

consider nominating a non-Irish born person to the new Council. As we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the great mystery of the incarnation, God coming among us in human flesh, I wish to thank all who have helped in the preparations for Christmas. I wish to thank our choirs, soloists and musicians for their commitment to music in our parish. The great array of talent in our parish is regularly commented on by listeners of Midwest Radio. Thanks especially to Moira Delaney who is the Director of Sacred Music in our parish. Thanks to our Mass-servers and their parents for returning to this important ministry post-Covid. Again, many parishioners have commented on how lovely it is to see the servers present at Mass. I wish to thank the principal and teaching staff of Scoil Íosa for their co-operation on so many fronts; especially in helping to prepare our children for the Sacraments of First Confession, Communion and Confirmation. I wish to express my appreciation to Principal Kenneth Dennedy for his leadership and to Carol Freeley & Sarah Scully for agreeing to take charge of the Scoil Íosa Children's choir. The participation of the Children's choir in various Masses at Christmas and throughout the year is something that energises and enriches our celebration of the Eucharist.

Each year a band of enthusiastic volunteers, under the direction of Margie Phillips undertake the erection of the Christmas crib, the Christmas tree and the decoration of the church. They ensure that our church building has a warm, welcoming festive atmosphere that enables us to celebrate the Christmas season. They have spent many hours over the past few weeks working to ensure that nothing is left to chance. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

**Fr. Stephen.**

All weekday and weekend Masses, and the daily Rosary at 9pm continue to be broadcast on parish radio 105.2 FM and streamed on the parish webcam:

<https://www.mcimedia.tv/camera/st-patricks-church-ballyhaunis> or on the website: [www.ballyhaunisparish.ie](http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie)

**Mass on St. Stephen's Day (Monday 26th Dec.) will be at 12.00 instead of 10am.**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS:** There will be a special New Year's Day Mass for the parishes in the St. Joseph's Cluster (Aghamore, Ballyhaunis, Ballinlough, Began & Knock) on Sunday 1st January at 12 noon. It's the 9th year of this event, with representatives from each of the parishes/ Church areas taking part in the Mass, and representatives from the choirs of the Cluster will provide the music & singing at the Mass.

**GAA DINNER DANCE:** Tickets for the Ballyhaunis GAA / LGFA dinner dance on Thurs. 29th Dec. in the McWilliam Park Hotel are on sale from Stella O'Neill, Ann Lyons, Ann Phillips & Ciara Buckley.

**SCHOOL REUNION:** Students who graduated from Ballyhaunis Community School in 1992 are invited to a 30 year reunion on Friday 30th December, starting with a Prayer Service in the Community School at 7pm, followed by refreshments in The Clock Bar.



## CHRISTMAS DAY 2022

### St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis



**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS**  
Dedicated 1909



**MASSES:**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00  
Saturday Evening Vigil: 7.30. Sunday: 10.00  
**CONFESSIONS:** Before Sat. Evening Vigil Mass  
**PARISH WEBSITE:** [www.ballyhaunisparish.ie](http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie)  
Newsletter on line: Parish website & [www.mcnmedia.tv](http://www.mcnmedia.tv)

**Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Farragher 9630006 / 087-9210305**  
**Email: [ballyhaunisparish@gmail.com](mailto:ballyhaunisparish@gmail.com)**

*Emergency numbers:* Knock: 9388100. Fr. Feeney: 9640155. Fr. McGuinness: 9380203

**ANNIVERSARY MASSES 26TH DEC.—1ST JAN.**

Mary & Eddie Walsh, USA & Bracklaghboy  
Jerome Murphy, Hazel View & Bekan, and decd. of the Murphy family  
Fintan Lynch, Ennis & formerly Main St.  
Mae & Ned Carroll, Drimbane  
Paddy & Úna Phillips, Main St.  
Tom & Anne Heneghan, Tullaughane  
Etta Hernon & decd. of the Healy & Grogan families, Holywell  
Kathleen Webb, Station Rise  
Helen MacDermott (Née Lynch) formerly Abbey St.  
Kathleen & Bill Lyons, Knockbrack & decd. of the Lyons & Sweeney families  
Kathleen Gavin & Rita Walsh  
Tom & Delia Stenson & decd. Tooreen; Andrew & Brigid Devine & decd. Derry  
Marion Summerton, Birmingham & Bekan  
Bernie Joe Lyons., Skeghard

**Offertory Collection**  
18th December 2022  
€1,415

26th Dec-1st Jan	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 12 noon	Jarlath Fahey	Marion Regan, Margaret Tarpey
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Frances Mulherin
Wednesday	Mary Donnelly	Mary Sykes, Margaret Byrne
Friday	Willie Broderick	Marie Brennan, Irene Healy
Sat 7.30pm	Marie Jordan	Joe Byrne, Marina Coyne, Breda Davis, Jenny Glynn
Sunday 10am (New Year's Day)	Ann Durkan	Aileen Burke, Geraldine Murphy, Cáit Webb, Patricia Plunkett
Sunday 12.00	Mike Byrne	Helena Byrne, Dympna Greally, Mary T. Griffin, Bernie Quinn

**Recently deceased—We remember in our prayers**  
**Paddy Lyons, Redford & Manchester**

**COLLECTORS FOR JANUARY**

Sat 7.30 pm Peter McCafferty, Oliver Cribben, Kieran Connolly, Hugh Rudden

Sunday 10am Pat Phillips, Mike Griffin, Michael J. Walsh, Gerry Lyons

**MASS SERVERS FOR JANUARY**

Sat 7.30pm Team C—Anna Kelly, Sonny Kelly, Estela Balbino, Kleber Lucas

Sun 10am Team D—Cian Murphy, Hazel Murphy, Henzio Neves

**A Word of Thanks and Appreciation, Christmas 2022.**

As another year draws to a close, we look back with gratitude on all that has happened during the past year. As 2022 progressed and vaccines became more readily available, we were able at last to return to some form of normality in the life of our parishes and in particular in our churches. While we must continue to observe caution in our efforts to prevent a new wave of Covid 19 or variant of the virus, the general consensus seems to be that we have emerged from the terrible cloud of the pandemic. The experience of parishes worldwide is that congregations have dwindled in size and that many people have not returned to regular Sunday worship. The reasons for this are many and varied. Older people who formed a large proportion of our congregations prior to the pandemic, have understandably been anxious about returning to regular worship. Others have become accustomed to attending Mass remotely on parish radio or online. While this is understandable, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that gathering as a community of faith to worship God in a church on Sunday is central to the celebration of the Eucharist. The old Irish proverb "Is ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann the daoine" (We live in each other's shadow) reminds us of the importance of gathering as a community. 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. Here in our parish, I have been grateful for the work and support of the members of the Parish Pastoral Council, under the guiding hand of Kevin Henry, our chairman. This time last year I expressed my gratitude to the members of the Council for agreeing to stay on an extra year, due to the challenges posed by the Covid 19 pandemic. Early in the New Year, we will be electing a new Parish Pastoral Council for a four year term. As on previous occasions a brochure containing some basic information on Parish Pastoral Councils will be circulated to homes in the parish. The brochure will contain a nomination form where people will be asked to nominate two people to the new council. One must be male and one female. If possible one must be under forty years of age. Given the ethnically diverse nature of our parish, which is evident each time we gather in church, it is important that this is reflected in the makeup of the Pastoral Council. We ask that you might