

**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)**

*20<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**Clarecastle Mass Intentions**

Sat	19 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	7pm	Anniv	Nancy McMahan, Maddens Terrace & Ian McMahan, 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 & brother Victor O'Loughlin, London
Mon	21 <sup>st</sup>	Dec	10am	Anniv	Tom & Dettie Kelleher, Clareabbey
Tue	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Dec	10am	Anniv	Thomas Considine & his son Eugene & Eugene's son Dylan, Main St.
Thu	24 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	10am	Anniv	Ciss & Danno Moloney, Church Drive
Sat	26 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	7pm	Anniv	Kitty Dillon, Church Drive

**Ballyea Mass Intentions**

Sun	20 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	10.30am	Anniv	Frank Costello, Kilmorane
				Anniv	John McNamara, Darragh
Sun	27 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	10.30am	Anniv	Paddy, Teresa & Christy Malone, Tiermaclane
				Anniv	Ronan Kelly, Ballyea



We remember in our prayers the repose of the souls of James Arthur (London) brother of Cissie Collins Darragh, Patrick Brosnan Co. Limerick brother of Siobhan Hennessy Skehanagh, Victor O'Loughlin, England, brother of the late Patsy Madden's Tce and Mary (Mai) Teehan, mother of Fr. Willie, Dunkerrin. All who died and were buried during the week. We offer our condolences to their families and friends.

**Anniversary Masses:** Anyone who wishes to have anniversary masses said for their relatives and friends during this time, and are happy to join the mass on the parish radio link or on webcam, can arrange same by contacting the parish office on 065-6823011

**Priests Collection:** Thank you to all who contributed to the Priests' Collection last weekend. Your generosity and support is very much appreciated. The collection is still open for those who wish to contribute to it.

**Home for Christmas:** We invite you to join us on the Clarecastle Ballyea Facebook this Tuesday 22/12/2020 at 8pm to the virtual live broadcast celebration by our local people featuring music, song, reflection, prayer, scenes and pictures to lift our spirits.

**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.

**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.

**Not Home for Christmas 2020:** Clarecastle Community Development/Tidy Towns in association with Clarecastle Community Covid-19 Response Network are inviting parishioners living abroad, who won't make it home for Christmas this year, to send on a short selfie/video clip greeting which will become part of a series of greetings posted onto local community websites/social media platforms. Niamh Healy and John Reidy are coordinating and can be emailed at [niamhkhealy@gmail.com](mailto:niamhkhealy@gmail.com) or [johnreidy90@gmail.com](mailto:johnreidy90@gmail.com) for further info.

**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.

## Christmas Schedule

As we move towards our celebration of Christmas we firstly wish all our parishioners every joy and blessing for this Christmas Season. It is a Christmas with a difference, but hopefully our celebration of Christ's birth will bring Joy into our world. A huge Thank You to all of you for your support, loyalty and commitment to our parish. The work of so many people makes this parish the community it is, so Míle Buíochas to all. This year has brought its own challenges and demanded responses no one ever dreamt they would have to take. The same is true of our parish and we thank you all for your understanding of decisions made and implemented even if they were not ones you liked yourself.

In relation to our celebration of Christmas this year, we have a number of adjustments to our Christmas schedule. Last week we outlined the Parish Decision with regard to church services, masses & liturgy around the Crib on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. These ceremonies will take place behind closed doors and will be broadcast on the parish radio and parish webcam - <https://www.clarecastleballyeaparissh.ie/our-parish/webcam/>. We have a schedule of masses each day this week Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Ballyea and Clarecastle and we invite our parishioners who wish to attend mass in person for Christmas to choose one of these masses and this will suffice for attendance at Christmas mass. These masses will be masses of Christmas Eve and Day. People are perfectly free to join on the parish webcam or radio for all masses or listen on the national/local radio or watch RTE Mass. There is no obligation to attend in person.

	<b>Clarecastle Church Masses</b>	<b>Ballyea Church Masses</b>
<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.

This year conscious that we are living in very difficult times the Pastoral Councils have erected a nativity scene outside our churches. These scenes enable people to visit the outside Nativity and pray there, without having to go into the church if they so wish. The traditional Crib in Clarecastle will not be on display this year, instead a much smaller crib will be placed in front of the altar. The crib usually attracts people to it and many touch it so we do not have the traditional beautiful crib on display this year. The smaller pieces of this year's Crib come with the distinction that they were made in Bethlehem and brought home from the place where Jesus was born, in that way they are very special, and unite us in a very real way with the craft of Joseph the carpenter who offered safety and security on that first Christmas Night in Bethlehem.

We wish all our parishioners every blessing this Christmas and may we continue to be one community united in prayer and celebration together, from a safe distance, this Christmas.