

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 31st December 2023

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 *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in
a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your
shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied, 'what do you
intend to give me? I go childless . . .
Then Abram said, 'See, you have given
me no descendants; some man of my
household will be my heir.' And then this
word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He
shall not be your heir; your heir shall be
one of your own flesh and blood'. Then
taking him outside he said, 'Look up to
heaven and count the stars if you can.
Such will be your descendants,' he told
him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who
counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he

had said, and did what he had promised
her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son
to Abraham in his old age, at the time God
had promised. Abraham named the son
born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah
had given birth.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (PS. 104)

*R. He, the Lord, is our God.
He remembers his covenant for ever.*

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the
peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! [R]
2. Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. [R]
3. Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. [R]
4. He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. [R]

SECOND READING *Hebrews 11:8.11-12.17-19*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed
the call to set out for a country that was
the inheritance given to him and his
descendants, and that he set out without
knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in
spite of being past the age, was made
able to conceive, because she believed
that he who had made the promise would
be faithful to it. Because of this, there
came from one man, and one who was
already as good
as dead himself, more descendants than
could be counted, as many as the stars
of heaven or the grains of sand on the
seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put
to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered
to sacrifice his only son even though the
promises had been made to him and he
had been told: It is through Isaac that your
name will be carried on. He was confident
that God had the power even to raise the
dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he
was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in
the past and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the
prophets; but in our own time, the last
days, he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Luke 2:22 - 40 (*shorter form 2:22,39-40)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**When the day came for them to be
purified as laid down by the Law of
Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up
to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
-observing what stands written in the*

Law of the Lord: Every first-born male
must be consecrated to the Lord - and
also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance
with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a
pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.
Now in Jerusalem there was a man
named Simeon. He was an upright and
devout man; he looked forward to Israel's
comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on
him. It had been revealed to him by the
Holy Spirit that he would not see death
until he had set eyes on the Christ of the
Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to
the Temple; and when the parents brought
in the child Jesus to do for him what the
Law required, he took him into his arms
and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master,
you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the
salvation which you have prepared for
all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood
there wondering at the things that were
being said about him, Simeon blessed
them and said to Mary his mother, 'You
see this child: he is destined for the
fall and for the rising of many in Israel,
destined to be a sign that is rejected and
a sword will pierce your own soul too - so
that the secret thoughts of many may be
laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the
daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was well on in years. Her days in
girlhood over, she had been married for
seven years before becoming a widow.
She was now eighty-four years old and
never left the Temple, serving God night
and day with fasting and prayer. She
came by just at that moment and began to
praise God; and she spoke of the child to
all who looked forward to the deliverance
of Jerusalem.

**When they had done everything the Law
of the Lord required, they went back to
Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
Meanwhile the child grew to maturity,
and he was filled with wisdom; and God's
favour was with him.**

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.



focus on sunday

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 31st December 2023

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.

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

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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

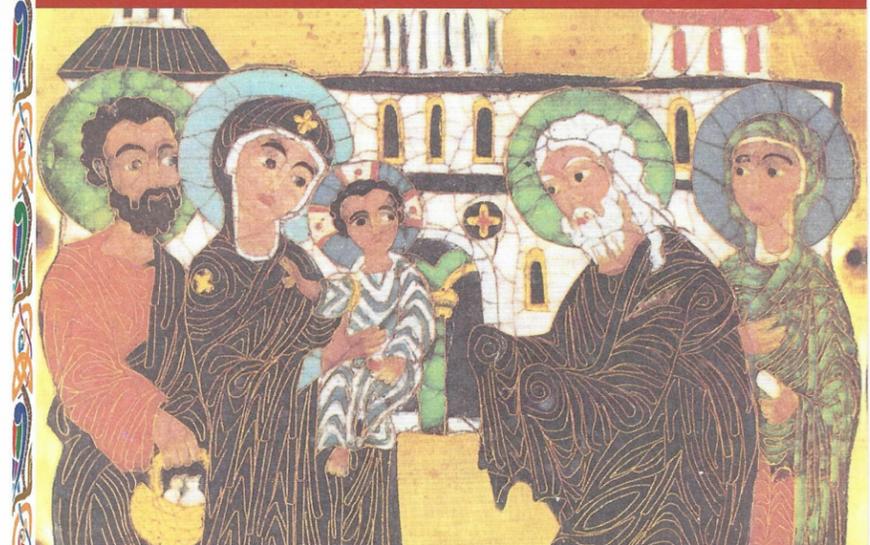
Bring those you refresh with this heavenly
Sacrament, most merciful Father, to
imitate constantly the example of the
Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this
world, we may share their company for
ever. Through Christ our Lord.

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.



Think for a while sometime today of the joys of family life. Recall
them and enjoy them. It's the place where we find unconditional
love. We may drive each other mad at times or let each other
down. But our love is strong for the person just as that person is.

In that way family is a sacrament, a sign of God accepting us, forgiving us, moving
us on to greater love and maturity and always faithful. The reason we call into
family around Christmas is just that; we are family.

Family today is varied. We live in a world which needs the values of family life but
there are difficulties. Financial worries and worries about children and the life they
will have, are many. Worries about our older people and their health and future.

The joy of real love varies as we get older. Mary and Joseph had no idea that
Jesus would get lost. That he would cause them worry. Mary and Joseph must
have been proud of Jesus – seeing him becoming an adult like any Jewish boy.
They knew that sometime they would have to let him go.

So, family also lets us be and lets us go. We miss our family who are away but
realise that is what they chose to do, or often, had to do. Our family give us our
roots – where we came from, but also our wings to find our own way in life, with
a new family.

So, every family is a holy family! Not just a saint and an immaculate mother. But
holy in trying to love each other as best we can.

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 31st DECEMBER 2023

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, Began: 094-9313937

ANNIVERSARY MASSES 1st-6th JANUARY 2024

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

Colin Egan, Clagnagh
 Noreen Hopkins, Upper Main St.
 Séan & Maura Griffin, Clare St, decd. of the Griffin & O'Reilly families & Mike Freeley
 Pat Gildea, Margaret Kavanagh, Mary & Patrick Gildea, Johnstown
 James & Mary Plunkett, Forthill
 Decd. of the Grogan family, Aghamore
 Kieran, Elizabeth & Tom Carney, Classaroe

SUNDAY 7th JANUARY—MONTH'S MIND MASS

Joan Kilboyle, Dublin, Four Mile House & Tullaghan

1st-7th Jan. 2024	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 12 noon (New Year's Day)	Orla Phillips	Joe Byrne, Breda Davis, Paul Sykes, Helena Byrne
Tuesday 10am	Tommy Caulfield	Margaret Tarpey, Breege Halpin
Wednesday	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Byrne, Irene Healy
Friday	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Marie Brennan
Saturday 7.30pm	Aoife Doherty	Tim Byrne, Lorraine Waldron, Justina Lyons, Fionnuala Nolan
Sunday 10am	Orlaith Coffey	Mary Sykes, Mary Murphy, Geraldine Murphy, Cáit Webb
COLLECTORS FOR JANUARY		
Sat. 7.30pm	Ann Curley, Oliver Cribben, Kieran Connolly, Hugh Rudden	
Sun. 10am	Mike Griffin, Pat Phillips, Eddie Mooney, Carlos Balbino Romao	
MASS SERVERS FOR JANUARY		
Sat. 7.30pm	Team C- Liam & Molly Thompson, Carlos Da Sousa Gomes, Luiz Ricardo Da Souza Gomes, Sonny Kelly	
Sun. 10am	Team D-Cian & Hazel Murphy, Abigail Dixon, Fionn Finnegan	

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers

Gerry Lyons, Knockbrack;
 Tommy Devane, Johnstown;
 Fr. Pat Ruane, Diocese of Bathurst, Australia & formerly of Johnstown;
 Mario Comiskey, Clonmany, Donegal-brother of Sally Higgins, Devlis;
 Maureen Moran, Reading, UK-sister-in-law of Sheila Byrne, Johnstown



MASSES:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00am.
 Saturday Evening Vigil: 7.30pm
 Sunday: 10.00am.

CONFESSIONS:

Before Saturday Vigil Mass

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Between 9am & 7pm daily.

BAPTISMS

First Saturday & third Sunday of the month at 11.00am. Minimum of four weeks' notice required. Contact the parish office, 094-9630006.



New Year's Day- Monday 1st January 2024:

A New Year's Day Mass for the parishes in the St. Joseph's Cluster (Aghamore, Ballyhaunis, Ballinlough, Began & Knock) will be held on Monday 1st January at 12 noon (No 10am Mass that day). A specially-commissioned prayer card will be distributed at the Mass. All welcome.
 Mass Servers: Team D will serve at the Cluster Mass.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: Next Saturday 6th January is the Feast of the Epiphany. Masses will be at 10am & 7.30pm.

All weekday and weekend Masses, and the daily Rosary at 9pm (when possible) Mondays to Fridays, continue to be broadcast on parish radio 105.2 FM and streamed on the parish webcam: <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-patricks-church-ballyhaunis> or on the website: www.ballyhaunisparish.ie

PRIESTS' CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: Sincere thanks to those who have already returned their envelopes. Your ongoing support & generosity is appreciated. Envelopes for the Christmas Collection can be returned at Masses or to the parish office. For those wishing to make an online donation to the Priests' Account, the **IBAN is IE97 AIBK 9374 4421 3423 54.**

Recently Baptised

We welcome into the Faith Community
 Maria Rose McQueeney, Dunmore

PARISH CALENDERS 2024 are available in the Church porch. Please take one home, and bring one to a neighbour or friend who might like one.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: The Tuam Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes led by Archbishop Francis Duffy will take place from 30th August to 5th Sept. 2024. Direct return flights from Ireland West Airport Knock, 6 nights hotel full board. For details, call 01 2410800 or email info@joewalshstours.ie

MALTA PILGRIMAGE: "In the Footsteps of St. Paul" pilgrimage to Malta from Tuam Archdiocese. 7 nights from 26th June to 3rd July 2024 ex-Dublin. For details & bookings call 01 2410800.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE: Knock to Mostar from 18th-25th September 2024, accompanied by a Spiritual Director. Discounts for bookings made before 3rd February. For details, contact Anne Keadin on 086 3766293.

LIVING WELL is a free HSE programme which helps people living with a long-term health condition to manage their condition and improve their overall wellbeing. Anyone with a chronic illness such as diabetes, arthritis, COPD, cardiac illness, anxiety etc can benefit from this programme which is delivered over 6 weekly workshops (2.5 hrs x 6) by trained leaders. The next programme in Tuam starts on Wed. 17th Jan, in Kilkelly on 28th February and the next online programme starts on 30th Jan. Advance registration is required. Contact Liam on 086 0142675 or email lgildea@southmayo.com

AL-ANON offers understanding & support for families & friends of problem drinkers in an anonymous environment. Meetings on Sunday evenings at 8.30pm in Scoil Íosa, Ballyhaunis. More information available on www.al-anon.org

WEEKLY AA MEETINGS are held on Fridays & Sundays at 8.30pm in the Friary House.

GENEALOGY: A five-week course showing how to trace your family history through various sources will commence in the Community Hall on Tuesday 16th January at 8pm. Cost €5 per session including tea & coffee. To register on the course, email ballyhauniscommunitycouncil@gmail.com

IRISH CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER: Copies are now on sale at the back of the Church. Cost €3, please place money in candelabra coinbox.

MAYO COLLEGE OF FET: Upskill yourself in 2024 with free certified online courses in the Mayo College of Further Education & Training. They run courses in conjunction with Mayo GAA in Mentorship, Sustainability in the Workplace, Project Management and Leading Through Change, starting in January. Apply online at mayocollege.ie to improve your CV and employment options.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT MEETINGS: Life after a bereavement can feel very lonely. Trained facilitators conduct a weekly Bereavement Support Meeting at the Family Centre, Knock Shrine at 11am every Wednesday There's also a special meeting for bereaved spouses/ partners on the first Thursday each month. No appointment needed. Further information from Monica Morley at 094-9375320.

DRAMA: Season tickets for the 52nd Claremorris Drama & Fringe Festival, which takes place from 14th-23rd March, are now available from the Town Hall box office on 094 9310999 or online at www.townhall.ie

LOCAL LINK MAYO: Anyone who would like to avail of the Local Link bus service into Ballyhaunis - which is free to pensioners and other travel card holders - can contact Local Link Mayo at 094 900 5150 or email: mayo@locallink.ie

Offertory Collection
 Sunday 24th Dec. 2023
 €2,300
 Christmas Day 2023
 €4,455

PARISH NEWSLETTER: Items for the newsletter can be emailed to ballyhaunisparish@gmail.com by Thursday, for inclusion that weekend.

PRAYER FOR A NEW YEAR:

Lord, as we stand on the threshold of a New Year, we want to express our gratitude for the blessings of the past year.

Thank You for your faithfulness, your love and your constant presence in our lives.

As we enter the unknown of the coming year, we ask You for your guidance and wisdom.

Illuminate our path with your light so that we may walk in your ways and make choices that align with your will.

Help us to seek first your Kingdom and trust that all other things will be added unto us.

Wishing all our parishioners and visitors a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. May 2024 bring you blessings in abundance of love, joy, health & peace.