

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.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
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 Isaiah 7: 10 -14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:
'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 23: 1 - 6

R. Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **[R]**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **[R]**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **[R]**

SECOND READING Romans 1: 1-7

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

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 1: 18 - 24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,

because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

**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.



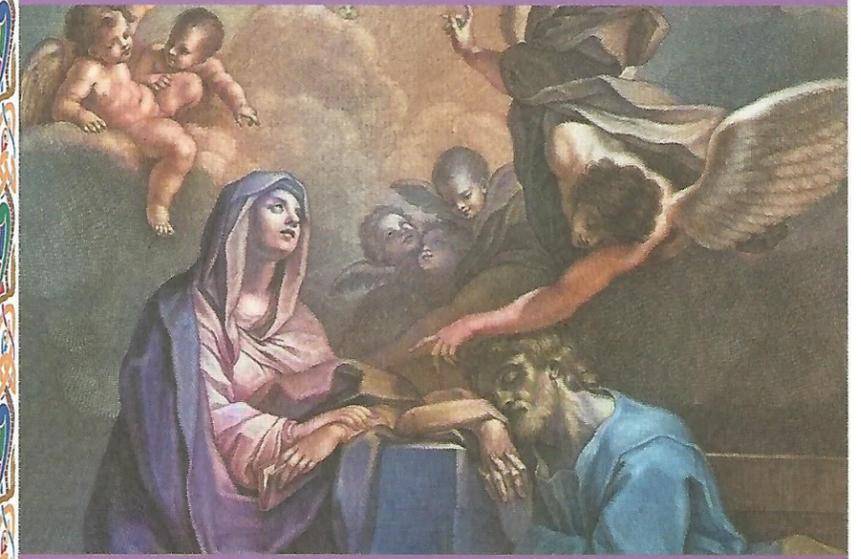
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.



focus on sunday

The birth of Christ is almost upon us now. We are reminded in Isaiah's prophecy of the long-awaited Emmanuel – God in our midst. Like Joseph, we need to make room for Jesus to enter our lives and our world.



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.



Christmas is practically here and there is still so much to be done. That Christmas celebrates the most central tenet of our faith, God becoming a human being, calls us to pray, reflect and do something practical. The great doctors of the church tell us that the whole of creation waited with bated breath to see if Mary would agree to become the mother of the Saviour. Christmas celebrates God's gift to us of everything he has, his only Son, his whole family so to speak. Christmas celebrates Mary's generosity when she agreed to be the mother of the Saviour. In doing so she put in jeopardy her personal plans and ran the gauntlet of possible rejection by Joseph and being the butt of harsh and unforgiving village gossip. The season that's coming upon us is dripping with the spirit of generosity, God's generosity as well as Mary's and Joseph's.

It's the season for us all to be generous to all. It's the season to be compassionate to those who are less fortunate, forgotten and in need of meaningful help. It's the season to reach out and help a neighbour carry their load. If we ourselves have more than enough to enjoy Christmas, it won't hurt to be generous and give some of it away to those who have less or nothing at all to cheer them up. Christmas is not just about me. It's about us all together, rich, and poor, givers and receivers – all helping one another to carry the burden of our life together. So, let's slow down these days and try sensing and feeling the pain of others. God so loved and felt for the world that he sent his only Son... John 3:15.

Fr. Joe Walsh

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey



Mary, The Mother of Jesus always prays for us. Her body is with God in Heaven. She is very close to each one of us. Now Mary knows our hearts, can hear our prayers, and help us with her motherly kindness. We can be especially close to Mary at Christmas and when we visit the crib recite the Hail Mary slowly and thoughtfully.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 18th DECEMBER 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 19th-25th DECEMBER 2022

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

Fr. Joe Cooney

James & Bridget Sloyan, Brackloon

Decd. members of the Annagh Magazine Society

Patrick & Mary Gildea, Johnstown

Jim & Mary E. Smith, Bridge St.

Dominic, Agnes & Delia Duffy, Mountain

Tom, Mary, Micheál & Nell Donnellan,

Michael, Catherine & Bertie Curley, Clare St.

Michael & Mary Webb & decd. of the Webb family, Main St.

Maisin & Eamon Meath, Clare St.

Sr. Evelyn Fahy, Abbeyknockmoy

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

Decd. of the Finley, Nicholson, Durkan & Lang families

Thomas & Margaret Lydon, Manchester & Tullaughane

Sylvester & Kathleen McBride & decd. of the McBride family, Annagh

Michael & Agnes Jordan & decd., Annagh

Michael Murray & decd., Doctor's Road

Anthony Coyne & decd., Leenane

Michael & Katie Conroy, Claremorris

Peter, Phil & Stephen Keogh, Dublin

James Fitzmaurice, Ballinlough

Christy Cregg, Ballinlough

MONTH'S MIND—SUNDAY 25TH DEC: Marie Pollard, Galway & The Neale

19th-25th Dec.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Jarlath Fahey	Joe Byrne, Fionnuala Nolan
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Margaret Tarpey
Wednesday	Mary Donnelly	Marie Brennan, Margie Gallagher
Friday	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Irene Healy
Saturday 6pm (Christmas Eve)	Margaret Monaghan	Eileen Donnellan, Claire Higgins, Frances Mulhern, Laura Brogan
Saturday 9pm (Christmas Eve)	Stella O'Neill	Tim Byrne, Lorraine Waldron, Seamus Mulrennan, Justina Lyons
Sunday 10am (Christmas Day)	Julia Kelly	Kay Curley, Eavan Caulfield, Eileen Lynch, Helena Byrne
Sunday 12.00 (Christmas Day)	Orla Phillips	Anne Carney, Eileen Jordan, Deirdre Browne, Mary T. Griffin

Recently Deceased—We remember in our prayers

Rose Christina McDonagh, Kent, UK—wife of Bernie McDonagh, Ballyhaunis

Pat Moloney, Cratloe, Co Clare—uncle-in-law of James Reidy, Doctor's Road

Brigid Bonner, London—sister of Seamus Walsh, Johnstown



MASSES:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00am.

Saturday Evening Vigil: 7.30pm

Sunday: 10.00am.

CONFESSIONS:

Before Saturday Vigil Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday: 10.30am. - 7.00pm.

BAPTISMS

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



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> or on the website: www.ballyhaunisparish.ie.

Sunday Mass will be broadcast live on Midwest Radio on the 18th December and on Christmas Day 25th Dec. at 10am.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2022:

Christmas Eve—Saturday 24th December:

6pm: Special Family Mass. We invite families to bring along the Baby Jesus from your crib at home to have blessed at this Mass.

9pm: Christmas Vigil Mass.

Christmas Day—Sunday 25th December:

Masses at 10am and 12 noon. The 10am Mass will be broadcast live on Midwest Radio.

St. Stephen's Day—Monday 26th December:

Mass at 12 noon. (No 10am Mass on St. Stephen's Day).

CONFESSIONS: A Service of Reconciliation will be held this Sunday 18th December at 6pm.

FESTIVE FAVOURITES AT THE FRIARY: A Christmas Carol service will take place in the historic Friary this Sunday evening 18th Dec. at 6.30pm, featuring The Abbey Male Choir, Parish Choir, Scoil Íosa Children's Choir and the Ballyhaunis Folk Group. Donations to the local St Vincent de Paul. Come along and enjoy an evening of festive music & song.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS are

available in the sacristy this weekend, €6 for a pack of 10 cards.

Offertory Collection

11th December 2022

€1,945

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

ENVELOPES: Sincere thanks to those who have returned their envelopes. The Christmas 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, the Priests' Account has recently been moved to AIB:

BIC: AIBKIE 2D

IBAN: IE97 AIBK 9374 4421 3423 54.

Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: Carol Service in Knock Basilica this Sun 18th Dec. at 8pm. Featuring Schola Cantorum Basilicae, together with ConTempo String Quartet and organist Mark Keane. All welcome. The service is free of charge and can also be viewed online on www.knockshrine.ie

Advent Prayer by Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,

send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.

We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"



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, Bekan & Knock) on Sunday 1st January at 12 noon. This is the 9th year of this event and, as on previous occasions, it is hoped that representatives from each of the parishes/church areas might take part in the Mass. The theme is "Jesus Stands at the Door and Knocks". It's hoped that representatives from the choirs of the Cluster will provide the music and singing, and a specially-commissioned prayer card will be distributed at the Mass. All welcome.

YOUTH MASS organised by the recently-formed Knock Youth 2000 group will take place next Thursday 22nd Dec. at 6pm in the Apparition Chapel at Knock Shrine. All young people & their families are welcome to the Mass, with refreshments afterwards in The Hub. The Youth 2000 prayer meeting (16 to 35 years) usually takes place every Thursday at 8pm in St. Joseph's Chapel at The Hub. For enquiries call 086 0704965.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: Many thanks to all who have returned collection envelopes for the local branch of St. Vincent de Paul. These are still available in the Church porch and in local outlets and can be returned to the parish office. Donations may also be made on-line to:

Account No: 5585 5348 BIC:BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE96 BOFI 903728 5585 5348

Requests for assistance should be submitted in writing to Ballyhaunis SVP, The Friary House, Ballyhaunis.

EPILEPSY IRELAND would like to thank all who supported their recent Church gate collection, which raised over €275.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets at 11am every Wednesday in the Family Centre, Knock. All welcome. Further information from Monica Morley, Knock Shrine at 094-9375320.

MARY'S MEALS have a range of Christmas gifts available for your loved ones that will also provide life-changing school meals for a child living in poverty. For €18.30, a place can be set at their virtual Big Family Christmas dinner table, which will feed a child for an entire school year. This place setting can then be printed or emailed to someone, as a special gift. A range of other gift cards are also available at www.marysmeals.ie or by calling 01 8535163.

GAA DINNER DANCE: Tickets for the Ballyhaunis GAA/LGFA dinner dance on Thursday 29th Dec. in the McWilliam Park Hotel are now 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 reunion on Friday 30th December, starting with a Prayer Service in the school at 7pm, followed by refreshments in The Clock Bar. More details on Facebook Class of '92.

BEFRIENDING VOLUNTEER WESTERN ALZHEIMERS: Can you spare a couple of hours per week? You might consider becoming a Befriender to those living with Dementia. Full training provided. For details, contact Caroline on 087 3694477 or 094 9364900.

CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN: The annual Ballyhaunis Christmas Tractor Run takes place this Sunday evening 18th Dec. Registration 4.30-5.30 on the bypass near the Community School. All funds raised will go to Cancer Care West.