

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.

GREETING

In the name of the FatherAmen.
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

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father, Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel
Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel, 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with

them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 83:2-3.5-6.9-10

R. They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

- How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. [R]
- They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in you; they walk with ever growing strength. [R]
- O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob. Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed. [R]

SECOND READING

1 John 3: 1-2. 21-24

A reading from the first letter of St. John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2: 41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

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



APOSTLES' CREED

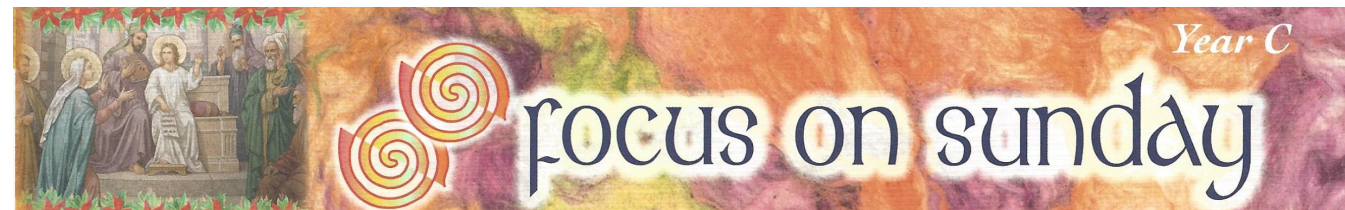
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. 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.



A day to pray with and for our family; to give thanks to God for them; to pray for healing of divisions and bitterness. We pray that we may grow in respect and love for our extended family throughout the world.



...let go if the child is to learn.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. 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.
My Lord and my God.

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

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. 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.



Today's Gospel is the only account in the canonical Gospels where we get a glimpse of Jesus as a young boy. Jesus and his family are on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Festival of Passover. As a 12-year-old Jewish boy, Jesus would have been encouraged to begin to take on the responsibilities of an adult Jew. Here, we read that Jesus takes this commitment quite seriously, remaining behind to interact with the teachers in the Temple who are "amazed" at his understanding. Jesus "increased in wisdom" so although we are not told anything else of Jesus' adolescent years, we can assume he continued to ask questions, learned from wise teachers and observed the signs of his times. Jesus was not zapped and suddenly enlightened. He more than likely had to study, mature, and enter into deep reflection.

Jesus, as a young person, is beginning to shape his identity. As with all families, this can cause difficulties. Parents want to protect their children; adolescents want to explore and expand their horizons. Conflict ensues. One must wonder if Mary's heart sank at Jesus' response to her "Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" Today's Gospel is a reminder of the helplessness we experience at times when we must let God's dream be dreamed, in ourselves and for those we love. Sometimes we have to let people we love walk their own path and follow the way God has set out for them. Mary has been reminded of the Divine will that surrounds her son and once again she treasures "all these things in her heart". So, today, we thank God for our families, we acknowledge that family relationships can be complicated, we pray for families everywhere. In all the complexities that life brings for families, may we be open to discovering God's path for each one.

An extract from Jane Mellett and Triona Doherty: *The Deep End – A Journey Through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Luke*, Messenger Publications, 2021

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

When Jesus was young he strayed away and got lost. Mary and Joseph were very sad and were looking everywhere for him, because they cared and were worried. My nephew has a teenage boy. He wanders away. His parents ask him to text them just to let them know where he is. He forgets. Lord, Mary and Joseph ease the pain that we make for each other in home life.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 29th 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

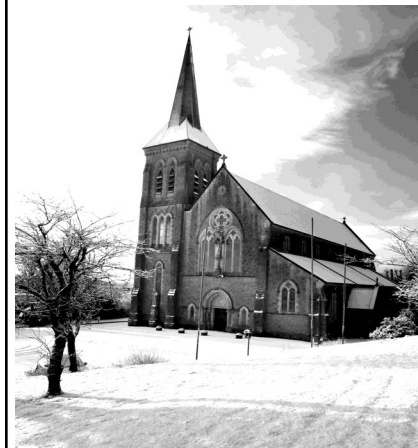
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)

Emergency numbers:

Knock: 094-9388100

Fr. Feeney, Ballinlough: 094-9640155

Fr. McGuinness, 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 30th DEC 2024– 4th JAN 2025

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

Jerome Murphy & decd., Lissaniska, Bekan
Thomas Patrick Costello, Carrowhawny
Colin Egan, Clagnagh
Kathleen Webb, Station Rise
Mary & Patrick Gildea, Johnstown, Pat Gildea & Margaret Kavanagh
Sylvester McBride & decd. Annagh
Decd. members of the Lang, Nicholson, Finlay & Durkan families
Patrick & Anne Keane & decd. Knox St.

30 Dec.– 5 Jan.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Martin Fitzmaurice	Joe Byrne, Marion Regan
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Lorraine Waldron, Margaret Tarpey
Wed. 12pm New Year's Day	Sophia Balbino	Margaret Byrne, Mary Sykes, Helena Byrne, Breege Halpin
Friday	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Eileen Jordan
Saturday 7.30pm	Alex Eaton	Marina Coyne, Anne Carney, Laura Brogan, Helene McCafferty
Sunday 10am	Murt Hunt	Eileen Lynch, Dymrna Greally, Deirdre Browne, Gilmar Neves
COLLECTORS FOR JANUARY		
Saturday 7.30pm	John Jordan, Ann Curley, Peter McCafferty, Hugh Rudden	
Sunday 10am	Vincent Higgins, Seamus Coffey, Jaroslav Drunnik, Mike Griffin	
MASS SERVERS FOR JANUARY		
Saturday 7.30pm	Team C: Silmara Da Silva Nunes, Joao Miguel De Oliveira Guerra, Luis Filipe Da Cruz	
Sunday 10am	Team D: Hazel Murphy, Fionn Finnegan, Natalie Dosek, Tjasa Barcanec	

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.

LATIN MASS: The next Latin Mass takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Knock on Sunday 12th Jan at 6pm.

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers:
Anna Egan, Upper Main St.

Offertory Collection
Sunday 22nd Dec. 2024
€1,925

New Year's Day—Wed. 1st January 2025:
There will be a special New Year's Day Mass for the parishes in the St. Joseph's Cluster at 12 noon on Wednesday (No 10am Mass). This is the 11th year of the event and, as on previous occasions, representatives from each of the parishes/ church areas will take part. 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". Pope Francis says: "For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in 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. In preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025, the Catholic Bishops of Ireland have launched an official Jubilee page on their website www.catholicbishops.ie This dedicated page will serve as a central hub for all Jubilee-related updates on events & activities taking place in Ireland and across the world.

Mass Servers: Team E will serve at the Cluster Mass: Séan Monaghan, Emily Lynch, Heliosa Santos Neves, Hanna Toporowska.

PRIESTS' CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: Sincere thanks to those who have already returned their envelopes. Your ongoing support & generosity is appreciated. Envelopes for the Priests' Christmas Collection can be returned at Masses or to the parish office. For those wishing to make an online donation, the IBAN is IE97 AIBK 9374 4421 3423 54.

PARISH CALENDARS 2025 : Ballyhaunis Parish calendars / wall-planners are now available in the Church porch. Please take one home, and bring one to a neighbour or friend who might appreciate it.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025: The Tuam & Killala Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Archbishop Francis Duffy, takes place from 29th August to 4th September 2025. 6 nights with direct flights from Knock, hotel accommodation & full board, and a full religious programme. Contact Joe Walsh Tours for more information on 01 2410800 or email info@joewalshstours.ie

SYCAMORE PROGRAMME: If you're searching for the meaning of life, Tuam parish will be running the popular Sycamore programme from Thursday 23rd January for 7 weekly sessions at 7pm in the Tuam Parish Centre. This programme seeks to explore the deeper questions of life, truth, faith & God in a relaxed environment over light refreshments. The one-hour weekly sessions are primarily aimed at those who are lapsed Catholics or are non-Christian and wish to know more. For more details, contact Tuam Parish Office at 093 24250 or to register, email frmarkquinn@tuamparish.com

JOB VACANCY: The Irish Council of Churches is seeking to recruit a General Secretary, for the next phase of its work of developing opportunities for the churches in Ireland to work together to provide a Christian voice in society. Further details of the position are available on www.irishchurches.org Applications should be submitted by Friday 17th January 2025 to president@irishchurches.org

MEDJUGORGE PILGRIMAGE: Flights from Knock to Mostar and accommodation close to St. James Church from 17th to 24th September 2025 or from 24th Sept to 1st October, accompanied by Spiritual Directors. Early booking advised. Contact Anne on 086 3766293.

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.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT with James Kilbane & special local guests Ethan Henry & Magda Manke takes place in Ballyhaunis Community Hall this Sunday evening 29th December at 7pm. Tickets available in The Gem, McHugh's Café and on Eventbrite. Proceeds go to the Community Hall gallery renovation fund.

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

DRAMA: Claremorris Drama and Fringe Festival will host the All-Ireland Confined Drama Finals in the Claremorris Town Hall Theatre from Friday 25th April to Saturday 3rd May. Season tickets available to purchase online www.townhall.ie/tickets

F.A.C.T. SOCIAL CLUB: Foxford Alzheimers & Community Trust, supporting people with dementia or facing rural isolation. Bus service where available. Further information from 094 9256662 or email factsocialclub1@gmail.com

ANAM CARA: Supporting Parents after Bereavement. First online Bereavement Information Evening of 2025 will be held on Tuesday 7th January from 7pm to 8.30pm. Guest speaker is Niamh Finucane, senior medical social worker with St. Francis Hospice, Dublin. For more details or the link to register, visit www.anamcara.ie

PRAYER FOR A NEW YEAR:
*May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead.*

Wishing all our parishioners and visitors a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. May 2025 bring you blessings in abundance of love, joy, health & peace.