

## *Christmas Clergy Collection*

Fr. Hassett would like to thank you in advance for the generosity of your support; your kindness is very much needed and appreciated.

### *Christmas Eve Mass Times:-*

Garranbane	7.00pm
Ballinroad	8.00pm
Abbeyside <b>SCHOOL</b>	9.00pm

### *Christmas Morning Mass Times:-*

Abbeyside School	9.30am
Ballinroad	10.00am
Garranbane	11.00am
Abbeyside <b>SCHOOL</b>	12.00pm

*Daily Mass in Abbeyside SCHOOL from  
Mon 23rd Dec 2019 to Fri 3rd Jan 2020 @ 10 a.m.*

May the magic of Christmas gladden your heart with the joys of the season. May the spirit of Christmas bless you with greater strength. May the promise of Christmas bring you and yours endless blessings.



### *Parish Office Details:*

**Tel: 058 45787**

**Email: [abgparishoffice@eircom.net](mailto:abgparishoffice@eircom.net)**

## *Christmas Bulletin 2019*

**ABBEYSIDE, BALLINROAD &**

**GARRANBANE PARISH**

### *Christmas Greetings*

‘Will we be in for Christmas?’ a swimmer asked earlier this night at the Goldcoast as I was about to leave the pool. My heart sank again, as I spluttered ‘unfortunately not.’ What is it about Christmas? Whether it is home improvements, painting... Christmas is a deadline or a target. Is it that deep down Christmas somehow symbolises an idyllic and uplifting experience? Peace and harmony, dreams come through and expectations met. Targets reached and tasks completed. A bit of heaven on earth perhaps? Is that why we shop till we drop, cook such a feast that we swell and sleep afterwards?

Whether or not we are explicit Christian believers or Mass-goers, what is it at root that keeps us going? Beyond family and friends, and the satisfaction we get from work or other roles, what deep down floats our boat or makes us tick? What is the kernel or the high point or overarching vision that enables us to navigate negatives and to deal with defeat and death?

Ireland and western culture has changed hugely. Old style authoritarian institutions, like Church, have been toppled or at least weakened. We can each now do what we please, in theory at least. But what is it that pleases? Where do I get my peace, my joy, my love, my support, my inspiration? I know I feel a need to delve deeper, to meditate more, to explore, to expand...

Abbeyside Church, as most people know, has been closed since early August. ‘When are you going to paint the Church?’ was the regular query for the five years since I arrived here in mid-March 2014.



Sadly a much bigger and far costlier job was needed. Basically to strip out the dry-lining and install a breathable and insulated lime plaster; and to install an automatic ventilation system. Obviously to achieve this, much other enabling work was needed, for example electrical future proofing. Things haven't run smoothly, so far. Walls were not straight and hence needed nearly double the amount of plaster.

It is 9.00pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, the volunteers and office staff are pressing me for these greetings! Earlier efforts didn't get editorial approval! Pressure is on. I'm now sitting on an upturned crate in the middle of our building site church with a laptop on my dusty knees. All is quiet bar the wind rustling, and the repetitive beeping of the fire alarm. It is three and a half years since I similarly sat and typed here; on that occasion it was Fr Doherty's wake, and I stayed with him late into the night as I prepared a few words for his funeral.

What would he and countless others who have gone before us make of the mess? I'm reminded of the divine instruction St Francis received: 'Rebuild my Church.' Much more than a mere, even if major, renovation of a building.

How can we rebuild the community of believers in Jesus? What gives me a lift is people's desire for peace, love, forgiveness, meaning, consolation, contemplation (whether called mindfulness or meditation, regardless of tradition), belonging or community. To sit still in a building site such as Abbeyside church is not easy. First there are no seats. Second, shoes, trousers, coat...etc are like a magnet to all sorts of filth and dust. Nothing soothing to rest one's eyes on, except perhaps the empty but well plastered tabernacle recess. No reserved and adored Holy Communion. Gleamingly restored tabernacle is in storage, not here. But surely God is in this construction-tool cluttered workspace! Behind me an electric mixer. Further back a generator. In front of me a compressor. On my left empty Diasen Argacem bags all the way from Italy; the finish coat of plaster.

## A Big Thank You

*Thank  
you*

Our parish depends on the daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal involvement of lots of committed Christians. Hardy helpful people who deliver door to door this bulletin, along with parish calendar and envelopes, to take one example. Nothing, as you know, happens without effort, energy and organisation. For the past six months, extra effort has been required firstly to move from Abbeyside Church to School Hall for the Summer, and then weekly to hop over and back between Scoil Mhuire and the Scouts' Den. Thanks to everyone for all the co-operation and co-ordination. Much has been achieved from Ballinroad Hall being totally insulated, including new windows and doors and a fire alarm. Ballinroad Church was warmly painted during the Summer. I also congratulate all at Garranbane N.S. The new school building and ground work is fabulous. *Well done.*

## New to the area? Our Parish Community welcomes you.

*Welcome*

If you are new to the area, we welcome you and hope that you are settling in well. You are welcome to join us for weekend and other liturgies in our Parish of Abbeyside, Ballinroad and Garranbane. The parish calendar (with this bulletin) has all our contact details.





## Donations

The last few days have seen donations to the parish of €500, €300, €100, €900, €400, €500, €300 and €500 (in order of arrival). What can I say in the face of such spontaneous generosity? It is truly heartening to experience such support. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supports us throughout the year.

## Parish Support



We thank you for your ongoing practical support to the Parish. As a way of allowing the Parish make the most of their donation, many people use weekly envelopes, standing orders or cheques thereby enabling us to claim back up to an extra 45c for every €1 given. If you would like more information please contact Fr Hassett.

## Santa's Toys

On Christmas Day at the 12.00 noon Mass, all children are invited to bring along one toy they receive from Santa for a special blessing.



## Abbeyside, Ballinroad & Garranbane Senior Citizens



Christmas party will take place Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan in the Park Hotel @ 2p.m. Price €25.00. Names can be given to any committee members.

Details are on Parish notice boards.



All around me hoses and cables. Under my feet protective plywood. To my right a tower scaffold. On every side fixed scaffolding. Naked lights suspended, shades washed and removed for safe keeping. Earlier in the graveyard a grieving father, appreciating the work, promised a donation. Behind me the stunning limestone rib arched roof of the porch once more made visible.

Could it be that our building site church is a symbol of how the Catholic and other Christian Churches find themselves right across the Western World in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? In dire need of repair. Committed members growing old and fewer. Younger not convinced. Many love the relative informality of the Scouts' Den and Scoil Mhuire Hall, which we are so fortunate to have. Others miss the church and prefer to worship elsewhere. When things are done well at key moments, such as death, marriage, birth... it is appreciated and affirmed. How to recover our roots in real experience: to accompany and guide each other, we need to have courageously searched and struggled ourselves, to have failed and found forgiveness, to have hungered and found food, again and again.

For me, the Jesus of the Gospels is always fresh and freeing. Equally inspiring is to be opened up to, to be invited in...in to hearts smashed and broken, or melted and smelted in the fire of family and friendship; here too I intimately encounter the flesh and blood Jesus. (Church) Buildings only provide shelter and structure; they're secondary even if important. Church is primarily a matter of the heart. It is inside, and among us and within all creation that Jesus resides.

'Will we be in for Christmas?' I earnestly hope and pray, that you and I will enter anew into our throbbing hearts and heroic hopes in our work-in-progress world this Christmas and find afresh our mystical and mysterious God. Nollaig Shona dhaoibh go léir.

*Fr Ned Hassett*



## Wordsearch Christmas 2019

B T K A G G J R A N E E N A R O O T N X N E  
 P A S N L E H T O M I L W M Z S N H R S Q Q  
 L R L A O E B A C M E G D I R B N O H A M F  
 S I Q L E C E Y T R U O C A N I L L A B S T  
 L N P T Y E K M L Y X S H C U I G F S A L E  
 I G P R N N G A A L R X G Z G R G T M L R W  
 A P C A A T A A N N A I S N A F R O B O B K  
 B H L G D F E G S O I B E N U A H D M N A C  
 H I A G A O F N A S R L G N D T A D I O L A  
 G E S A E L Z A B U A E L B C O R H Z H L M  
 C N H S M D D G N O L P A A R A J A O A I R  
 U A M Y L P J L A E G L M N B D H N O M N O  
 A B O L I A J I V I L L I E R S T O W N A G  
 C N R L K R N S A Y I L I O O E A S T U M H  
 W A E A A I Y H L K L C F K R C S U Y B U T  
 O R P B K S K A C A R R I C K B E G M R L A  
 L R A P F H N I B E E A N N E S T O W N T R  
 L A N W O E S Z L T K N A B Y R R E F I O W  
 A G P R E Q J M A L E M Y B R I E N W N C V  
 T M Y N U I U W N W O T S D O O W H E W H B  
 D U N M O R E I S D E U Q F Q N M F X G A E



Find the words listed below in the wordsearch grid. The words can go across, down or diagonally.

One word is missing from the grid. Find that word and send it, together with your name and address to the Parish Office, Strandside South, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co Waterford on or before 6<sup>th</sup> January. All correct answers will go into a draw for €50

AFFANE	CARRICKBEG	MAHONBRIDGE
AGLISH	CLASHMORE	MOTHEL
ANNESTOWN	DUNMORE	OLDPARISH
ARDMORE	EAST	PASSAGEEAST
BALLINACOURTY	FENOR	PORTLAW
BALLINAMEELA	FERRYBANK	RATHGORMACK
BALLINAMULT	GARRANBANE	RING
BALLINROAD	GRANGE	SLIABHCUA
BALLYBEG	KILGOBNET	STRADBALLY
BALLYLANEEN	KILL	TALLOW
BALLYNAGAUL	KILMACTHOMAS	TOORANEENA
BALLYSAGGART	KILMEADAN	VILLIERSTOWN
BUNMAHON	KNOCKANORE	WATERFORD
CAPPOQUIN	LEMYBRIEN	WOODSTOWN

