the parish office and making a contribution of €5 for same. The lovely card can be inserted in your normal Christmas card or given on its own to those you wish to give them to. The monies raised from the Triduum will again be given to the local Conference of St. Vincent de Paul and local charity to address the needs of those in our community this Christmas time.

**SVP Christmas Food Appeal:** Due to Covid-19 the "Christmas Giving Tree" will not be in operation this year. In lieu of this if you would like to donate a food voucher for Centra/Gala/Tesco/Aldi/Lidl these can be handed in to the parish office on or before Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. The local SVP Conference will ensure these vouchers are delivered to families and individuals in need within our community in time for these families and individuals to do their Christmas shopping. As always your concern and generosity throughout the years and especially at this time is greatly appreciated.

- St. Vincent de Paul Conference Clarecastle & Ballyea

## Statement from Clarecastle & Ballyea Pastoral Councils

The church is mindful that everyone is looking forward to Christmas after the difficult year we have had due to the Coronavirus pandemic. For many families an important part of celebrating Christmas is attending Mass in church on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day. This year however, we must manage that differently as the coronavirus pandemic is still very much a reality. Our priority this Christmas is to continue to keep our parishioners and community safe.

With this at the heart of our decision and after much consideration, the Pastoral Councils of Ballyea and Clarecastle have decided to hold Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day via the webcam ([clarecastleballyea.ie](http://clarecastleballyea.ie)) and parish radio with no congregation present in the church. We realise that many people will be disappointed with this decision. However, it has been taken in the interest above all of personal safety but also of fairness and inclusivity – who could turn anyone away on Christmas Day?

We can still keep Christ very much at the centre of Christmas by celebrating the Christmas ceremonies together via the webcam and parish radio. We also encourage the beautiful tradition of having a Christmas crib in the home and gathering there as a family to pray or to sing a carol. This will be especially meaningful this year. To highlight this, we invite you to join us with your family via the webcam on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. for a ceremony around the crib which this year will replace the children's Christmas Eve mass.

Let us remember that Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the Christmas period and to facilitate that we have organised more Masses during Christmas week. You will find the schedule below. There will also be a pre-recorded Christmas mass from Ballyea church available on its Facebook page from Christmas Eve.

We thank all our parishioners for your understanding and wish you all a very peaceful, happy and safe Christmas.

	Clarecastle Church Masses	Ballyea Church Masses
<b>Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	7 p.m	-
<b>Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9 a.m. & 12 noon	10.30 a.m.
<b>Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	10.00 a.m & 7 p.m.	10.30 a.m.
<b>Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	10.00 a.m & 7 p.m.	10.30 a.m.
<b>Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	10.00 a.m & 7 p.m.	8 p.m.
<b>Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	5 p.m. Crib ceremony via webcam 8pm Mass via webcam/radio only	-
<b>Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9 a.m. via webcam/radio 12 noon via webcam/radio	Christmas Mass (Facebook)
<b>Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	7 p.m.	-
<b>Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9 a.m. & 12 noon	10.30 a.m.

The churches will remain open for private prayer. Clarecastle: Sundays and Christmas Day 1 p.m.-5 p.m., Christmas Eve 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and all other days 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Ballyea: Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.