

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD BALALLY PARISH

28th April 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

Parish Office Open Hours:



Monday to Friday

9.30am 12.30

Tel: 01-2954296



Email: balallyparish@gmail.com

Web: www.balallyparish.ie

Fr Jim Caffrey PP 0861579825

jcaffrey73@gmail.com

Fr Dermot A. Lane Tel: 012956165

Pastoral Centre : 012953095

Email: balallypastoralcentre@gmail.com

Mass Times & Intentions:

Saturday 27th April 6.00pm Mass

Mary Kavanagh (Months Mind)/

Dick Comerford (1st Annv), Dick Comerford Senior (Annv)
& Special Intention

(Birthday remembrance for Peter Comerford/

Kate Irwin (12th Annv)/

Special Intention

(Birthday remembrance for Colin O' Brien)

Sunday 28th April 10.00am Mass

Mary Kavanagh (Months mind)/ Kathleen Mason/

Margaret Kelly (3rd Annv)

Kevin & Carmel Peakin/ Special Intention (Get well)

Monday 29th April 10.00am

Communion Service

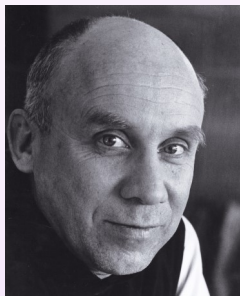
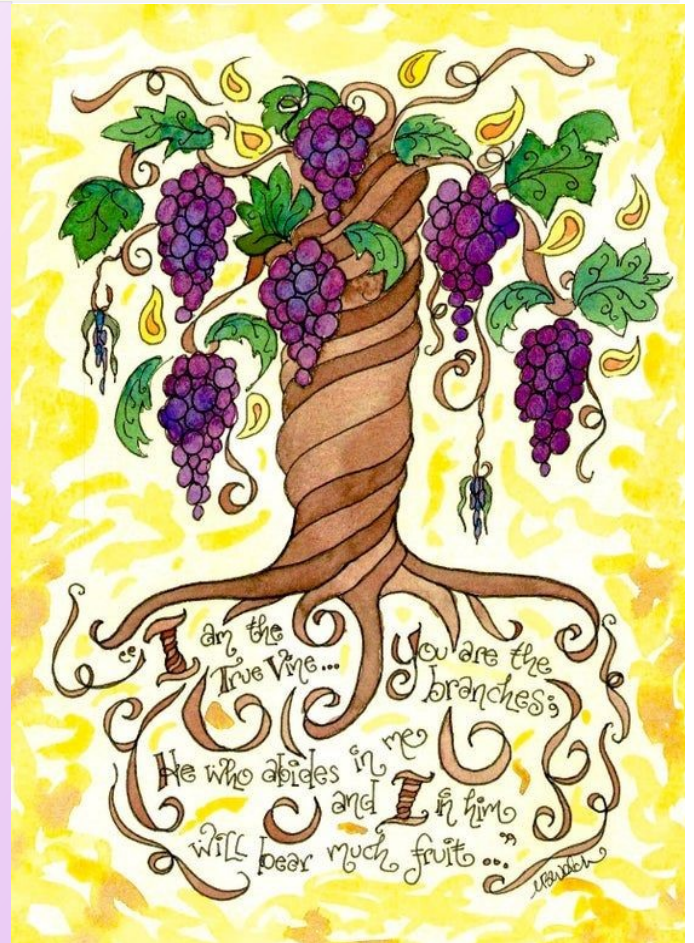
Wednesday 1st May 10.00am Mass

Paul Deasy/ Eileen Collins & Lila Kirk/ Paul Lyons /

Fintan Reidy/ Special Intention (Get well)

Friday 3rd May 10.00am

Communion Service



Quote

Thomas Merton

In the last analysis, the individual person is responsible for living his own life and for 'finding himself.' If he persists in shifting his responsibility to somebody else, he fails to find out the meaning of his own existence.

Reflection by Fr Laurence Freeman

Clement of Alexandria, one of the early fathers of the Church, said that nothing that is not against nature is against Christ. In other words, when we hear the truth whether it's from another religious tradition or whether we hear it from science, if it's the truth, it is an expression of God's presence and the teaching of the church today, the Catholic Church, is that we reject nothing that is true and holy in other religions, that we respect it, because if Christ is the truth wherever we find the truth we find Christ and indeed it is our responsibility to revere the truth that we find wherever we find it, just as we revere Christ. That's the basis of dialogue, not that we are trying to convert the other person – that's the work of the Holy Spirit – but that we are seeking the truth and we have the courage, the confidence and also the humility to seek the truth with others, to help each other, to learn from each other.

COLLECTIONS

Thank you for your very generous response to last Sundays collections

1st Collection €810 2nd Collection €460

An extra €820 was raised for Gaza by the 1st Communion children and their families of St Olaf's School.



Balally Parish 400 Club

April draw takes place this Sunday 28th

**If you would like to Subscribe
Please contact Parish Office 012954296**



LAY MINISTRY APPEAL

"In the past year, we can point to green shoots emerging through efforts associated with our Building Hope initiative. The Diocesan Certificate in Catechesis, provided by the Office for Mission and Ministry, is a good example. Announced last May, it has been a real success. This in-demand programme examines the vocation and mission of the participants Shape Our Future Support Lay Ministry inspired to share their faith. It gives them the tools to assist others on their faith journey. I ask for your generous support for the Lay Ministry Collection, **27th & 28th April 2024**

Your contributions are vital in sustaining and expanding these initiatives, ensuring our Church remains a vibrant beacon of hope and faith in the world."

Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin

The Lay Ministry Collection will take place this weekend and will replace the Share collection

St Olaf's Ladies Club

Friday 3rd May at 3.30 pm

St Olaf's School Hall

"Mass for deceased members "



A Word from Fr Jim

I have been very touched by the take up on Paul's invitation of the "Return to Nature" group and of Pasquale's "Friends of Simpsons Hospital". As we celebrated Earth Day, it struck me from Fr Dermot's word how we need to be connected and united with each other and all creation.

What I want to see in the parish is greater unity a greater sense of "US" together rather than individuals and groups doing their own thing. Let's keep the parish mission of "Building Hope through Meditation and Service as our goal and method.

On Sunday Last Archbishop Farrell inducted 44 newly trained Catechists for the diocese. I am delighted that he has assigned one of them, Clare Neville to Balally. There will be a blessing and we will talk more about her role shortly.

Today is Lay Ministry Sunday and last weekend, Good Shepard Sunday. What is the Lord saying to us at this time?. I will leave the answer to Fr Thomas Halik a renowned theologian from Prague and friend of John Paul II and Pope Francis. In his revered and wildly acclaimed book "The Afternoon of Christianity" he writes.....

1. Wherever the action of the Church is limited to the administration of the sacraments and religiosity is not transformed into personal faith, Christianity becomes a mere "cultural religion" that quickly fades and disappears with the change of the Sociocultural paradigm.
2. The rescue attempts of the hierarchy - importing priests from Poland, Africa, and Asia, merging parishes, etc - are not a realistic solution and will not stop or alleviate the deepening of this crises, it is more like "shifting the berths on the Titanic".
3. If decades of Church - wide prayer for new priestly vocations has gone unanswered, perhaps God is telling us that he expects us to look for other doors and other solutions instead of stubbornly pounding on the doors he himself has closed.
4. The situation will not change unless the Church adopts a completely new model of pastoral ministry, different from that of territorial parishes, unless it offers a new understanding of the priest's mission in the Church and in society, unless it creates the conditions for a new style of training for the priesthood and unless it creates even greater scope for the involvement of the laity, both men and women in the life and activities of the Church.

With My Love & Blessing: Fr Jim



St Olaf's 1st Communion
Saturday 20th April 2024



RETURN TO NATURE GROUP

BALALLY PARISH

AIM: To return 30% of Church grounds to nature by 2030



Visit to An Tairseach Ecology Centre, Wicklow, April 2024

Chair: Paul Murphy

Please contact Paul at: pmurphyj@gmail.com

if you would like to join this working group
OR offer ideas/suggestions for the project.

Acts of Service Week 6



TURN OFF LIGHTS AND UNPLUG
APPLIANCES NOT IN USE.

APPLIANCES ON STANDBY
CAN USE UP TO 20% OF THE
ELECTRICITY

USED WHEN THEY ARE TURNED
ON..

Earth Day 22nd April 2024





Archbishop Farrell plants new seeds for future in Donnybrook church



Our new catechist Clare with Archbishop Farrell and Balally friends



Clare and close friends



New catechists