

Christmas Mass Time Schedule (Ticket Only)

Christmas Eve

Abbeyside	5.00 p.m
	7.00 p.m
	9.00 p.m
Ballinroad	6.00 p.m
	8.00 p.m
Garranbane	5.00 p.m
	7.00 p.m

Christmas Day

9.30 a.m
12.00 p.m
10.00 a.m
11.00 a.m

Sunday 26th Mass Times

Abbeyside	9.30 a.m
Ballinroad	10.00 a.m
Garranbane	11.00 a.m
Abbeyside	12.00 p.m

Daily Mass:

Mon 27th to Fri 31st @ 10.00 a.m - Abbeyside Church

Parish Details:

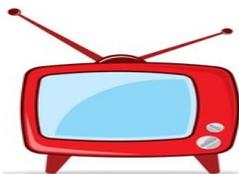
Parish Office, Strandside South 058-45787

Email: abgparish@gmail.com
Website: www.abgparish.ie
Donate: <https://abgparish.ie/donations/>

Webcam: www.abgparish.ie/live

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM_q15eoN7Ss7DG49BMWVPA

Facebook: [ABG Parish](https://www.facebook.com/ABGParish)



Christmas Bulletin 2021

Abbeyside, Ballinroad &

Garranbane Parish

Christmas Greetings



It's 7.00am. Tuesday 7th December. And I haven't budged from my bed. Barra is storming outside. I'm on full alert, like the antlered stag and his bare headed brood I saw passing my Kenmare friend's kitchen window last week. As much with my ears as eyes, I look around in the dark. Gales howl. Roof creaks. Schools sleep. I text, then talk to nonagenarian Fr Sheehy, saying I'll sort Mass. To stay home.

I flash back to Christmas Eve night in Carrick in 1997. I'm walking to Mass on deserted streets, clutching my sermon notes. Bent forward into the storm force head wind, prising myself slowly up Castle Street. Loud clatters before and behind, as airborne slates from high roofs smash on the tarmac. Terrified, I cover my head with my arms. Ambushed from above. Caught in the 'cross-fire'. No safer to go back, than on. Not a place or time to stop, I push ahead, and make it to the Big Chapel sacristy, safely.

Now, still sheltering from Barra in my Friars' Walk bed, typing on duvet. Bright-ish 'clouds' appear up out of dull Dungarvan Bay, and drop down after an instant: Spring tide waves washing over board-walk. No day for a dip or bike. Should we close Parish Office? Should I go ahead with morning Mass? If people turn up, are they safer inside, than standing outside a locked door? How could we get word out, if we were to cancel?

"I'll be off the road for two years," I blurted-out, when I bumped into a classmate last week. "I know exactly what it is like", he replied. "I was put off the road for three years. I'm back driving since March. It is a pain. It is awkward. But the bus is good, you know. It isn't the end of the world. No one died. Just accept it. Put up with it." So said a matter-of-fact colleague I first met thirty-five years ago, as we settled into Maynooth. I had got word two days earlier that the Court had clarified my sentence. Disqualified from driving for two years, beginning on March 1st. Covid, of course, has had us all 'off the road' for the past two years.

Bad and all as things have been, it could have been so much worse. To make a routine driving decision facing into the Sun, certain I had full vision, and in seconds to see two oncoming motor bikes and to know that I am in the wrong place, on the wrong side of the road. Little or no time. I braked and swerved hard to try and squeeze between them. They similarly braked and swerved to try to avoid me. Fear. Panic. One bike hit my car beside my passenger mother. Heavy bump, car shunted. Tin crumpled, glass shattered, airbags instantly blew up and deflated. Shock. Guilt. Afraid to move. To turn or twist. Mother and son looked at each other and asked: “are you okay?” Fear then for the motorcyclist, who, hours later, I learned was Bobby, a friend of two decades. A neighbour, whose shaken colour-drained face I read to glean the severity of the situation, appeared at my window, and told me the motorcyclist was alive and conscious. For some time, stuck to our seats on the road facing the oncoming traffic, I felt like a sitting duck and feared another crash, before a diversion was put in place.

A momentary mistake set in train a long line of chaos and suffering. Bobby’s body and life smashed and thrown into turmoil. To witness him later that night being wheeled by a dozen highly stressed medics out of Casualty for a lifesaving procedure, only deepened my unspeakable guilt and shame. For him, it was an epic road of medical interventions and hospitalisations, and ultimately life changing. His attitude, with a broad beam, is, “sure, I’m looking down on the daisies; I could be looking up at them.” He has been a tower of strength and love, all through.

Eileen, his wife, is similarly strong and Christian. When on the night following the accident, I went in to Ardkeen to meet her and say sorry, she misunderstood my ‘sorry’ as sympathy instead of apology. When my brother clarified, she never flinched. Without changing tone or expression, “oh, you were the driver? You must have got some fright. How are you? How did it happen? I’ll give you my number. Keep in touch.” And I did. For days, weeks and months, on tender hooks as I rang, I listened on instinct, first for the tone or feeling, gauging Bobby’s condition, before her words would explain.

I can’t speak for Bobby or Eileen. But for me, these past three and a half years since the crash has plunged me into a depth of pain, suffering, powerlessness and being completely out of my depth. Not knowing what the outcome would be: first for Bobby, then for me. Would I be able to cope with worry and fear, and of circumstances utterly beyond my control. From the first night, as I lay my head, late, on the pillow the expression sometimes uttered by old people at times of tragedy,

Find the words listed below in the word search 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 7th January. All correct answers will go into a draw for €50.

Aherne	Dwane	Hughes	O'Connor
Barry	Elsted	Keane	Phelan
Beresford	Enright	Keith	Ryan
Buckley	Foley	Kelleher	Shields
Butler	Fraher	Kiely	Terry
Cantwell	Frost	Landers	Tobin
Casey	Gordon	Moloney	Veale
Conroy	Hallahan	Moroney	Walsh
Crotty	Hannigan	Morrissey	Williams
Cummins	Hanrahan	Murray	
Duffy	Henley	Norris	
Dunford	Hogan	O'Brien	



WORD SEARCH CHRISTMAS 2021

X U J M B L N S H V G L G X C B V R J W R P S G R
 I D H U A O W V Z O Y L O M U R O E E N T P V W Y
 R F R R R S N T R E S E Z H M U E W O Z F O L E Y
 M R I R R D H D N D I W J W M Y E L K C U B B G U
 L O I A Y G O O L W Q T L R I N Y G T L K H P I R
 B S R Y I N L E K W R N T K N T A L E U U A Q X N
 W T N R S O I N E T N A S M S A K L E Y B Q A P L
 L M N T M H K O A S C C Z T V E Z X E I I R V Z S
 Z E R S S D M Z N B Q N C Y I J C S U H K N R E R
 N A H A L L A H E Y P H U T E X A R D D P A P Z E
 H S H O G F E R K B D E H J N C N E O E T Y P N D
 H F A E C M E N Y H M O R O N E Y N C T G R E A N
 Q K G O R S U E A X U G E C L M L T S A T F D H A
 N Q G S F N L A K W W G T H Y P O B S O X Y E A L
 F E D O K N E E V T D F H Z P X U R E X U A T R V
 L L R V E C I F G N G X W E I R T D R A N O S N B
 D D P H V V O P R D A A Q Z S V Y O S I Z P L A N
 P U C O N R O Y U A L G R E H E L L E K S X E H S
 R O N N O C O F S S H A I G O J W V Q Y Z S X T T
 T E R R Y F F X H Y Y E Z N O W X E G C E D E U Y
 P X K L G Y H O G A N R R U N U B A A N Q D E Y R
 M G D V S M A I L L I W A K H A B L D R O F N U D
 L C L U I A W D Q F K S R A E U H E U W Q P E D K
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softly popped into my mind like a mantra: “all a part of going through life.” Even being put back in the driver’s seat of my brother’s car, bringing my Mam to Dunabbey after being discharged from Ardkeen, that same night. I felt terror. Visibility, due to mist, was poor. I was petrified that I would again make a poor judgement, or almost worse because I couldn’t control it, that someone else might be as stupid and unseeing as I had been, and thunder into us. My Mam, understandably nervous beside me, and heroic to even sit in with me again, so soon, was checking, “did you dim your lights? There is a car coming. Can you see it?” It was as if I were driving on ice, trusting neither tire traction nor my reactions.

Church, now, is not dissimilar to the aftermath of a car crash. Severe injuries inflicted; confidence shattered. Church was too sure of itself. What started as good works became corrupted. The human tendency to organise, institutionalise and control, took over. The instinct to know, love and serve was often/ sometimes superseded. Pope Francis, a man I greatly admire, invites us to walk together, as equals. For us in our parish to share our dreams and hopes; also, to learn from mistakes, and shape together our future. As a wounded (and convicted driver) leader, I would love to invite you to participate...at least, or maybe especially, in conversation. Due to Covid, gatherings are complicated. If you have ideas, criticisms, suggestions...etc. or just want to chat, please reach out to me or to members of the Pastoral Council. If you have energy and interest in getting involved in our Parish, I would be delighted to hear from you. I’m utterly flummoxed as to where Church can go from here, and would welcome and look forward to all of your support and wisdom as we begin a New Year.

It is half three in the afternoon. We’re just leaving the eye of the storm, I think. Wind beginning to whirl more than whistle now. Soft calm sunshine of earlier, gone. Whether crash or scandal, storm or Covid induced, I’m far less sure and much more nuanced now. Feeling my way. Hoping God is here and there. Sensing strength of others, being carried by human community support, and in some indescribable way, I believe our extrovert God is being born afresh and dying daily in, through and with us as we crash, storm and stumble through Covid, Christmas and 2022.



Nollaig Shona dhaoibh go léir. Happy Christmas. Fr Ned

Christmas Clergy Collection

Many of you have suffered financially during Covid. We really appreciate and depend on your great generosity.

Parish Support

We sincerely thank everyone who contributes to the upkeep of our parish as we depend on our Sunday offertory collections to cover running costs and for the upkeep and maintenance of the churches, buildings and graveyards. The survival of the parish depends on your continued financial support. There are many ways to donate weekly envelopes, standing orders, online or cheque. Did you know if you are an Irish tax payer and you donate **€250 or more** to the Parish this would, if you wish, enable us to claim back an **extra 45%** through the **Charity tax back scheme**.

A donation of **€250** becomes a donation of **€362**.

The parish office is currently up-dating records held by us of parishioners who receive boxes of collection envelopes and we ask that if you are not receiving a box and would like to do so, or would like to set up a **Standing Order** please contact the office at: email abgparish@gmail.com telephone 058 45787.

New to the area? Our Parish Community welcomes you.

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.

New Pastoral Council

Our new Pastoral Council, freshly inducted, are chomping at the bit to begin. Co-incidentally, Storm Barra forced the late cancellation of our first meeting (excluding our training sessions). We are eager to follow Pope Francis' call to openly engage with everyone: to put our hearts and heads together and try to be faithful to the prophetic presence of Jesus in these changed and challenging times. We will be in touch in the New Year. The members are: Esther Brady, Bridget Burke, Matt Curran, Dave Ellard, Mary Frost, Sr Teresa Fraser, Fr Ned Hassett, Brendan O'Brien, Marie O'Mahony, Angela Murphy, Betty Tutty and Tony Walsh.



A Big 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.

First Ever All-Star in the Village



Congratulations to Full-Back Conor Prunty, who was one of only three players to disrupt the dominance of Limerick in this year's All Star Awards. Well done, and richly deserved.



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses

Like 2020, all entry to Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be by ticket. This is to keep people safe and to feel comfortable. In order for us to accommodate as many as we can we will have **Seven Masses on Christmas Eve**: 5pm, 7pm & 9pm in Abbeyside, 6pm & 8pm in Ballinroad, 5pm & 7pm in Garranbane, and **Four Masses on Christmas Day**: 9.30am & 12pm in Abbeyside, 10am in Ballinroad, 11am in Garranbane.

People who have booked in are kindly requested to use each ticket, as an unused ticket deprives someone else a place.

For anyone who cannot get a ticket or who would prefer to stay at home we will be streaming all Masses from Abbeyside Church through our website:

www.abgparish.ie/live

and our YouTube channel :

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM_q15eoN7Ss7DG49BMWVPA

