

Church of the Holy Spirit Ballyroan

21st Of December 2025

Fourth week Of Advent

**This is the third week of Advent- Gaudete Sunday:
Our Gospel is from Matthew 11: 2-11**

Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." Our third candle which we lite today, is rose (pink) because pink symbolizes joy, the joy that Jesus is almost here.

Our Gospel tells the story about John the Baptist, who is in prison, and he wonders who Jesus is. As a prophet he has a sense that the Messiah, the Saviour would come, and he wants to know if it Jesus. Jesus' answer as recorded in the Gospel, is to quote from the prophet Isaiah 35:5-6. *'The blind receives their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear and the dead are raised...'*

Historically, Jesus who was initially a follower of John, started his ministry after his baptism by John and John's subsequent arrest.

Can you imagine Jesus as a young man reading Isaiah 61: 1-2. *The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives...*

Christmas is a time to celebrate this great news, the divine has become human, so that we can all share in this loving divinity forever.



Christmas message from

Father Michael:

As Christmas approaches, I find myself thinking of each of you – your families, your joys, your worries, and all the quiet acts of faith that makes Ballyroan feel like a true home. This community is a gift, and I am deeply grateful to walk this journey of faith alongside you. I hope you are happy at this time of year. Not all of us are. But know that you are never alone. The Christ Child walks with us. In the Christmas story, God reminds us that hope arrives in the simplest, most unexpected ways: in a stable, in a small town, in the middle of the night. God really became man. He lay down on straw in our midst – at the mercy of his own creatures, He follows his way with us into Croke Park or the Aviva Stadium or the Electric Picnic. He stands beside us in Church on wet Sunday mornings. There can be no such thing as a lonely Christmas, because in Bethlehem, God became one of ourselves. So I pray this Christmas...you will feel that same hope rising in your heart – whether your life feels peaceful or uncertain. Whatever challenges you face, whatever burdens you carry, the message of Christmas remains the same: you are not alone – God is with us – Emmanuel. May you and I experience God's closeness in a way that is personal and real. And know that your presence in our parish is a blessing, and your faith – expressed in so many quiet, beautiful ways – inspires me more than you know. Wishing you a Christmas filled with warmth, and hope that settles deep into your soul. You are in my prayers today and always.

With affection and blessings Fr. Michael

Fr. Michaels book of homilies is still available at a cost of €10 (From the office and back of the Church), and all profits will go towards our Church / Pastoral Centre. You might like to give it as a present to a family member or friend over Christmas. My prayer is that this book might do more than simply fill a shelf. I hope it becomes a companion on busy days –a spark of encouragement when life feels heavy, and a reminder that the Gospel is always fresh, alive, and ever relevant.

Monday 22nd December 7pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday 24th December Family Mass at 6pm and Vigil Mass at 9pm
Christmas Day 25th December Masses at 10am and 12pm
There is no Mass on Friday the 26th December and No evening Mass on Saturday the 27th.
Sunday the 28th Mass at 10am and 12pm

Confessions will be held in the Church on Saturday mornings from 10.30 until 11.15 for the next 3 Saturdays during Advent.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation service will be held on Monday the 22nd December at 7pm. A number of priests will be attending.
Many thanks



Active retirement singers meet
in the Ruah Centre This Sunday
21st of Dec @ 7.30

All are welcome to what is sure to be
a fun night of music, laughter, tea
and coffee!!!



Mass Intentions : 20th Dec– 26th Dec

Saturday 7 pm: Bernadette Hogan (A) Jack Henchion (A)
Gerard Dobbs (A) Gerard Price (R.I.P.) Get Well (Mrs Smith) =

Sunday 10am: Maria Lakes (A) Shane Lakes (A) Michael and
Steven Doyle (R.I.P.) Get well soon two members of our Parish

Sunday 12noon : Bernadette Hurly (A) Fergus Malone (A) Pat
Culhane (A) John Sower (A) Fr Dermot Laycock (R.I.P.) Ken
Freeman (A) Ron Mikulski (R.I.P.) Bernadette Hogan (A)

Monday: Brendan Murphy (A) Special Intention (Get Well)
Larry and Mary Brady (A)

Tuesday: Peter & Detta Coogan (A) Peter Hannon (A) John &
Elizabeth Nevin (R.I.P.) Rita Lohan (R.I.P.) Patrick Walsh (R.I.P.)
Peggy Walsh (R.I.P.) Peggy Durkan (R.I.P.)

Wednesday : Christmas Eve

Thursday: Christmas Day

Friday: No Mass

Parish Information

Parish Priest: Father Michael Murtagh

Deacon: Frank Browne

Parish Secretary: Mary McDade

Child Safeguarding & Protection Service: Nuala Mcleod

Email: ballyroanparish@gmail.com

Parish Office: 01 4947303

Website: www.ballyroanparish.ie

Follow us on Ballyroan parish **Facebook, X, & Instagram.**

Parish Office Opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 10am

Saturday: 7pm

Sunday: 10am & 12 noon