

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
 You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy.
 You bring light to those in darkness: Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
 May almighty God have mercy on us. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, 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 Genesis 9:8 - 15

A reading from the book of Genesis.
 God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'
 God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 24:4-9

R. Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.
 Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. *(R)*

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. *(R)*
3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. *(R)*

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.
 Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL Mark 1:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
 The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.
 After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

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.

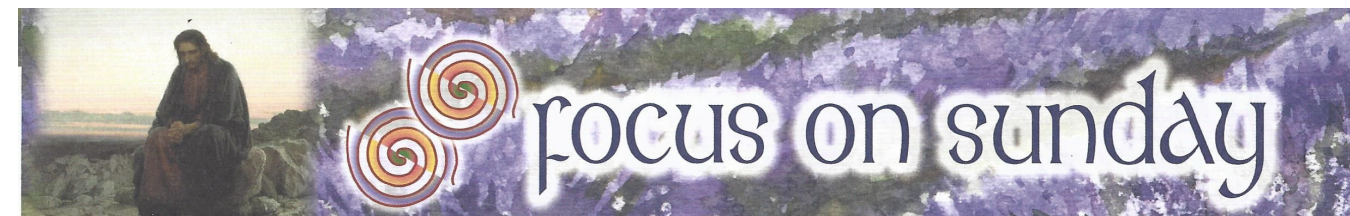


LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. 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.

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

One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

May bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray, come down upon your people, that hope may grow in tribulation, virtue be strengthened in temptation, and eternal redemption be assured. 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.**

As Jesus was ever faithful to his father's will and to his vocation to bring the Good News, we too are promised the strength to resist temptation and be true to our faith.



Into the Wilderness

Lent is a time to respond to that hunger which lies at the core of our being, the hunger for a deeper connection with the Creator, the hunger to experience freshness in our lives, the hunger for what we truly long for. What better place to work all of this out than "the wilderness"? From time to time, we are landed in the wilderness. Sometimes it is an unpleasant experience and at other times we crave it, in response to a deep desire to step back from the day-to-day and make space in our lives for reflection. In the short passage we read from Mark today, we see that this is Spirit-led, the same Spirit that descended on Jesus at his baptism and 'immediately drove him out into the wilderness'. In the wilderness we can become vulnerable, thoughts and feelings can attack us like "wild beasts". But we should not be afraid; we also read that 'angels ministered' to Jesus; he is not alone.

There is a Zen proverb, 'Let go or be dragged', and no one wants to be dragged around the place. Lent invites us to embrace this wilderness time. As we fast from things that are not life-giving for us, we are also actively making space for God to breathe life and love into our hearts once more. We do this in the trust that God who loves us wants us to choose life and to clear out the blocks that stand in our way. This is 'good news', a true *metanoia* (a change of heart). God's Kingdom is being fulfilled in us and around us, not yet complete, but with every trip into the wilderness we edge closer to that reality. May this Lenten season be a period of grace for all of us.

These reflections are extracts from *The Deep End – A Journey Through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Mark*, Messenger Publications, Dublin, 2023. (Jane Mellett and Triona Doherty).

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Lent is a time when we can look at Jesus everyday, and learn that God Our Father is full of Love. Jesus' "Great News" is that God loves every single person, and me too, in a special way. God can never be angry. Jesus helps us to grow in love, because God is Love. We grow in love when we put others first, like giving a seat up on the bus, respect people on footpaths, and in shops, offering to help at home, and share with others that we meet in school and sport, and with neighbours.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 18th FEBRUARY 2024

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-24th FEBRUARY 2024

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

- Seamus Cribbin, Drimbane
 Carmel Waldron, Upper Main St.
 Charlie & Phyllis Phillips & decd. Main St.
 William & Catherine Neary & decd. Main St.
 Ted Maughan, Station Rise
 Seamus Waldron, Abbeyquarter
 John & Mary Kenny & family, Kiltimagh & Hayley Vahey, Ballyheane
 Decd. of the Waldron family, Woodpark
 Una Collum, Devlis
 Declan Mulhern, Knock Road
 Michael & Kathleen Mulhern, Clare St.
 John, Annie & Brendan Hoban, Lisbane
 Caroline Connolly, Castlerea
 John, Mary, Tom & Mark Dillon-Leetch
 Michael, Mary, Joe & Josie Rattigan, Lecarrow & Birmingham
 Eileen, Michael & Martin Comer, Bargarriff
 John Bruen, Castlerea
 John, Gretta & Mícheál Murren, Upper Main St. & Mary Commins, Knock
 Josie & Jason Morley, Knox St.
 Philip, Delia Mary & Seamus Morley, Knox St.
 Tom McCormack, Clare Court & Tulsk
 Michael, Catherine & Bertie Curley, Clare St.
 Michael & Mary Webb & decd. of the Webb family, Main St
 Paddy & Josephine Ryan, Hazelhill
 Tom & Dora Forde, The Square
 Margaret & Pat Byrne, Knox. St

SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY—1st ANNIVERSARY

Mary McQueeney, Main St.

19th-25th Feb.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Mary Donnelly	Joe Byrne, Irene Healy
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Lorraine Waldron
Wednesday	Liam Devaney	Margaret Tarpey, Margaret Byrne
Friday	Willie Broderick	Marie Brennan, Eileen Jordan
Saturday 7.30pm	Emer Gallagher	Anne Carney, Mary T. Griffin, Jenny Glynn, Tim Byrne
Sunday 10am	Mike Byrne	Patricia Plunkett, Mary Murphy, Daniela Balbino Romao, Mary Sykes

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers:

Anne O'Dwyer, Abbey St.
 Bill Elwood, Gorthaganny-brother of John & Mary Elwood, Ballyhaunis

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

CONFESSIONS:
 Before Saturday Vigil Mass

EUCCHARISTIC 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.



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

LENT: As this is the first Sunday in Lent, parishioners are reminded that packs containing a Trócaire box and information on this year's Lenten campaign are available in the Church porch. Last year, over €280,000 was donated by the people of the Tuam Archdiocese. This year's Lenten campaign focuses on Malawi, Africa which is one of the least-developed countries in the world and has been badly affected by climate change and severe droughts. Large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water. Please support Trócaire in helping communities to develop sustainable access to clean, safe water supplies by taking home a Trócaire box or making a donation online at www.trocaire.org

PPC NEWSLETTER: The Parish Pastoral Council Newsletter from July to December 2023 is now available in the Church porch. Please take a copy home. It contains articles and photos of events that took place in the parish in the second half of last year.

“OUR PARISH– FACING THE FUTURE: An opportunity to explore the challenges facing parishes today”. This 3-part series, facilitated by Rev. Dr. Eugene Duffy, will be held in St. John's Welcome Centre, Knock Shrine on Monday 26th Feb; 4th & 11th March from 8pm to 9.30pm, with international guest speakers via video link. **This will be of particular interest to Parish Pastoral Councils.** The series is free of charge but advance booking is advisable by calling 094 9388100 or email faithrenewal@knockshrine.ie

CHY3 CERTIFICATES: Sincere thanks to parishioners who have returned their CHY3 certificates in recent weeks. For those who received a certificate in the post and have not yet returned it, please complete the form and post it back in the enclosed stamped & self-addressed envelope, or drop in the letterbox of the Parochial House **this coming week**, as a return needs to be prepared for Revenue. This is a Tax Rebate Scheme which is of considerable financial benefit to the parish. Once completed, the CHY3 Cert is valid for 5 years.

WEEKLY ENVELOPES: Sincere thanks to all who are returning their weekly contributions, either by envelope or direct debit. If you wish to set up a direct debit, the account details are: Ballyhaunis Parish Church BIC: AIBKIE2D IBAN: IE30 AIBK 9374 4421 3420 08 For those wishing to make a donation to the Priests' Account, the IBAN is IE97 AIBK 9374 4421 3423 54. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets at 11am every Wednesday in the Family Centre, Knock. All welcome. There's also a special meeting for bereaved spouses/ partners on the first Thursday of each month. Further information from Monica Morley, Knock Shrine at 094-9375320.

AA & AL-ANON: For those affected by alcohol abuse, there are weekly AA and Al-Anon meetings in Ballyhaunis. AA meetings: Fridays & Sundays at 8.30pm in the Friary House. Al-Anon meetings, for families and friends of problem drinkers, are held on Sunday evenings at 8.30pm in Scoil Íosa. More information on www.al-anon.org

DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE: The annual conference will take place in the RDS, Dublin from 23rd to 25th February, and will also be broadcast online, free of charge, on www.divinemercyconference.com and on churchservices.tv The theme of this year's event is "Jesus I Trust in You". Tickets are available on www.divinemercyconference.com or at the door.

VOLUNTEERS: Can you spare a couple of hours per week to become a volunteer befriender to a person living with Dementia? A little time goes a long way and gives family carers a short break. Volunteers are needed in every parish due to high demand. If you can help, contact Caroline at 087 3694477 or 094 9364900 or email volunteer@westernalzheimers.ie

EVANGELIUM IRELAND will host its next Young Adult Catholic Apologetics Conference on Saturday 16th March in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. Talks, workshops, Mass, evening social & refreshments. To view the programme and register, visit www.evangelium.ie

Offertory Collection
 Sunday 11th Feb. 2024
 €1,934

MAYO STOMA SUPPORT GROUP: Next meeting is in the Ellison Hotel, Castlebar on Thursday 22nd February at 7pm. If you are attending, contact JJ on 087 2300580

ACCORD, which helps prepare couples for the Sacrament of Marriage, has this week launched its updated marriage preparation programme. The new Accord programme takes account of changes in society and couple's relationship expectations, and is the first major revision of the programme in 20 years. New data shows that in 2023, Accord helped to prepare 7,262 couples for the Sacrament of Marriage across the island of Ireland. As well as marriage preparation courses, Accord also provides Couples & Relationship Counselling. For more details of local services, visit www.accord.ie

SVP POP-UP SHOP: St. Vincent de Paul will hold a clothing clearance sale in the Community Hall on Saturday 24th Feb. from 11am to 3pm. All items €2. Proceeds in aid of local conference.

WEBCAM: A reminder for those who watch the church webcam on MCN Media that the live streaming web address has been updated to www.mcn.live. This replaces www.mcnmedia.tv which will no longer work after 20th Feb. However, there is no change if you watch Mass on the Ballyhaunis parish website. Masses can be livestreamed on www.ballyhaunisparish.ie

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: On Friday 8th March, Le Cárde invites you to celebrate International Women's Day at "Spring Inspiration", with art, music & dance in the Ballyhaunis Community Hall from 8pm to 10pm. All welcome. Free event with refreshments served.

TREE PLANTING IN THE FRIARY GROUNDS: Planting will take place this Tuesday 20th Feb. from 10.15am to 12 noon for Scoil Íosa pupils and from 1.15 to 3pm for Community School pupils. A community planting day will be held next Saturday 24th Feb from 10.30am to 2pm. All welcome. This is part of a project entitled "An Choil Bheag", establishing a small biodiverse native woodland habitat, led by arborist Rob Nelson of An Taisce in partnership with Mayo County Council, the Abbey Partnership and Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns. For more details, email ballyhaunisabbey@gmail.com