

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**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**

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 is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING Micah 5:1 - 4**

*A reading from the prophet Micah*

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

*The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Ps.79:2-3.15-16.18-19*

*R. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. [R]
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. [R]
- May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. [R]

**SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10**

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

*The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL Luke 1:39 - 44**

The Lord be with you.  
*And with your spirit.*

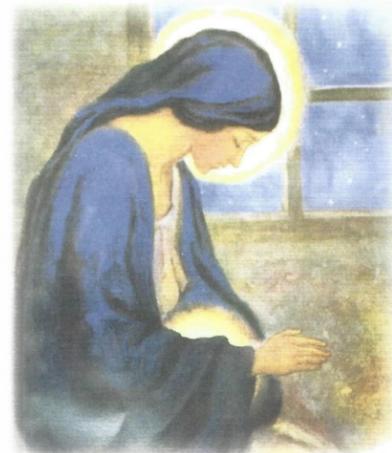
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?'

For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

*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.

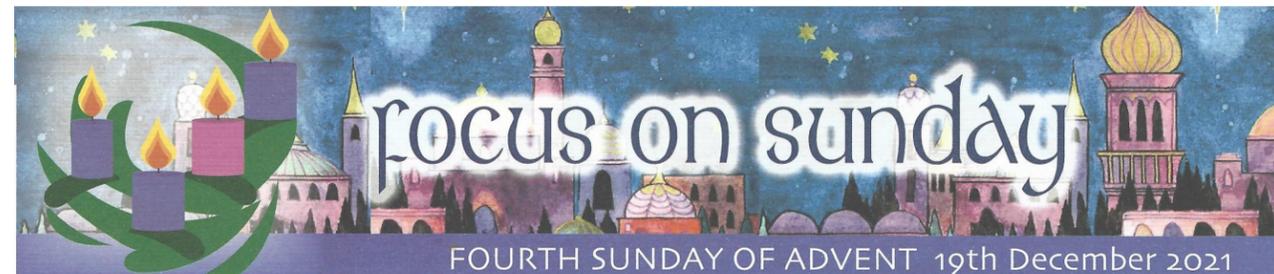
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

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**

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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.*  
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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**

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**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.



Mary's first journey after the annunciation was to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who needed her help. Christmas brings the question to each of us, "who needs my help?"



After 5 years in homelessness and rough sleeping, Michael and Sarah are now looking forward to spending time with their children in their own home this Christmas.



When Mary discovered that her cousin Elizabeth, in her old age, was six months pregnant, she went "as quickly as she could" and stayed with her three months until her child was born. Mary's first thought was not for herself, even though she herself was now pregnant, but for an elderly lady who might need some support and help.

During Advent, we wait for Jesus to come to us. But every day, Jesus waits for us to come to him. When we, like Mary, reach out to help someone in need, we encounter Jesus.

"Whatever you do to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you do it to me." In every act of kindness, in sharing or supporting those in need, in visiting the lonely, or those in hospital, Jesus is present to us at that time.

At Christmas, we remember Jesus coming to us, to share our human condition with all its suffering. His love and compassion for us is the model for our love and compassion for each other. We are called to grow more and more like him. Every day offers us many opportunities to do that.

*Fr. Peter McVerry SJ, Peter McVerry Trust.*

**Jesus' Story** *Fr. Liam Hickey*

Mary is very good at helping out. She goes to her cousin Elizabeth who is expecting a baby. She notices when people want more wine at a wedding. The angel asked Mary to listen. Mary always listens to our prayers and helps us to listen to each other.

# ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

## PARISH NEWSLETTER 19th 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](http://www.mcnmedia.tv)

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

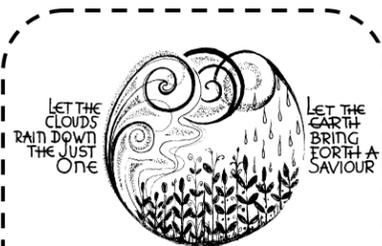
### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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.



**Offertory Collection**  
12th December 2021  
€1,460

## ANNIVERSARY MASSES 20th - 26th DECEMBER 2021

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

Dominick & Agnes Duffy, Mountain, Aghamore

Patrick & Mary Philbin, their sons John Joe, Paddy & Richard, & their daughter Maureen Philbin Caulfield

John & Margaret Lyons, Redford

Tom, Mary, Michael & Nell Donnellan

Mary & Michael Morley, Island, & decd. of the Morley & Carney families

Peter & Mary Boyle, Coolnafarna

Msgr. Oliver O'Neill, Savannah, Georgia

Mary & Dan Murray & decd. Castlebar

Etta Hemon & decd. of the Healy & Grogan families, Holywell

Tom & Delia Stenson & decd. Tooreen

Andrew & Bridget Devine & decd. Derry

Helen Meehan, Curries

Jim & Mary E. Smith, Bridge St.

James & Bridget Costello & Mary Kate Cosgrove, Bohogue

Judith Regan & decd. Killinaugher

Ellen, Annie & Mary Waldron, Carrowkeel

Michael & Catherine Waldron & decd. Carrowkeel

James & Bridget Sloyan, Brackloon

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**Sunday 26th Dec. 10.00 Month's Mind:** Katie Webb, Brickens & Tooraree

20th - 26th Dec.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Martin Fitzmaurice	Anne Carney, Daniela Balbino Romao
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Frances Mulhern, Margaret Tarpey
Wednesday	Willie Broderick	Marie Brennan, Margie Gallagher
Friday 10.00am	Mary Donnelly	Kay Curley, Eileen Jordan
Friday 6.00pm. Christmas Eve	Siobhán Conlon	Lorraine Waldron, Eileen Donnellan, Willie Broderick
Friday 9.00pm. Christmas Eve	Alex Eaton	Jacinta Flynn, Jenny Glynn, Tim Byrne
Saturday 10.00am. Christmas Day	Maura Murphy	Willie Broderick, Mary Sykes, Fionnuala Nolan
Saturday 12.00 Christmas Day	Martin Fitzmaurice	Anne Carney, Helene McCafferty, Gilmar Neves
Sunday 10.00am. St. Stephen's Day	Willie Ryan	Miriam Judge, Breege Halpin, Aileen Burke
Sunday 12.00 St. Stephen's Day	Murt Hunt	Deirdre Bowne, Breda Davis, Patricia Plunkett

### Recently Deceased

Tony Mulligan, Hazelhill

### Recently Baptised

We welcome into the Faith Community  
Madison Carmel Flanagan, 12 Manor Brook

## CHRISTMAS MASSES 2021

Christmas Eve, Friday 24th: Mass at 10.00am.

**Special Family Mass at 6.00pm.** At this Mass we invite families to bring along the Baby Jesus from your crib at home to have it blessed. This Mass is primarily to cater for families with younger children; grandparents are also welcome to attend.

**Christmas Vigil Mass at 9.00pm.**

**Christmas Day, Saturday 25th:** Masses at 10.00am. & 12 noon

**St. Stephen's Day, Sunday 26th:** Masses at 10.00am. & 12 noon

The 10 o'clock Mass on Christmas Day will be broadcast on Mid West Radio.

**Confessions** will be available from 3.00 - 4.00pm. on Christmas Eve.

**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. The account details are printed on the back of the envelopes. Sincere thanks to all who have already returned their envelopes.

### 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](http://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>

**"God, hear I am! I am coming to do your will." (2nd reading)**

Can you make that offer, to put yourself at the disposal of God's plan for his people and for the world? Contact your Diocesan Vocations Director or contact the National Vocations Office - email: [info@vocations.ie](mailto: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

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS:** The Annual New Year's Day Mass for the parishes in the St Joseph's Cluster (Aghamore, Ballinlough, Ballyhaunis, Bekan and Knock) will be held on 1st January (New Year's Day) at 12pm. The theme for this year's Mass is 'Living life more reflectively'. A specially commissioned prayer card will be distributed at the Mass. We're going ahead on the presumption that we will be allowed to have a congregation present in the church. If for any reason, in the interim, restrictions are imposed by the government, the Mass will be broadcast online and on parish radio.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS** are available in the sacristy this weekend, €6 for a pack of 10.

**BALLYHAUNIS ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:** Sincere thanks to all who have returned donation envelopes; these can still be placed in the church collection box at Masses during the coming week or dropped in at the parish office. SVP Volunteers will also gratefully accept donations or you may donate on-line to:

**Account No: 55 855348 BIC: BOFIE2D IBAN: IE96 BOFI 9037 2855 8553 48**

**If you are in need of our help** please write to us outlining your specific needs at this time. While funds are limited we do have a plentiful supply of food, which can be collected by appointment. Your correspondence should be addressed to **Ballyhaunis SVP, The Friary House, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo F35 PF66**

**BRIAN FLANAGAN CD - HYMNS OLD & NEW:** At the start of the Covid 19 lockdown, when Masses with congregations were forbidden, listeners of Mid West radio begin to tune into the broadcast Masses from our church in big numbers. We were fortunate to have a webcam in place in the church before the arrival of the pandemic. As choirs were forbidden, Brian Flanagan offered to sing solo at one of the Sunday Masses.

What started out as a temporary arrangement became a standing fixture each Sunday at the 10.00am Mass. It wasn't long before listeners and viewers began to express their appreciation for the broadcast Sunday Masses, saying how uplifting and consoling they found them during this time of isolation. They singled out Brian's wonderful voice and his choice of hymns. Many wondered if he had recorded a CD. We're delighted that this project has finally come to fruition in this first volume. The CD called 'Hymns Old and New' 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. The CD will make an ideal Christmas gift.

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

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** meets every Wednesday at 11.00am. at the Family Centre, Knock. All are welcome. Further information from Monica Morley on 094-9375320.

**BALLYHAUNIS GAA CLUB:** Tickets for the fundraising draw for a Seat Tarraco SUV or €50,000 cash are available on [www.winansuv.ie](http://www.winansuv.ie) or from club members and various outlets in the town. Cost - €25 for one ticket; 3 for €70 or 5 for €100. Ballyhaunis GAA Club thanks you for your continued support.

**DRAMA FESTIVAL:** The 50th Claremorris Drama and Fringe Festival is planned for March 17th to 26th 2022. 10 night Season Tickets are now available from the Town Hall box office on 0949310999 or [www.townhall.ie](http://www.townhall.ie) Ideal Christmas presents for any drama fan.