

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.

GREETING

In the name of the FatherAmen.
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us....
Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father,
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel
Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel, 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and

the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 83:2-3.5-6.9-10

R. They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. [R]
2. They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength. [R]
3. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed. [R]

SECOND READING 1 John 3: 1-2. 21-24

A reading from the first letter of St. John
Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2: 41-52

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.



focus on sunday

A day to pray with and for our family; to give thanks to God for them; to pray for healing of divisions and bitterness. We pray that we may grow in respect and love for our extended family throughout the world.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace.
Through Christ our Lord.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
My Lord and my God.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

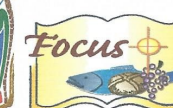
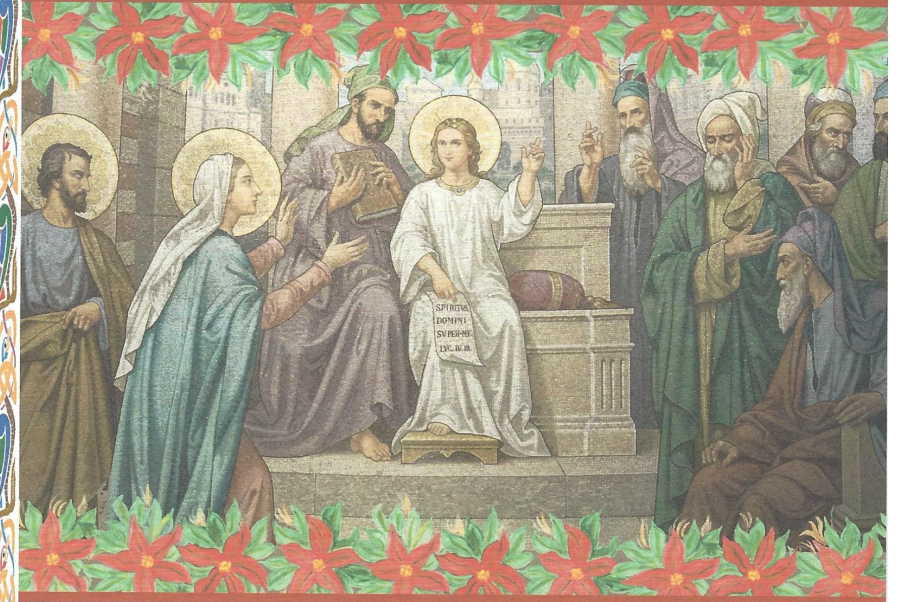
Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.
Go in peace.
Thanks be to God.



So much in this story; not just a little boy lost. It brings in so many issues of life for us. Pain with family members. Losing someone, someone leaving home, worrying and fretting about a younger one. So often part of family life. The worrying parents. About letting the children go. Everyone finds their own way in life. Things move on. The example of the father teaching the child to ride the bike. He has to let go if the child is to learn.

LISTENING TO YOUNG PEOPLE!

Gifts in Jesus emerge at 12. They have something to tell us. Gifts later to blossom. He was encouraged in his mission in life by the elders listening. Not just passive but asking questions, challenging them with his wisdom.

Lessons here for young and old – for the old to listen to the young, and for the young to ask advice and gain wisdom from the old. Both can get stuck into thinking they have all the answers. We all have something to offer each other if we are true to the best in us and not exercising our egos and pride.

THEN FOR MARY AND JOSEPH

The care of God for Jesus. She knew that, and had to hand him over to God. The care of God for all we know and love. Mary praying, often for Jesus. She let him go – not to nothing, but to his father in heaven. That is what the parent does also – allow God look after the other, and the child later doing the same for the parent. Knowing that as we are about the business of God, the business of love, he too is about the same business, of care and love for his people.

Donal Neary SJ.(editor Sacred Heart Messenger).

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey



When Jesus was young he strayed away and got lost. Mary and Joseph were very sad and were looking everywhere for him, because they cared and were worried. My nephew has a teenage boy. He wanders away. His parents ask him to text them just to let them know where he is. He forgets. Lord, Mary and Joseph ease the pain that we make for each other in home life.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 26th DECEMBER 2021

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Farragher, 094-9630006 / 087-9210305

Email: ballyhaunisparish@gmail.com Parish Office: 094-9630006

PARISH WEBSITE: <http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie>

PARISH RADIO: 105.2FM Newsletter on line: Parish website & www.mcnmedia.tv

Web-cam: <http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie> or www.mcnmedia.tv

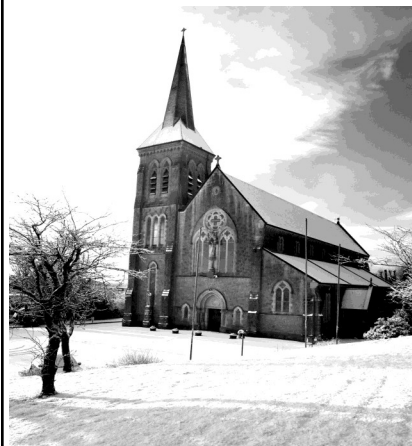
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)

Emergency numbers:

Knock: 094-9388100

Fr. Feeney, Ballinlough: 094-9640155

Fr. McGuinness, Bekan: 094-9313937



MASSES:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00am.

Saturday Evening Vigil: 7.30pm

Sunday: 10.00am. 12.00 noon

CONFESSIONS:

Before Saturday Vigil Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday: 10.30am. - 1.00pm.

BAPTISMS

Saturdays & Sundays 11.00am. Minimum of two weeks' notice required. Contact the parish office, 094-9630006, for updates due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.



ANNIVERSARY MASSES 27th DECEMBER 2021 - 2nd JANUARY 2022

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00am. Saturday 7.30pm.

Mary & Eddie Walsh, USA & Bracklaghboy

Mae & Ned Carroll, Thomas & Ellen Carroll, Drimbane

Kathleen Webb, Station Rise

Paddy Phillips, Main St.

Patrick & Margaret Donnellan & decd.

John Grady, Tooreen

Seamus Cribbin, Drimbane

Kathleen Gavin, Cooloughra & Rita Walsh

Helen McDermott, Galway & Abbey St.

Michael & Mary Webb & decd. Main St.

Michael, Catherine & Bertie Curley, Clare St.

Decd. of the Meath family, Clare St.

Bill & Kathleen Lyons, Knockbrack

Sunday 2nd Jan. 10.00am. Month's Mind: Michael Doherty, Devlis & Athenry

Anne Lynch, Holywell

Richard Waldron, Derrymore & Carrowkeel

27th Dec. - 2nd Jan.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Jarlath Fahey	Fionnuala Nolan, Joe Byrne
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Lorraine Waldron, Breege Halpin
Wednesday	Martin Fitzmaurice	Margaret Byrne, Mary Sykes
Friday	Mary Donnelly	Willie Broderick, Marion Regan
Saturday 12.00	Maeve Donnellan	Cloonfad/Granlahan Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday 7.30pm.	John Doyle	Frances Mulhern, Seamus Mulrennan, Justina Lyons
Sunday 10.00am.	Tommy Caulfield	Geraldine Murphy, Eileen Lynch, Marie Brennan
Sunday 12.00	Frank Browne	Mary T. Griffin, Eileen Jordan, Eileen Donnellan

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers
Noel Byrne, Garrafrauns, brother of Maura Curran & Nora Moran, Ballyhaunis
Mary Kelly, Wales, wife of the late Hugh Kelly, Derrynacong

Offertory Collection

19th December 2021
€1,450

the account details are as follows: Ballyhaunis Parish Church, Priests Account. BIC: ULSB IE 2D. IBAN: IE59 ULSB 9852 7005 520 114. The account details are printed on the back of the envelopes.

Copies of the Irish Catholic newspaper are available at the back of the church. Cost €2.50, please place money in the candelabra.

PRIESTS' CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed so generously to the Priests' Christmas Collection. Envelopes can be placed in the box at the back of the church at any of the daily Masses or dropped in the letterbox of the Parochial House. If you wish to set up a direct debit in the bank

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS - ST. JOSEPH CLUSTER:

There will be a special New Year's Day Mass in St Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, at 12 noon on January 1st 2022 for all the parishes/church areas (Aghamore, Ballinlough, Ballyhaunis, Bekan & Knock). This is the eighth year of this event and as on previous occasions representatives from each of the parishes/church areas will take part in the Mass. The theme for the Mass will be "Living life more reflectively" Representatives from the choirs of the Cluster will provide the music and singing at the Mass. All are welcome.

PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING MASS:

For clarity following recent updated Covid guidance, Religious Services in Places of Worship are unchanged regarding capacity, with all other protective measures in place to ensure safety of the congregation, i.e. wearing of masks and hand sanitising - even if we have received the vaccine.

Likewise, there are no changes to attendance at funeral services however any post funeral service gatherings must comply with hospitality rules including no multiple table bookings.

With regard to wakes in private homes general advice on household mixing is 3 other households (4 in total) applies.

Please use the lighters for lighting candles as the hand sanitiser is highly flammable.

While the church building and ancillary buildings (toilets and sacristy) are sanitised before and after each Mass or ceremony, we want to stress that if you manifest any of the symptoms of Covid-19, if you have any underlying health issues, or feel that you might be endangering your health by entering a church building, then we encourage you to continue to join us on parish radio 105.2FM or on the parish webcam: www.ballyhaunisparish.ie/webcam

All weekday and weekend Masses, and the daily rosary at 9.00pm continue to be broadcast on parish radio 105.2FM and streamed on the parish webcam: <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-patricks-church-ballyhaunis>

"Did you not know I must be busy with my father's affairs?" Do you find yourself drawn to do God's work among his people, guiding them in holiness of life? Speak to your local Vocations Director, or contact the National Vocations Office - email: info@vocations.ie

WEEKLY ENVELOPES: Sincere thanks to all who are returning their weekly contributions either by envelope or by direct debit. Envelopes can be returned at any of the daily Masses or otherwise can be dropped in the letter box of the Parochial House. If you wish to set up a direct debit, the account details are as follows: Ballyhaunis Parish Church. BIC: ULSB IE 2D IBAN: IE69 ULSB 9852 7005 5200 31

BRIAN FLANAGAN CD - HYMNS OLD & NEW: The CD is available in the sacristy and in local retail outlets at the cost of €15. Some of the proceeds of the CD will go to the Mayo/Roscommon Hospice.

CALLING ALL MEN! Exodus 90 is a spiritual exercise for men, with over 50,000 who have completed it so far. It's a challenging 90-day period (Jan. 17th to Easter Sunday 2022) of prayer and asceticism, supported by a weekly fraternal gathering. See www.exodus90.com to learn more. Zoom information event on Thurs. 6th January at 8.00pm. Meeting ID: 494 625 9738 passcode: 997298.

A WORD OF THANKS & APPRECIATION

As another year draws to a close and we celebrate the birth of Jesus, I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you for your continued support at so many levels during the past year.

When writing this time last year we were looking back on what had been a terribly trying year because of the disruption and destruction wrought by the Covid 19 pandemic. With the first murmurings that a vaccine was on the horizon we hoped that by now we would have brought the virus to heel. However, Covid 19 has proved very adept at mutating and keeping one step ahead of medicine.

I want to express my gratitude to you the people of the parish for the manner in which you continue to provide vital financial support to the parish and to me as your priest. Your generous response to the Mission Sunday, Team Hope Shoe Box appeals and the special Trócaire collection was truly humbling. I am very grateful to you for abiding by the regulations re wearing face coverings and sanitising of hands, etc in the church. Thanks again to the various teams of volunteers who continue to ensure that the church is a safe place to worship. I am very grateful to the members Parish Pastoral Council for agreeing to wait on despite the fact that their term of office has expired. Thanks to Kevin Henry, who, in co-operation with Mary Donnelly, the parish secretary, continues to take responsibility for drawing up the weekly duty roster.

The celebration of the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation were challenges during the past year and had to be postponed on at least one occasion. As a parish we owe a debt of gratitude to the teachers in Scoil Íosa who shouldered the responsibility of sacramental preparation at a time when it wasn't possible to run our parish-based programmes of preparation. It has been a very difficult time for our teachers as they have had to contend with many challenges in their effort to keep our schools open and to provide a safe educational environment for our children. I wish to commend the principal Kenneth Dennedy for the calm but strong leadership he has shown at various stages during the past year.

Sadly, our choirs haven't been able to return to full capacity and instead our soloists, musicians, and representatives of the various choirs have had to shoulder the responsibility for providing the singing and music at Masses. I wish to express my gratitude to them and to Moira Delaney who is the Director of Sacred Music in the parish.

Thanks again to Margie Phillips and her team of volunteers for the erection of the crib and the decoration of the church. It creates a warm, welcoming and seasonal atmosphere in the church and is greatly appreciated by parishioners and visitors to the parish.

Finally, I wish all of our parishioners at home and abroad a healthy and happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year. May 2022 bring hope and healing to our weary world.

