

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us.
Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ecc 24:1-2.8-12

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself.
She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One.
'Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent.
He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance."
From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain.
I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion.
In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority.
I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.147:12-15.19-20

R. The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

- O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates, he has blessed the children within you. [R]
- He established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his command. [R]
- He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees. [R]

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-6.15-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:1-18 (or *1:1-5.9-14)

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

** In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.**
A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh, or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.
John appears as his witness. He proclaims:

'This is the one of whom I said : He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'
Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received - yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
All bow for following three lines:
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, for by it you show us the way of truth and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom. 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.



Jesus is the One sent by God who speaks to us about the wisdom and truth of God. By accepting him we too become children of God and are filled with grace and truth.

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.
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

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

To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, we humbly ask you, that, through the working of this mystery, our offences may be cleansed and our just desires fulfilled. Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

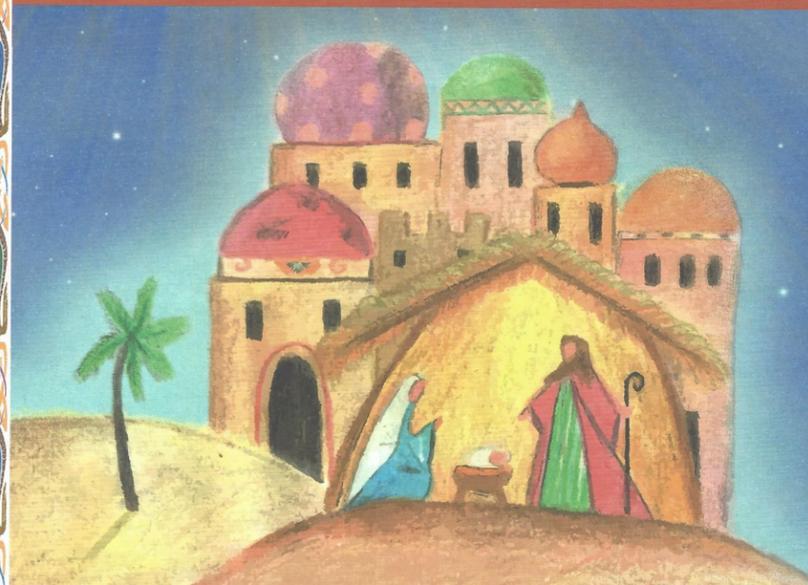
May God, the source and origin of all blessing, grant you grace, pour out his blessing in abundance, and keep you safe from harm throughout the year.
Amen.

May he give you integrity in the faith, endurance in hope, and perseverance in charity with holy patience to the end.
Amen.

May he order your days and your deeds in his peace, grant your prayers in this and in every place, and lead you happily to eternal life.
Amen.

And 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.



We live in a season of lights – candle lights, Christmas lights, lights on the street and on the houses. As the season is still with us, we can ask what light enlightens our lives? What light do we live by?

Jesus is presented as an image of the true light. His gospel shines light into our lives and lets our light shine.

We live by the light of Jesus by listening to his word, living by his example and in prayer. Pope Francis recommends: "Today, for example, try for 10 to 15 minutes, no more - to read the Gospel, picture what happens, and say something to Jesus. And nothing more. And so your knowledge of Jesus will be bigger and your hope will grow. Do not forget, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, in order to do this contemplative prayer".

We allow his light shine in us by watching him in the gospel and trying to live his gospel of love as he spoke it. The word of God is not just a series of human words, but a Person who is the Son of God. We find this light in prayer.

Later in his ministry, Jesus will speak of letting our light shine. The light within us from God is not just for ourselves but to be shared for others. We can switch on God's light for each other in speaking about him, praying with each other, taking part in the Mass and in any service we do for others, close to us and those far away.

That is the light of Christmas, if we can shine this light for a few days, why not for the rest of the year?

Let your light O Lord Shine within me, and let your light brighten the lives of those around me.

Donal Neary SJ. (editor Sacred Heart Messenger).

Jesus' Story Fr. Liam Hickey

God Our Father wanted to share happiness. So God made the sun, the stars, the mountains, the oceans. They were "God's Voice," but they could not speak "words." Then, God made human beings, boys and girls who could speak words, like love, please, thanks, sorry. God made all people in the image and likeness of His Own Son, Jesus Christ, and He is called "THE WORD OF GOD." To be human and happy is to follow Jesus, and learn to love. The Angelus Bell always reminds us of God's Love Story.

Liturgical texts: concordat cum originali: †Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin Other texts: cum permissu: †Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin. Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal: © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The Jerusalem version of the Scripture is copyright Darton, Longman & Todd & Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail & or Geoffrey Chapman Ltd. Published by Logos Publications, 26 Talia Valley Business Park, Ballybogdan Rd, Glasnevin, D11 WK38 Phone (01 830 6751).

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 2nd JANUARY 2022

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

ANNIVERSARY MASSES 3rd - 9th JANUARY 2022

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

Pat Gildea, Johnstown, & Margaret Kavanagh, Dublin

Kieran, Elizabeth & Tom Carney, Classaroe

Sean & Maura Griffin, Clare St. & decd. of the Griffin & O'Reilly families & Mike Freeley

James & Mary Plunkett, Forthill & decd. of the Grogan family, Aghamore

John & Gretta Murren, Upper Main St. & Mary Commins, Knock

John & Delia Comer, Killinaugher

Noreen Hopkins, Upper Main St.

Nellie, Tom & Seamus Lyons, Ballinastoka

Enda & Gerard Murphy, Aisling Drive, & Emma Browne, Brackloon

Timothy & Elizabeth Rabbite, Derrylea, & decd. of the Rabbite, Sullivan & Farrelly families

Katie, John, Sylvester & Kathleen McBride, Annagh

Kevin Jordan & decd. Annagh

Padraic Phillips & decd. Leow

Sunday 9th Jan. 10.00am. First Anniversary

Jerome Murphy, Hazel View, Ballyhaunis & Bekan

3rd - 9th January	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Martin Fitzmaurice	Marion Regan, Daniela Balbino Romao
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Frances Mulhern, Margaret Tarpey
Wednesday	Mary Donnelly	Eileen Lynch, Marie Brennan
Thurs. 6th, 10.00am	Mary Finan	Kay Curley, Margie Gallagher
Thurs. 6th, 7.30pm.	Emer Gallagher	Marina Coyne, Laura Brogan
Friday	Willie Broderick	Eileen Jordan, Lorraine Waldron
Saturday 7.30pm.	Kevin Henry	Paul Sykes, Joe Byrne, Fionnuala Nolan
Sunday 10.00am.	Julia Kelly	Mary Sykes, Mary Murphy, Willie Broderick
Sunday 12.00	Margaret Monaghan	Wiktór Siemionkowski, Helena Byrne, Anne Carney

Recently Baptised

We welcome into the Faith Community
Smilte Emilija Skistymaite, 28 Esker Pines
Thomas Francis Kinsella, 21 Station Rise
Killian Luke Brown, Brisbane, Australia

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers
Colin Egan, Claghaugh

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: Thursday next, 6th January is the Feast of the Epiphany.

Offertory Collection

26th December 2021
€975

Masses will be celebrated at 10.00am. and 7.30pm.

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 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

Copies of the Irish Catholic newspaper are available at the back of the church. Cost €2.50



MASSES:

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday 10.00am.

Saturday Evening Vigil: 7.30pm

Sunday: 10.00am. 12.00 noon

CONFESSIONS:

Before Saturday Vigil Mass

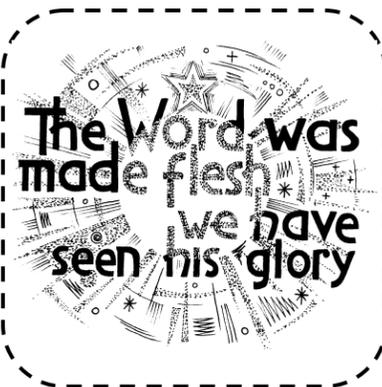
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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.



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>

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

PARISH CALENDARS 2022 are available in the church porch. Please take one home and bring one to a friend or neighbour who may not be in a position to get one.

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.

BALLYHAUNIS GAA CLUB - Final Draw Date 7th January 2022: Final chance to win a Seat tarraco SUV or €50,000 cash prize for just €25 in a limited draw. 1-Ticket €25, 3-Tickets for €70 or 5-Tickets for €100. Just log onto www.winansuv.ie for full details of our grounds development fundraiser. Tickets are also available from club officers, club members and from local outlets in the town. Ballyhaunis GAA Club thanks you for your continued support.

HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Modern Christmas trees have been related to the "tree of paradise" of medieval mystery plays that were given on 24th December, the

commemoration and name day of Adam and Eve in various countries. In such plays, a tree decorated with apples (to represent the forbidden fruit) and wafers (to represent the Eucharist and redemption) was used as a setting for the play. Like the Christmas crib, the Paradise tree was later placed in homes. The apples were replaced by round objects such as shiny red balls.

After Queen Victoria's marriage to her German cousin Prince Albert, by 1841 the custom became even more widespread as wealthier middle-class families followed the fashion. In 1842 a newspaper advert for Christmas trees makes clear their smart cachet, German origins and association with children and gift-giving. The tradition of placing a Christmas tree as well as the life-size Nativity scene in Saint Peter's Square started in 1982 during the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, when the Polish-born Pope introduced the northern European symbol of Christmas spirit.

The tradition of erecting a Christmas Tree was celebrated in northern Europe and in Poland, Pope John Paul II's country of origin, but not in the Vatican at the time

Christmas Wreath

All of the Advent wreaths, have four candles, and many of them have a white candle in the centre, the Christ candle, which is lit on Christmas Day. Advent and Christmas wreaths are constructed of evergreens to represent everlasting life brought through Jesus and the circular shape of the wreath represents God, with no beginning and no end. Advent and Christmas wreaths are now popular symbols in preparation for and to celebrate the coming of Christ, with the former being used to mark the beginning of the Christian Church's liturgical year and both serving as décor during Advent and Christmas festivities.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

A New Year stands on my doorstep, ready to enter my life's journey.

**Something in me welcomes this visitor;
The hope of bountiful blessings,
The joy of a new beginning,
The freshness of unclaimed surprises.**

**Something in me rebuffs this visitor;
The swiftness of the coming,
The boldness of the entrance,
The challenge of a year's goodbye.**

**Something in me fears this visitor;
The unnamed events of the future days,
The wisdom needed to walk love well,
The demands of giving away and growing.**

**A new year stands on my doorstep.
With fragile caution I move
To open the door for its entrance.
My heart leaps with surprise,
Joy jumps in my eyes,
For there beside this brand new year
Stands my God with outstretched hand!
Smiling and gently asking me;
'Can we walk this year together?'**

**And I, so overwhelmed with goodness
Can barely whisper my reply:
'Yes, please, welcome in.'**

Joyce Rupp