

BOHERLAHAN & DUALLA NEWSLETTER

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We remember in our prayers the following whose anniversaries occur around this time:

BOHERLAHAN

Sat. 31 Dec. 7:30 pm Tom and Mairéad Kevin, Lr. Nodstown.
Sun. 1 Jan. 11:00 am Frs. Jim Feehan and Maurice Morrissey.
Thurs. 5 Jan. 7:30 pm. Sr Agnes Quirke, L.S.A. Dublin & Ballycamas.
Sat. 7 Jan. 7:30 pm. Liam Keane, Slatefield; Paddy & Nellie Sheehy, Tobberadora.
Sun. 8 Jan. 11:00am. Mattie Connolly, Ardmayle West.

DUALLA

Sat 7 Jan 6:30 pm Jim and Peggy Sheridan, Dualla, & son Kevin;
Margaret O' Dwyer, Ballinure (Month's Mind Mass)
Sun 8 Jan 9:30 am Nonie Spillane, California and Ballytarsna;
Bay O' Reilly, Ballinree

PRAY FOR: John Leamy, Cashel & Cork; Sr. Agnes Quirke, Dublin & Ballycamas.



Today is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Vatican Council II reminds us that since Mary said yes to God's plan that his Son should be born of her through the Holy Spirit, she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer.

Monday (2 January) is the memorial of Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the Church.

Friday (6 January) is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. It is a holyday of obligation. Masses in Boherlahan and Dualla as at weekends. The great feast of the Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East. These men, who are of pagan background, represent the first welcome of the nations for the good news of Jesus' birth.

HOLY COMMUNION MINISTERS (Epiphany of the Lord)

BOHERLAHAN: Anne Flanagan; Mary Ryan (N) & Nora Moloney

DUALLA: Marie O' Gorman; Julie Ann Ryan

(On duty next weekend)

BOHERLAHAN: Paddy O' Dwyer; Katie O' Dwyer & Nellie Taylor

DUALLA: Ann Barry Ward; Mona Heffernan



FIRST FRIDAY: Next Friday. Fr Egan and Fr. Dunne will make the usual calls to the sick and housebound. Masses (of the Epiphany) as at weekend times.

WEEKLY ENVELOPES: You will have received by now a packet of envelopes (61 in total) plus the Financial Report and Parish Calendar. It will be of great help to us if you use the envelopes each weekend. The contribution of the family may be placed in the envelope and this will mean that you or your partner may let the basket pass as the other partner may have the envelope. We know that you will cooperate with us in using the weekly envelopes. The aim of the new arrangement is to help the financial health of the parish without having extra collections. The bags will go around as usual. Your envelope may be placed in the bag with the contribution of visitors and others

APPRECIATION AND THANKS: As priests of the parish, we wish to express sincere thanks to all who have helped in so many different ministries in the parish during the past year. We are indeed very grateful for the friendship, support and cooperation we receive from so many people. We have so many loyal, committed and dedicated people in the parish and we appreciate you all. We pray that all the parishioners of Boherlahan-Dualla will find friendship, hope and peace this Christmas and that we will bring a good spirit of joy and care into 2017.

COMMUNITY WEBSITE: Congratulations and thanks to all the children who sent in their entries for the Competition. They wrote about parishioners past and present, places inside and outside the parish, their experiences, parish events, their families, and other stories. We had articles from all classes from 1st to 6th, with most coming from the senior classes. We received lots of excellent pictures to accompany the pieces, all of which are available to read on the website, boherlahandualla.ie, and will remain there. Four prizes of book tokens, worth €25 each and sponsored by Ardmayle Heritage Society, were awarded to: Adam Browne Souza for the 1st/2nd class section; Eabha Ryan for 3rd/4th; Eugene O' Dwyer for 5th; and Aisling Tess Gleeson for 6th. The prizes were presented in the schools on Wednesday 21st Dec. by Fr Thomas Dunne.

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND LIVED AMONG US

Too often people think of God as a common name which has become part of everyday language; as a vague "being" who is supposed to have magical powers; as the creative force behind the universe and its evolution; as an idea which can be demonstrated in order to comfort the minds of people. But this is not the God of Christians.

Too often, and for too many people, the "act of faith" is summed up in this manner: there is "something" greater than us, "something" unapproachable because it is so distant, unknowable because it is mysterious; something we must contend with and endure; something whose good will we must cultivate. This is in no way the faith of Christians. Too often people speak of being religious or of having religion. They refer to a complex of badly assimilated religious information, of badly observed moral laws, of rituals performed distractedly. This is by no means the religion of Christians. The God of Christians is not a God-object, a God-idea, a God-morality, a God of Social Order. The God of the Christians is a person, a person who is called Jesus Christ; a person who, historically, once lived among people. The God of the Christians is not something greater than us, but someone among us. Christmas, then, is God come among us, made visible to us. Christmas is God. Hitherto inaccessible and unknown, becoming man and joining hands with people, greeting people, speaking to people, loving people, dying for people. No one has every seen God; it is only the Son, who is nearest the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*The Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shone to the world the light of Wisdom
For by it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to adore thee,
The Sun of righteousness, and to know thee, The Orient from on high
O Lord, glory to thee.*

PRAYER AT THE START OF A NEW YEAR

*Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good—with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others. As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible—with your help and guidance.
Amen.*