

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his
voice heard in the joy of your heart.

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 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.
Christ, have mercy.

You bring light to those in darkness:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

*(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its
Christmas Proclamation.)*

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns.....



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow
and distress, put on the beauty of the
glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of
the integrity of God around you, put the
diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your
head: since God means to show your
splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever
will be, 'Peace through integrity, and
honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east: see your
sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant
that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot, with enemies
for an escort, now God brings them back
to you like royal princes carried back in
glory.

For God has decreed the flattening of
each high mountain, of the everlasting
hills, the filling of the valleys to make
the ground level so that Israel can walk
in safety under the glory of God. And
the forests and every fragrant tree will
provide shade for Israel at the command
of God;

for God will guide Israel in joy by the light
of his glory with his mercy and integrity
for escort.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 125

**R. What marvels the Lord worked
for us! Indeed we were glad.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from
bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. [R]

2. The heathens themselves said:
'What marvels the Lord worked
for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. [R]

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. [R]

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back,
full of song, carrying their sheaves. [R]

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-6.8-11

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

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with
joy, remembering how you have helped
to spread the Good News from the day
you first heard it right up to the present. I
am quite certain that the One who began
this good work in you will see that it is
finished when the Day of Christ Jesus
comes. God knows how much I miss
you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves
you. My prayer is that your love for each
other may increase more and more and
never stop improving your knowledge
and deepening your perception so that
you can always recognise what is best.
This will help you to become pure and
blameless, and prepare you for the Day
of Christ, when you will reach the perfect
goodness which Jesus Christ produces
in us for the glory and praise of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare a way for the Lord, make his
paths straight, and all mankind shall
see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke.**

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's
reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor
of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee,
his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands

of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias
tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate
of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God
came to John son of Zechariah, in the
wilderness. He went through the whole
Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
as it is written in the book of the sayings
of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see
the salvation of God.

**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.

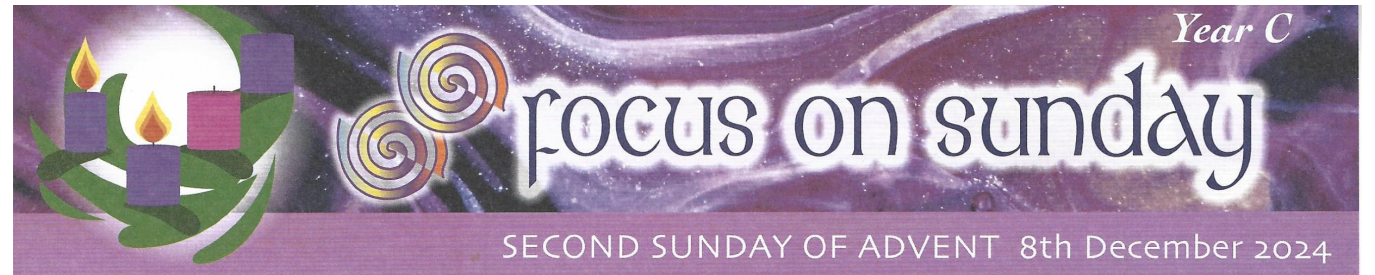
I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins and I look forward to the resurrection
of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen

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

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble
prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead
our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.



The message of repentance during this season of Advent is a call to
each one of us to look deeply into our lives, to renew and deepen our
relationship with God and our fellow sisters and brothers.



Prepare

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

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the
heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you
from God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual
nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the
things of earth and hold firm to the things
of heaven.
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.



I heard the historian, Tom Holland, say once that if the Christian
churches are going to be effective in speaking about Christ and
faith, and communicating the living reality Christ is, then we will
have to insist 'on the weird stuff'.

I don't recall how he explained that remark in detail but it still seems to me that he
meant we should continue to speak confidently about the miraculous in and around
the life of Jesus and, yes, in and around the life of the Church.

Insist, for example that Jesus walked on water – even though that event has become
a byword for arrogance. Insist that Jesus turned water into wine – even if that has
become the flattest joke every time a priest has a drink. Insist too that Jesus forgave
sins – and always will – and above all, insist that Jesus rose from the dead.

In St John's gospel, chapter six recalls another strange moment: when Jesus and
his disciples feed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. It is another moment
we might take at face value and accept it as an act of love by a loving God who will
not allow his people to go hungry and who, in and through his incarnate Word –
Jesus – feeds those who sit down filled only with expectation. It is another moment
that defies human expectation in that Jesus entrusts the feeding of the 5,000 to his
apparently helpless disciples and a small boy.

The richness of the meaning of the feeding of the 5,000 is inexhaustible. The event
asks so much of us who follow Christ but who may even still hang back, sceptical or
perhaps nervous of what may come if we give in to Christ too much. And, of course,
like the Apostles, members of the SVP may also be afraid that we do not have
enough to meet the need all around us. In this we might remember we are in good
company. The Apostles themselves were as apprehensive as we can be and could
barely believe their eyes or their ears at how things turned out. But these were the
people Christ sent into the world beyond Judea and Galilee...and, as members of
the SVP, we're next.

Paschal Scallan CM | Vincentian Community

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Today we light two of the four candles on the Advent wreath as we prepare for the birth of
Jesus. In our first reading Baruch, the prophet, tells us to be joyful, 'put on the beauty of
the glory of God'. We do this by being a good friend at school, washing the dishes after
dinner and by remembering to say a prayer of thanks to Jesus as we go to bed.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 8th 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

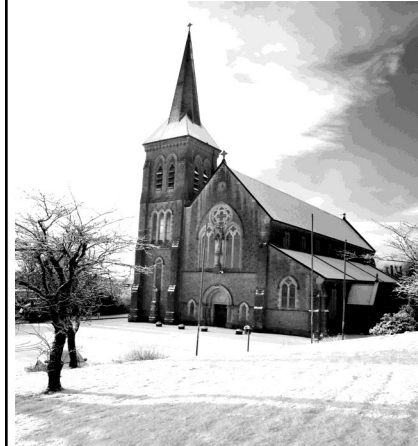
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)

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:

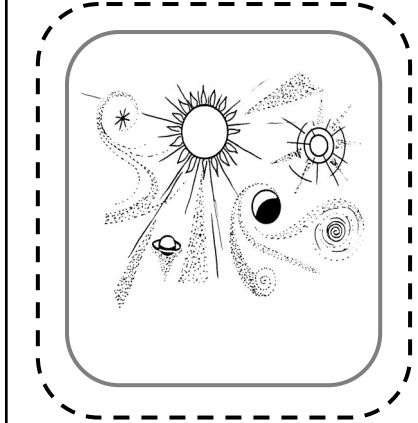
Before Saturday Vigil Mass

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 9th-14th DECEMBER 2024

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

- Kitty & Jack Greally, Drimbane
- Winnie McDonagh, U.K.
- Mary Kelly, Lecarrow
- Mary Fahey, Lecarrow & decd. of the Fahey & Armstrong families
- Maisie Sweeney, Drimbane
- Tony Mulligan, Hazelhill
- Thomas & Delia Mitchell & sons Tom & John, Irishtown & Pat Neary, Manchester
- Ann McHugh, Devlis
- Paddy, John & Margaret Lyons, Redford
- Michael & Kathleen McNamara, Upper Main St.
- Patrick & Bridget Buckley, Cork
- Pat, Teresa & John Lyons, Skeghard & decd. of the Lyons & Waldron families
- Maisín Meath, Clare St.
- Joe Glynn & decd., Bushisland
- Paddy & Josie Ryan, Hazelhill
- Pat & Margaret Byrne, Knox St. & decd. of the Byrne family, Johnstown
- Gertie & James Loftus & decd. Lavallyroe
- Michael & Brigid Cunniffe & decd. of the Cunniffe & Nolan families, Tooreen
- Clarence & Delia Grogan, Clare St; Joe Grogan, Knockbrack & Conor Dempsey, Roscommon
- Agnes & John Freyne, Clare St.
- Jim & Mary Hopkins, Larganboy
- John & Catherine Cunnane & decd. Carrowkeel
- Kathleen, Bill & Gerry Lyons, Knockbrack & Norma Lyons, Bricksen
- Rose Christina McDonagh, Kent, U.K.
- Padraic & Agnes Heaney, Bargarriff
- Angela & Séan Kilraine
- Decd. members of the Annagh Magazine Society

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER —FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Gerry Lyons, Knockbrack

| 9th-15th Dec. | READERS | MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| Monday | Martin Fitzmaurice | Joe Byrne, Marie Brennan |
| Tuesday | Willie Broderick | Frances Mulhern, Margaret Tarpey |
| Wednesday | Paula Donnellan | Mary Sykes, Marion Regan |
| Friday | Mary Donnelly | Irene Healy, Eileen Jordan |
| Saturday 7.30pm | Aoife Doherty | Margaret Byrne, Breda Davis, Jenny Glynn, Mary T. Griffin, |
| Sunday 10am | Mike Byrne | Breege Halpin, Daniela Balbino Romao, Patricia Plunkett, Willie Broderick |

LATIN MASS will be celebrated in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Knock this Sunday evening 8th December at 6pm.

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 8th, 15th & 29th December will be broadcast live on Midwest Radio on 96.1FM, as well as the 10am Mass on Christmas Day.

“GROW IN LOVE”: The preparation programme for children who will receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation & First Holy Communion in 2025 continues at the 7.30pm Mass this Saturday evening 7th December. Our focus this month is on helping the children learn how to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

ADVENT: This Sunday 8th December is the second 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.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: As the 8th December falls on a Sunday, this Monday 9th December is designated as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a holy day of obligation.

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

FESTIVE FAVOURITES AT THE FRIARY: The annual Carol Service takes place in the historic Ballyhaunis Friary next Sunday 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.

BLESSING FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS: Whether you’re becoming a parent for the first time, or awaiting the arrival of the newest member to your family, expectant mothers & families are welcome to this Blessing in Knock Basilica at 11am on Saturday 14th December.

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL monthly meeting on Wednesday 11th December at 8pm in the Community Hall. New members 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. (No 10am Mass)

CONFESSIONS:

Confessions will be held in Ballyhaunis Community School this Tuesday morning 10th December. A Service of Reconciliation will be held in St. Patrick’s Church on Sunday 22nd Dec. at 6pm.

Offertory Collection

Sunday 1st Dec. 2024
€1,965

JUBILEE YEAR 2025: Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 as a Jubilee or Holy Year, on the theme “Pilgrims of Hope”. The Pope 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. In our Christian tradition, the Jubilee has a strong focus on reconciliation and renewal, including reaching out to people on the margins. It is normally celebrated every 25 years, and already in Ireland, many different groups are preparing to celebrate specific Jubilee occasions throughout 2025, locally and in Rome. On Christmas Eve, 24th December at 7pm, The 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.

BALLYHAUNIS PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS are now available in the Church porch at €6 for a pack of 10 cards.

VACANCY: Knock Shrine is inviting applications for the role of Head Sacristan. This fulltime post presents an opportunity for someone with a keen interest in the liturgy and ritual of the Catholic Church. The Head Sacristan will lead, manage and develop the team of Sacristans at Knock Shrine, which is a place of welcome and sanctuary for over one million pilgrims each year. Closing date for applications is next Friday 13th Dec. For full job specification, visit www.knockshrine.ie

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.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY: The annual Christmas Party takes place next Sunday 15th December in the Communal House at Clare Court.

If you would like to attend, please fill out once of the forms available in the Church porch, or ring Aisling as soon as possible on 086 1229702 as final numbers are needed for catering.