

21st December 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

IMEALL BÓIRNE MASS TIMES

Saturday Evenings: Boston 6:30 pm - Ruan 8:00 pm

Sunday Mornings: Crusheen 9:30 am , Corofin 11:00 am

Kilnaboy 9:30 am (1st & 3rd) Rath 9:30am (2nd & 4th)

On the First Sunday of every Month the Masses change venue as follows:

Saturday Evenings: Tubber 6:30 pm - Dysart 8:00 pm

Sunday Mornings: 9:30 am Ballinruan

Weekdays at 9:30am

Corofin: Monday / Thursday / Friday

Crusheen: Tuesday / Wednesday

Dysart: Wednesday Ruan: Thursday Tubber: Friday

First Friday Masses: Tubber and Corofin at 9:30am



www.imeallboirne.ie

In this fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the Gospel guides us towards Christmas through the experience of Saint Joseph, a figure seemingly in second place, but whose attitude encapsulates all Christian wisdom. He is one who does not preach, does not speak, but tries to do God's will; and he does it in the style of the Gospel and the Beatitudes. Let us think of: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (Mt 5: 3). And Joseph is poor because he lives on what is essential, he works, he lives by his work; it is the poverty typical of those who are aware that they depend on God for everything, and place all their trust in Him.

Today's Gospel passage presents a situation that is in human terms embarrassing and conflicting. Joseph and Mary are betrothed; they do not yet live together, but she is expecting a child by the work of God. Joseph, faced with this surprise, is naturally disturbed but, instead of reacting in an impulsive and punitive manner – as was the custom, the law protected him – he seeks a solution that respects the dignity and integrity of his beloved Mary. Joseph knew that if he denounced his betrothed, he would expose her to serious consequences, even death. He had full faith in Mary, whom he chose as his bride. He does not understand, but he seeks another solution.

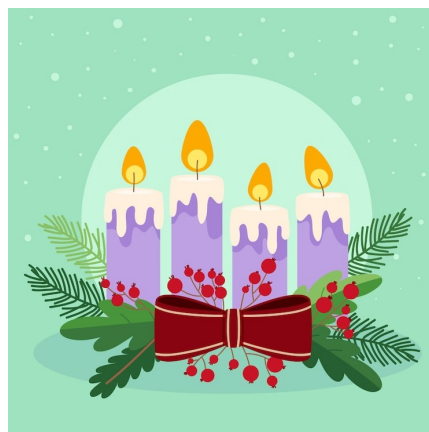
This inexplicable circumstance leads him to question their bond; therefore, with great suffering, he decides to detach himself from Mary. But the Angel of the Lord intervenes to tell him that the solution he proposes is not the one desired by God. On the contrary, the Lord opened a new path for him, a path of

union, love and happiness, and said to him: *"Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife. For that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit"* (v. 20).

At this point, Joseph trusts God totally, obeys the Angel's words and takes Mary with him. It was precisely this unshakable trust in God that enabled him to accept a humanly difficult and, in a certain sense, incomprehensible situation. Joseph understands, in faith, that the child born in Mary's womb is not his child, but the Son of God, and he, Joseph, will be the guardian.

The example of this gentle and wise man exhorts us to lift up our gaze and push it further. It is a question of recovering the surprising logic of God which, far from small or great calculations, is made up of openness towards new horizons, towards Christ and His Word.

May the Virgin Mary and her chaste husband Joseph help us to listen to Jesus Who comes, and Who asks to be welcomed in our plans and in our choices. (Pope Francis)



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Priest on call this week

Fr Des Hillery

065-6827018 / 087-6083136

Fr. Pat O'Neill

065 6827799 / 086-2612124



Lay Ministry / Pastoral Care

Catherine Brigdale 086 3010072

Lucy Kearney 086 2232887

Riona Browne 087 2410819

Imeall Bóirne Office

1A Laghtagoona, Corofin

Tues, Weds, Thurs. 9.30-2.30

065 6827018

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www.imeallboirne.ie

Anne-Marie Custy

(Secretary/ Administrator)

Mass of Anniversaries

December 20th

Boston 6.30pm / Ruan 8pm

December 21st

Crusheen 9.30am / Corofin 11am

January 3rd

Tubber 6.30pm/ Dysart 8pm

January 4th 9.30am

Ballinruan / Kilnaboy

Please contact Imeall Boirne Office with names of your loved ones for inclusion in Mass of Anniversaries.

Baptisms

Please contact Imeall Boirne Office for details. Information available on www.imeallboirne.ie

Thought for the Week

“At this Christmas, when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.”
St. Mother Teresa.

Imeall Boirne Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December

Kilnaboy 4 pm

Boston 6 pm

Rath 6 pm

Crusheen 8 pm

Ruan 8 pm



Christmas Day

Thursday 25th December

Dysart 9.30am

Ballinruan 9.30am

Tubber 11am

Corofin 11am

Advent Reflection 2025

For many people when they think about Christmas they think about parties and about Santy Claus and school holidays and spending time with their friends and meeting with family members. And all these things are, of course, important and very much part of the Christmas experience. But for people with faith in Jesus Christ, at the very heart of Christmas is remembering – remembering the coming of Christ at the first Christmas.

For many people with faith in Jesus Christ, at the very heart of the Christmas experience is the crib – that scene in the stable in Bethlehem where a baby was born on the first Christmas night and was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. And what’s different about that birth is that in the stable in Bethlehem through the birth of that baby, God entered in to human history. For thousands of years, the Jewish people waited for their Messiah or as they called him their Prince of Peace. And on that first Christmas night their Advent, their time of waiting was over, a baby was born in a stable in Bethlehem. That baby was the Son, the second person of the Trinity. That baby was God made flesh.
(Author: Fr. Brendan Hoban 2025)

Imeall Boirne Pastoral Area Christmas Outreach to families in need in our Pastoral Area.

If you are in a position to support our Outreach please donate vouchers for food / fuel that will be distributed by members of SVP to families at Christmas time. Vouchers can be dropped into the weekly collection baskets at Masses or handed to Fr. Pat or Fr. Des or drop into the Pastoral Area Office.

Imeall Boirne Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards & Calendars 2026

- available in our churches and Pastoral Area Office.

Give Hope This Christmas with Double the Love:

Mary’s Meals provides life-changing school meals to more than 3 million children living in some of the world’s poorest communities. It costs just €22 to feed a child with Mary’s Meals every day for a school year. To donate, go to www.marysmeals.ie or phone 01 853 5163. Every donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Corofin / Kilnaboy / Rath

Sunday 21st December

Kilnaboy 9.30am Mass for the People

Corofin 11am Mass of Anniversaries

Sean Kenny, Mary Patricia Kenny,

Farah McGrath, Alex McGrath,

Josephine Reidy, Christy & Eileen Burke (Kells)

Christina Moloney, Mary Hogan,

Thomas Flanagan (Market St)

Deceased members of the Tierney Family (Market St)

Deceased members of the Doherty Family (Newtown)

Michael John O'Sullivan & Deceased Family Members,

Tom Cahill, Michéal Shannon, Paddy Neylon, Nancy Grogan,

John Grogan, Dan Considine Martin Daly (Market St)

Nancy Daly (Market St) Mary Daly (Station Rd)

Deirdre McDarby (Dublin)

Morning Masses

Corofin: Mon 22nd Dec / Fri 26th December 9.30am

Adoration of the Eucharist

Corofin each Friday 10:00 am - 5 pm

Sunday 28th December

Rath 9.30am Mass for the People

Corofin 11am Mass for the People

Corofin Parish – Weekly Envelopes 2026

now available for collection. The Boxes are placed in the churches and if you have any query please contact the Imeall Boirne Office. Once again, a big thank you to all who support the Parish with the use of the Weekly Envelopes. If any person / family wishes to begin using the Weekly Envelope Boxes please contact the Imeall Boirne Office.

New Year's Eve – Mass of Remembrance

in St. Brigid's Church, Corofin @ 6pm.

Tubber / Boston

Saturday 20th December

Boston 6.30pm Mass of Anniversaries

Joe Kenny (Leitra / La Hinch)

Julia & Joe Clancy (Attyslaney)

Patrick O'Connor, Molly O'Connor, Michael O'Connor,

Tommy & Eileen Lee & Deceased Family Members,

Sr Wenceflaus, Theresa, Noreen & Mary McMahon,

Kitty Reynolds, Peggy Forde, Elizabeth O'Loughlin.

Morning Mass

Tubber Friday 26th December 9.30am

Adoration of the Eucharist

Tubber Tuesday 7pm - 8pm

Saturday 27th December

Boston 6.30pm Mass for the People

Rest in Peace

Nuala O'Dell (née Pilkington)

Gone no further than God and God very



Ruan / Dysart

Saturday 20th December

Ruan 8pm Mass of Anniversaries

Paul Howard, John Sheehan, Jill Clarke,

Joe Meaney

Adoration of the Eucharist

Dysart - Wednesday from 10:00am to 1 pm

Ruan - Wednesday from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Friday 26th December

Ruan 10am Joseph Hayes RIP Months Mind Mass

Saturday 27th December

Ruan 8pm Mass for the People

An Advent Tree has been placed in St. Tola's Church, and St. Mary's Church. You are invited to write the name of a person who may not be spending Christmas with you this year (maybe due to bereavement, illness, addiction, family circumstances.....) Cards will be hung on tree and brought to the altar at Christmas Masses for special remembrance.

Toonagh Crafters Take a Break. Residents in Cahercalla Nursing home and Slainte an Chlair Cancer Centre in Kilnamona have been the recipients of blankets and scarves made by members of the group. The group will return on January 7, 2026

Ruan Tidy Towns' Annual Christmas Fair will be held in the community centre after 8pm Mass on December 20th. Donations of timber, turf, silage, bric-a-brac, home baking etc will be gratefully appreciated.

Thank-you for your recent
donations & continued support

Crusheen / Ballinruan

Sunday 21st December

Crusheen 9.30am Mass of Anniversaries

Michael & Mary Fogarty & Deceased Family Members,

Kevin O'Brien (Cappafean) Baby Jack Griffin,

Deceased Members of the Crusheen GAA Club,

Joe Butler, Joe Kearney, Rita & Joseph Cunningham,

Anne Cunningham, Michael Cullinan,

May & Michael Hassett, Margaret & Michael Joe McMahon

Saturday 27th December

Crusheen 4pm Ann Cullinan RIP 1st Anniversary

Morning Mass

Crusheen Tue 23rd Dec 9.30am

Sunday 28th December

Crusheen 9.30am James O'Grady RIP 1st Anniversary

Inchicronan Parish – Weekly Envelopes 2026

now available for collection. The Boxes are placed in the church's side porch (nearest the village) and if you have any query please contact the Imeall Boirne Office. Once again, a big thank you to all who support the Parish with the use of the Weekly Envelopes. If any person / family wishes to begin using the Weekly Envelope Boxes please contact the Imeall Boirne Office.

Today's Scripture Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

PENITENTIAL RITE

- P. Have mercy on us, O Lord
 C. For we have sinned against you.
 P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
 C. And grant us your salvation.
 P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
 C. Amen.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above'. 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test'.

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us" '.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Let the Lord enter!
 He is the king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm.

R

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
 Who shall stand in his holy place?
 The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things.

R

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.

R

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Rm 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name.

You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!

A reading from holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Mt 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph

son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel