

# ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

## PARISH NEWSLETTER 16th December 2018

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

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

**PARISH WEBSITE:** <http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie>

**Newsletter on line:** *Parish website*

**Web-cam:** <http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie> or [www.mcnmedia.tv](http://www.mcnmedia.tv)

*Emergency numbers:* Knock: 094-9388100. Fr. Feeney, Ballinlough: 094-9640155.

Fr. McGuinness, Bekan: 094-9380203

### **MASSES:**

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

Sunday: 10.00am. & 12.00

**CONFESSIONS:** Before Saturday Vigil Mass

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Wed. & Thurs. 3.00 - 7.00pm. Friday: 10.30am. - 8.00pm.

**BAPTISMS:** Saturdays & Sundays 11.00am. Minimum of two weeks' notice required. Contact the parish office, 094-9630006.

### **ANNIVERSARY MASSES 17th – 23rd DECEMBER 2018**

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

John & Margaret Lyons, Redford

John, Eileen & Dolores Nolan, Lisbane, Brackloon

Michael & Katie Conroy, Claremorris, Phil, Stephen & Peter Keogh, Dublin

Patrick & Margaret Donnellan & decd. Clare St.

Josefa de Jesus, Brazil

Mick Devane & decd.

Decd. of the Lang, Finlay & Nicholson Families

Tom, Mary & Michael Donnellan

Mary McDonagh, 15 St. Gerald's Crescent (Month's Mind Saturday evening)

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**Sunday 10.00 Month's Mind:** Michelle O'Connor, Tavanaghmore

<b>22/23 DECEMBER</b>	<b>7.30pm.</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>12.00</b>
<b>MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST</b>	Jacinta Flynn	Eileen Lynch	Eavan Caulfield
	Jenny Glynn	Mary Sykes (NH)	Bernadette Lyons
	Tim Byrne	Mary Murphy	Helene McCafferty
	Frances Mulhern	Margie Gallagher	Rosaleen Kelly
	Mary Goulding	Kay Curley	Maura Fitzmaurice
<b>READERS</b>	James Reidy	Sonia Henry	Jarlath Fahey

### **WEEKDAY READERS**

Monday: Mary Gormley

Wednesday: Freddie O'Brien

Friday: Christina Concannon

Offertory Collection 8/9 Dec. €2,390

### **Recently Deceased**

We remember in our prayers

Anne McHugh, Devlis Cottages

**DO THIS IN MEMORY' FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION PROGRAMME** takes place at the 7.30pm. Mass this Saturday, 15th December.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS** are available in the sacristy, €6 for a pack of 10.

**GRACENOTES** together with special guests, the Abbey Male Choir and Ballyhaunis Parish Choir, present an evening of Christmas music by candlelight in St. Mary's Abbey (The Friary) this Sunday 16th December at 7.00pm. Donations in aid of St. Vincent de Paul. All are welcome!

**ST. STEPHEN'S DAY HALF TOCHAR PHÁDRAIG PILGRIM WALK** from Ballintubber Abbey to Aughagower takes place on Wednesday 26th December departing the Abbey at 11.00am. A unique Pilgrim Journey with a difference. A backup car will accompany all the walkers to the end. Contact Ballintubber Abbey Office 094 9030934.

LEARNING ABOUT  
THE MASS WITH  
KATH AND QUMEN



**THE AMBO:** The Word of God is so important for us that there is a special place in God's house from which it is read. We call this the ambo. The only time that the ambo is used is for the Readings, the Gospel, the Homily and the Prayer of the Faithful.

**MINISTER OF THE WORD:** The person who reads at Mass is called the Minister of the Word. They are people who have volunteered to read at Mass. They will have had to do some training so that they are able to do the best job they can. Their job is very important. The readings at Mass come from the Bible. They are the Word of God, and so we can say that we hear God speaking to us through the voice of the Minister of the Word.

### **CHRISTMAS MASSES & CEREMONIES**

**Service of Reconciliation and Confessions** - Sunday 23rd December at 6.00pm.

**Children's Liturgy:** Families with young children (of all ages) are invited to a special telling of the Nativity Story by Fr. Stephen at the Crib in the church after 12 o'clock Mass on Sunday 23rd December. Children are encouraged to dress as a character from the story if they wish.

**Christmas Eve Masses** - 10.00am. & 9.00pm.

**Masses on Christmas Day** - 10.00am. & 12 noon. The 10 o'clock Mass will be broadcast on Midwest Radio.

**Christmas visits** to the sick and housebound will take place on Friday 21st December.

**Confessions** in Scoil Íosa on Wednesday 12th December and in the Community School on Monday 17th December.

**Mass on St. Stephen's Day** (Wed.) will be at 12 o'clock instead of 10 o'clock.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS: ST. JOSEPH CLUSTER** There will be a special New Year's Day Mass for all the

parishes/church areas in St Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, at 12 noon on January 1st 2019.

This is the fifth year of this event and as on previous occasions representatives from each of the parishes/church areas will take part in the Mass.

The theme for the Mass will be "Peace in our world" The combined choirs of the Cluster will provide the music and singing at the Mass. All are welcome. A collection will be taken up at the Mass, the proceeds of which will go towards defraying costs of various events organised by the St. Joseph Cluster.

**NOLLAIG NA mBAN LADIES LUNCHEON:** Sunday 6th January 2019 at 1.00pm. in The Lodge at Ashford Castle Cong, in aid of Western Alzheimers. Drinks reception & The Mulberry String Quartet, 3 Course Sunday Lunch. An ideal Christmas gift! Tickets must be purchased in advance . Phone 094 93 64900.

### **POPE FRANCIS ON ADVENT**

*Pope Francis reminds us that Advent is a time of hope.*

Hope is not a concept, it is not a sentiment...it is not a heap of riches! Our hope is a Person, it is the Lord Jesus whom we recognise living and present in us and in our brothers and sisters.

Isaiah addresses people who have passed through a dark period, who have been subjected to a very difficult trial; but now the time of comfort has come. Sorrow and fear can be replaced with joy, for the Lord himself will guide his people on the way to liberation and salvation.

How will He do all this? With the solicitude and tenderness of a shepherd who takes care of

his flock. He will in fact provide unity and security and feed his flock, gather the lost sheep into his sure fold, reserve special attention to the most fragile and weak (v. 11). This is God's attitude toward us, his creatures. For this reason, the Prophet invites those who hear him — including us, today — to spread this message of hope: that the Lord consoles us. And to make room for the comfort which comes from the Lord.

We cannot be messengers of God's comfort if we do not first feel the joy of being comforted and loved by Him. This happens especially when we hear his Word, the Gospel, which we should carry in our pocket: do not forget this! The Gospel in your pocket or purse, to read regularly. And this gives us comfort: when we abide in silent prayer in his presence, when we encounter Him in the Eucharist or in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All this comforts us. Let us therefore allow Isaiah's call — "Comfort, comfort my people" — resound in our heart in this Season of Advent. Today there is need for people to be witnesses to the mercy and tenderness of God, who spurs the resigned, enlivens the disheartened, ignites the fire of hope. He ignites the fire of hope! We don't.

So many situations require our comforting witness. To be joyful, comforting people. I am thinking of those who are burdened by suffering, injustice and tyranny; of those who are slaves to money, to power, to success, to worldliness. Poor dears! They have fabricated consolation, not the true comfort of the Lord!

We are all called to comfort our brothers and sisters, to testify that God alone can eliminate the causes of existential and spiritual tragedies. He can do it! He is powerful!