

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

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

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem; Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you,

he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Isaiah 12:2-6

R. Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. [R]

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. [R]

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. [R]

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-7

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

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise

you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

*The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

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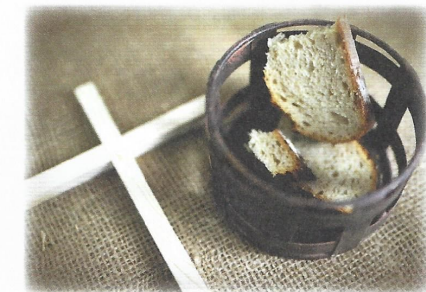
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with 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.



Year C
focus on sunday

The coming of Jesus is joyful news for all his people. Our hope at Christmas is to be bearers of his joy.



PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. 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.
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

**Say to the faint of heart:
Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come,
and he will save us.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. 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.



They came to John to be baptised. They asked him, "What should we do?" John didn't tell them to say their prayers or attend the synagogue, important as that might be. He told them to live justly. Those that had more than they needed were told to

share with those who had less than they needed. Those with power and authority were told not to abuse that power for their own self-interest. They were to avoid the temptation to greed. The Messiah that John proclaimed was someone who was coming to inaugurate the Kingdom of God on earth, a Kingdom that would be, by definition, a Kingdom of justice, where people would live together in love, caring and sharing with each other. Compassion is showing kindness to another person. Justice is the word we use to describe compassion within the community or society as it strives to make things fairer for everyone. Justice is essentially political, it is "political love." It involves addressing systemic issues and ensuring that no one is left behind. So we Christians must be political. We must be on the side of those who are unwanted, discriminated against or denied their fair share of society's resources. John's exhortations - to share what we have, to avoid greed and use power or influence for the sake of others and not ourselves - are just as valid today as then. Together, compassion and justice form the foundation for a peaceful society.

Fr. Peter McVerry

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus was always saying that people don't realise how good they are, getting up everyday for work for family, walking the floor at night minding children, having to watch what others want on TV, paying money for accommodation, clothes, food and books instead of buying fancy extras for themselves. All this is unselfishness. That is what Jesus noticed and praised in people. Lord, bless our preparations for Christmas. Help us to make home happy by working for each other.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 15th DECEMBER 2024

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Farragher, 094-9630006 / 087-9210305

Email: ballyhaunisparish@gmail.com Parish Office: 094-9630006

PARISH WEBSITE: www.ballyhaunisparish.ie

PARISH RADIO: 105.2FM Newsletter on line: Parish website & www.mcn.live

WEBCAM: www.ballyhaunisparish.ie or www.mcn.live

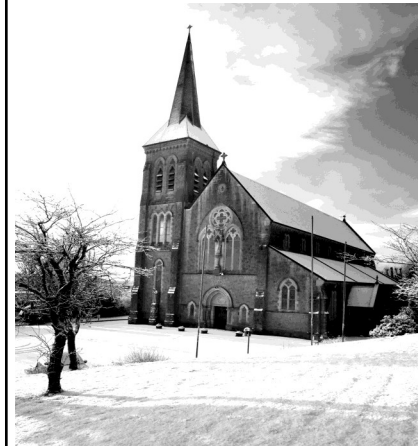
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)

Emergency numbers:

Knock: 094-9388100

Fr. Feeney, Ballinlough: 094-9640155

Fr. McGuinness, Began: 094-9313937



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.



ANNIVERSARY MASSES 16th-21st DECEMBER 2024

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

- Thomas & Emily Kelly, Cortoon
- John, Oliver, Agnes & Mary Mullarkey & decd. Tullaghane
- Decd. members of the Waldron & Grogan families, Derrynacong & the Waldron family, Coogue North
- Mike Mulrennan, Bracklaghboy & Bridie & Tom Mulrennan, Gurteen
- Renato Luptak, Devlis Cottages & Slovakia
- Tom & Pat Donnellan, Clare St.
- John, Margaret & Patrick Lyons, Redford
- Decd. members of Ballyhaunis St. Vincent de Paul Society
- James & Bridget Costello & Mary Kate Cosgrove
- Monica Freely, née Henry, Manchester & Gurteen
- Michael & Mary Morley & decd. of the Morley & Carney families
- Mary Moran, Clagnagh
- Michael & Katie Conroy & decd. of the Higgins & Conroy families
- Enda & Gerard Murphy, Ashling Drive & Emma Browne, Brackloon
- Martin, John & Mary Coyne, Knockroe
- Michael, Catherine, Annie May & Ellen Waldron, Carrowkeel
- Michael & Catherine Lyons & decd. of the Naughton family, Knockroe

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER

MONTH'S MIND

Anne Kelly, Island
David Cleary, Cherryfield

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Tommy Devane, Johnstown

16th-22nd Dec.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Liam Devaney	Joe Byrne, Marion Regan
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Lorraine Waldron
Wednesday	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Byrne, Irene Healy
Friday	Paula Donnellan	Willie Broderick, Margaret Tarpey
Saturday 7.30pm	Marie Jordan	Eileen Jordan, Jacinta Flynn, Tim Byrne, Frances Mulhern
Sunday 10am	Frank Browne	Deirdre Browne, Bernie Quinn, Mary Sykes, Mary Murphy

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.mcn.live/camera/st-patricks-church-ballyhaunis> or on our website: www.ballyhaunisparish.ie. The 10am Mass on Sunday 15th & 29th December will be broadcast live on Midwest Radio on 96.1FM, as well as the 10am Mass on Christmas Day.

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers:

Paul Meath, Dublin & formerly Clare St.

Doreen McMahon née Forde, Larne, Co Antrim & formerly The Square

PRIESTS' CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ENVELOPES & WEEKLY BOXES FOR 2024 are available in the Sacristy this weekend. We would be grateful if the distributors could collect them after Mass and deliver them to households in your area.

ADVENT: This Sunday 15th December is the third Sunday of Advent, which is a time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Once again, the Irish Catholic Bishop's Conference has a digital Advent Calendar available on the website www.catholicbishops.ie. Based on the Jubilee Year's theme of Hope, the digital calendar offers prayers & resources reflecting on the hope Christ brings to the world, while also preparing for the upcoming Holy Jubilee Year in 2025.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY takes place at the 10am Mass this Sunday 15th December. Children aged 4 - 8 years are invited into the Sacristy during Mass and will return to their parents after Communion.

CONFESSIONS: A Service of Reconciliation will be held in St. Patrick's Church next Sunday 22nd Dec. at 6pm. Confessions will be held in Scoil Iosa on Monday morning 16th Dec.

FESTIVE FAVOURITES AT THE FRIARY: The annual Carol Service takes place in the historic Ballyhaunis Friary this Sunday evening 15th December at 7pm, featuring The Abbey Male Choir, Scoil Íosa Children's Choir, Le Cárde, Le Cárde Junior Group & the Parish Choir. Join us for traditional carols and seasonal music. All welcome. Admission free, and all donations go to the local SVP.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: Collection envelopes for the local branch of St. Vincent de Paul are available in the church porch and in local outlets. Envelopes with donations can be returned to the collection box in the church at Mass times, or to the parish office. Donations can also be made online to: Account No: 55855348.

IBAN: IE96 BOFI 9037 2855 8553 48. BIC: BOFIE2D. If you or your family are in need of help from St. Vincent de Paul this Christmas, please outline your specific needs in writing and send to: Ballyhaunis SVP, The Friary House, Ballyhaunis.

Recently Baptised

We welcome into the Faith Community:
Simon Francis McDonagh, The Maples

SENSORY-FRIENDLY MASS AT KNOCK SHRINE takes place on Sunday 22nd December at 12.15pm in the Parish Church. This Mass will have no music, dimmed lighting and pictorial resources for those with additional needs. Families are encouraged to bring materials that can assist with comfort during the liturgy. Contact Nicola Mitchell for more information at faithrenewal@knockshrine or 094 9388100.

IRISH CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER: Copies are available in the church porch at a cost of €3. Place money in candelabra coinbox.

"THE LONGEST NIGHT" SERVICE AT KNOCK SHRINE: This is service for those who feel isolated from the general joy & happiness typically associated with this time of year. The service seeks to bring comfort by reminding us that we are not alone, and that there is also hope in Christ. It takes place in the Apparition Chapel, Knock on Sat. 21st Dec. at 8.30pm. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2024:

Christmas Eve—Tuesday 24th Dec:
6pm: Special Family Mass, with the Scoil Íosa Children's Choir.
9pm: Christmas Vigil Mass.
(Please note there's no 10am Mass on Christmas Eve)

Christmas Day—Wednesday 25th Dec.
Masses at 10am & 12 noon.
The 10am Mass will be broadcast on Midwest Radio on 96.1FM.

St. Stephen's Day—Thursday 26th Dec.
Mass at 12 noon.

New Year's Day—Wed. 1st January 2025:
Cluster Mass at 12 noon. A New Year's Day Mass for the parishes in the St. Joseph's Cluster (Aghamore, Ballyhaunis, Ballinlough, Began & Knock). (No 10am Mass that day). A specially-commissioned prayer card will be distributed on the theme of the Jubilee Year 2025, which is "Pilgrims of Hope". Pope Francis says, "For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope". The theme of hope encourages each of us to be messengers of hope in our very troubled world. On Christmas Eve, 24th December at 7pm, the Jubilee or Holy Year will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. In Ireland and around the world, each Diocesan Bishop will celebrate Mass on Sunday 29th Dec. to mark the solemn opening of the Holy Year.

ANAM CARA: In the run-up to Christmas, which can be a daunting time for those grieving, Anam Cara Supporting Parents After Bereavement will hold a free, in-person Parent Support Evening on Tuesday 17th December at 7.30pm in the TF Royal Hotel, Castlebar. An online support meeting will take place via Zoom on Thursday 2nd January 2025 at 7pm. For more details, call 085 2888888 or email info@anamcara.ie

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

"CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT" taking place at Knock Basilica on Sunday 22nd December at 8pm. Join us for an evening of Christmas carols and festive favourites. All welcome

Offertory Collection
Sunday 8th Dec. 2024
€2,205

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT with James Kilbane & special local guests will take place in Ballyhaunis Community Hall on Sunday 29th December at 7pm. Tickets €15 are available locally in The Gem or online at www.Eventbrite.ie, or call 087 6434206. Proceeds go to the hall refurbishment fund.

TRACTOR RUN: The annual Ballyhaunis Christmas Tractor Run takes place on Sunday 22nd December. Registration & assembly in the GAA car park from 4 to 5pm. Tractor run starts at 5.30pm through the streets of the town and surroundings areas. All proceeds this year go to the Mayo Hospice.

EPILEPSY IRELAND would like to thank all who supported their recent Church Gate collection, which raised €359.