

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 10:5-12

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

A reading from the holy Gospel

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.

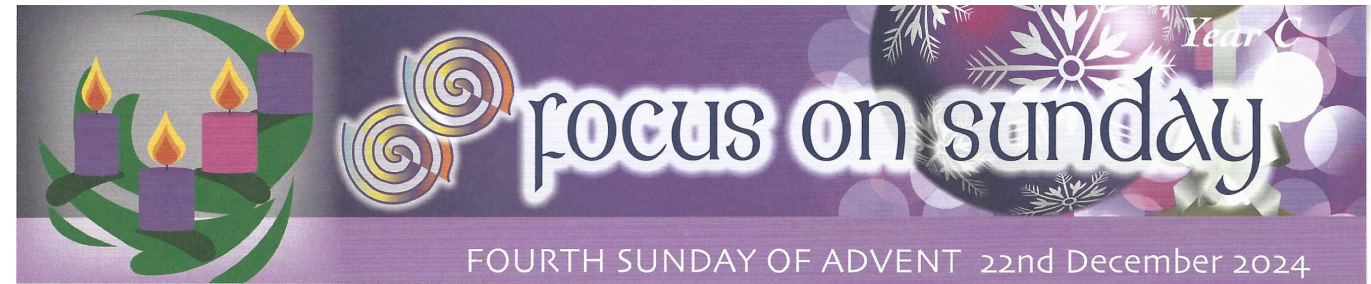
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom 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.



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?"

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.



The story of Mary going to help her cousin, an older lady who was now pregnant, is an ordinary story of the life of Mary. They were both pregnant. They both needed companionship and ordinary love. They needed to share the problems of any expectant mother and also share their joy.

We could say of Mary she did ordinary things extraordinarily well – she wouldn't make the newspapers– just the two women giving a listening ear and the little helps a pregnant mother needs.

There are many little visitations in life – to be present with people when they need us in the family and the neighbourhood.

In doing that like Mary we bring the grace of God and the presence of the Lord...what you do for anyone you do for me...Jesus could think of his mother in saying these words.

In receiving Mary, Elizabeth was visited by Jesus. In the give and take of our lives we bring Jesus to each other.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

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.

Liturgical texts: concordat cum originali: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin Other texts: cum permissu: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin. Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal: © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The Jerusalem version of the Scripture is copyright Darton, Longman & Todd & Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail & or Geoffrey Chapman Ltd. Robin Photo by Tom Clements. Published by Logos Publications, 26 Tolka Valley Business Park, Ballybogdan Rd, Glasnevin, D11 WK38 Phone (01 830 6751).

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 22nd DECEMBER 2024

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

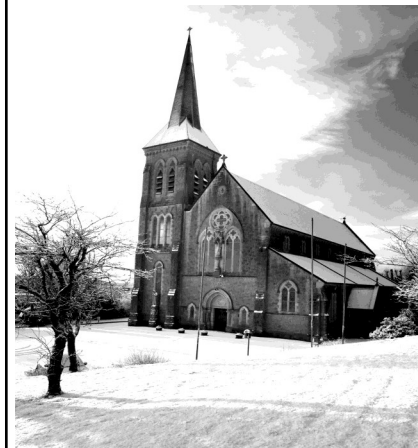
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)

Emergency numbers:

Knock: 094-9388100

Fr. Feeney, Ballinlough: 094-9640155

Fr. McGuinness, Bekan: 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 23rd-28th DECEMBER 2024

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

- Mary, Eddie & Patricia Walsh, USA & Bracklaghboy
- Vincent & Kathleen Caulfield, Upper Main St.
- James & Bridget Sloyan & decd. Brackloon
- Peter Sloyan & decd. Forthill
- Bartley & Nora, Bartley & Ellen Boyle & decd. of the Boyle & Morley families
- Jim & Mary E. Smith, Bridge St.
- Delia & James Freeley & decd. Gurteen
- Michael Murray & decd. Doctor's Road
- Séan & Anthony Coyne & decd. Leenane & Ballintubber
- Freddie O'Brien & decd. Upper Main St.
- Nora, Tom, Seamus & Fr. Pat Ruane, Johnstown
- Kathleen Gavin, Cooloughra; Rita & Paddy Walsh, Roscommon
- Andrew & Bridget Devine & decd.
- Tom, Delia, Joe & John Stenson
- Paddy & Úna Phillips, Main St.
- Mary Donnellan & decd. Clare St.
- Doris & Eddie Duddy, Manchester & decd. of the Duddy & Roddy families
- Kate, John, Noel, JJ & Patrick Goulding & Anne Joyce
- Moirá, Jackie, Andrew & Ciara Gallagher
- Ellie & Tom Donnelly, Andy Killeen & Brian Hassell, Manchester
- Jim, Mary, Brendan, Tommie & John Hopkins, Larganboy
- Declan Byrne, Catriona Kelly, John Larkin & decd. of the Hopkins & Kelly families
- Judith, Michael & Nora Regan & decd. Killinaugher
- Tom & Margaret Lydon & decd. of the Lydon & Marigliano families
- Christy Cregg, Ballinlough

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER—MONTH'S MIND: Joe Rochford, Gurteen

23rd-29th Dec.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Liam Devaney	Marion Regan, Marie Brennan
Tuesday 6pm (Christmas Eve)	Margaret Monaghan	Eileen Lynch, Frances Mulhern, Laura Brogan, Breda Davis
Tuesday 9pm (Christmas Eve)	Stella O'Neill	Joe Byrne, Mary Sykes, Eileen Jordan, Anne Carney
Wed. 10am (Christmas Day)	Joan Flanagan	Willie Broderick, Mary Murphy, Breege Halpin, Helena Byrne
Wed. 12 noon (Christmas Day)	Martin Fitzmaurice	Dympna Greally, Patricia Plunkett, Mary T. Griffin, Margaret Tarpey
Thurs. 12 noon (St. Stephen's)	Tommy Caulfield	Lorraine Waldron, Margaret Byrne
Friday 10am	Mary Donnelly	Willie Broderick, Irene Healy
Sat. 7.30pm	Pat Higgins	Seamus Mulrennan, Jacinta Flynn, Paul Sykes, Fionnuala Nolan
Sunday 10am	Brendan Donnellan	Breege Halpin, Aileen Burke, Geraldine Murphy, Marie Brennan

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. There will be a special New Year's Day Mass for the parishes in the St. Joseph's Cluster at 12 noon. (No 10am Mass that day). This is the 11th year of the event and, as on previous occasions, representatives from each of the parishes/ church areas will take part in the Mass. The Mass theme will be the theme for the coming Jubilee Year: "Pilgrims of Hope". Representatives from the choirs of the Cluster will provide the music & singing at the Mass, and all are welcome.

A specially-commissioned prayer card will be distributed on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". Archbishop Francis Duffy will open the Jubilee Year of Hope at the annual Mass for Peace in Tuam Cathedral on Wednesday 1st January at 12 noon.

CONFESSIONS: A Service of Reconciliation will be held in St. Patrick's Church this Sunday evening 22nd Dec. at 6pm.

MASS SERVERS FOR CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Eve 6pm: Team E— Séan Monaghan, Heliosa Santos Neves, Ben Jordan, Hanna Toporowska

Christmas Eve 9pm: Team F—Liam & Matilda Thompson

Christmas Day 10am: Team D—Hazel Murphy, Fionn

Finnegan, Natalie Dosek, Tjasa Barcanec

Christmas Day 12pm: Team C—Silmara Da Silva Nunes, Joao Miguel De Oliveira Guerra, Luis Filipe Da Cruz

St. Stephen's Day 12 pm: Team B— Olivia Feeney, Jonathon Powers, Kevin Buliga, Sara Romaric

New Year's Day 12pm Cluster Mass: Team E—Sean Monaghan, Emily Lynch, Heliosa Santos Neves, Hanna Toporowska.

"CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT"

in Knock Basilica this Sunday 22nd December at 8pm. An evening of Christmas carols & festive favourites.

Offertory Collection

Sunday 15th Dec. 2024
€1,905

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT with James Kilbane & special local guests Ethan Henry & Magda Manke will take place in Ballyhaunis Community Hall on Sunday 29th December at 7pm. Tickets €15 are available locally in The Gem & McHugh's Café or online at www.Eventbrite.ie, or call 087 9777899. Proceeds go towards the renovation of the Community Hall gallery.

TRACTOR RUN: The annual Ballyhaunis Christmas Tractor Run takes place this Sunday 22nd Dec. Registration & assembly at the GAA carpark from 4 to 5pm and tractor run starts at 5.30. All proceeds this year go to the Mayo Hospice.

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers:

Jim McLoughlin, Carrowreagh;

Stefan Danicic, St. Gerard's Court & Croatia

Words of thanks and appreciation 2024

One word we associate with this time of year is "Home". What we celebrate most of all during the festive season is the fact that God chose to make his home among us and take on our human flesh. Of the myriad of means he could have chosen to enter our world, he chose to be born to a humble couple in Nazareth. The world into which Jesus was born was similar in many ways to our own. There were wars and widespread poverty. Many families, including Joseph and Mary, had to flee the terror of King Herod and take refuge in neighbouring Egypt. These days people travel across oceans and continents, returning to the circle of warmth that we call 'home'. Over recent years many families have made Ballyhaunis their new home. We say a warm welcome to all of you who have made your new home in our parish and who bring so many lovely customs and traditions with you from your native land. Welcome also to all our emigrants who have made the journey home for Christmas. We hope that you will have a restful and peaceful time with your family. Our Parish Pastoral Council identifies the pastoral needs of our parish and looks at ways in which we can best address those needs. Our present PPC is representative of the cultural diversity in Ballyhaunis. A special thanks to Kevin Henry as Chairperson who helps draw up the agenda and who chairs our meetings. Thanks to Mary Henry who is our efficient secretary, sending us notice of the meetings and recording the minutes.

So many people are involved in various ministries in our parish, and last Summer, we had a very enjoyable social evening in the Rugby Club for all who are involved in ministries.

As we come together to celebrate the mystery of the incarnation, the great event of God coming among us in the human flesh, I want to express my appreciation to all who have helped in the preparations for Christmas.

I wish to thank our choirs, soloists and musicians for their commitment to music in our parish. The great array of talent in our parish is regularly commented on by listeners of Midwest Radio. Thanks especially to Martina Kelly who is the Director of Sacred Music in our parish. Thanks to our Mass-servers and their parents for being so loyal and committed to this ministry. Again many parishioners have commented on how lovely it is to see the servers present at Mass. Thanks also to those who read at daily & weekend Masses.

I wish to thank the principal and teaching staff of Scoil Íosa for their co-operation on so many fronts; especially in helping to prepare our children for the Sacraments of First Confession, Communion and Confirmation. I wish to express my appreciation to principal Kenneth Dennedy for his leadership— he has overseen much-needed development of facilities at our school, the most recent being the construction of a new modular building that has provided necessary additional classroom space. Thanks also to Carol Freeley & Sarah Scully for continuing to take charge of the Scoil Íosa choir. The participation of the Children's Choir in various Masses at Christmas and throughout the year is something that energises and enriches our celebration of the Eucharist.

As Vicar-General, I have added Diocesan responsibilities, one of which is administering the Sacrament of Confirmation. During the coming year, I will be travelling to various parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Tuam to administer the Sacrament. This will mean that I will have to be absent from the parish on the days in question. Last year, it meant that on one or two occasions I had to ask Fr Brendan McGuinness to officiate at funerals here in the parish in my absence. I wish to express my gratitude to the families in question for their understanding and to Fr Brendan for stepping in.

Each year a band of enthusiastic volunteers, under the direction of Margie Phillips, undertake the erection of the Christmas crib, the Christmas tree and the decoration of the church. They ensure that our church building has a warm, welcoming festive atmosphere that enables us to celebrate the Christmas season. They have spent many hours over the past few weeks working to ensure that nothing is left to chance. We owe them a debt of gratitude. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful Christmas.

Fr. Stephen