

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us....
Amen.



(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 2: 1 - 5*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 121: 1-2,4-5, 6-9

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **[R]**
2. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **[R]**
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' **[R]**
4. For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **[R]**

SECOND READING *Romans 13:11 - 14*

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

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 24:37 - 44*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too

must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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

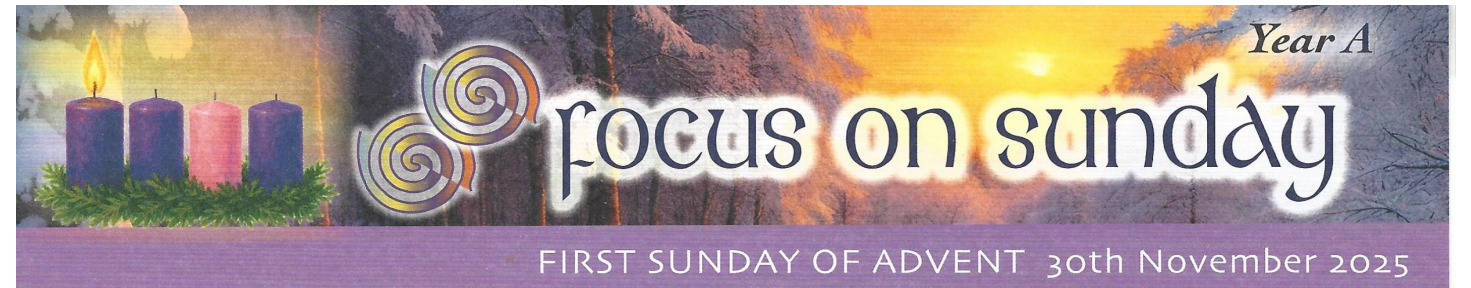
Pray brothers and sisters,.....
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

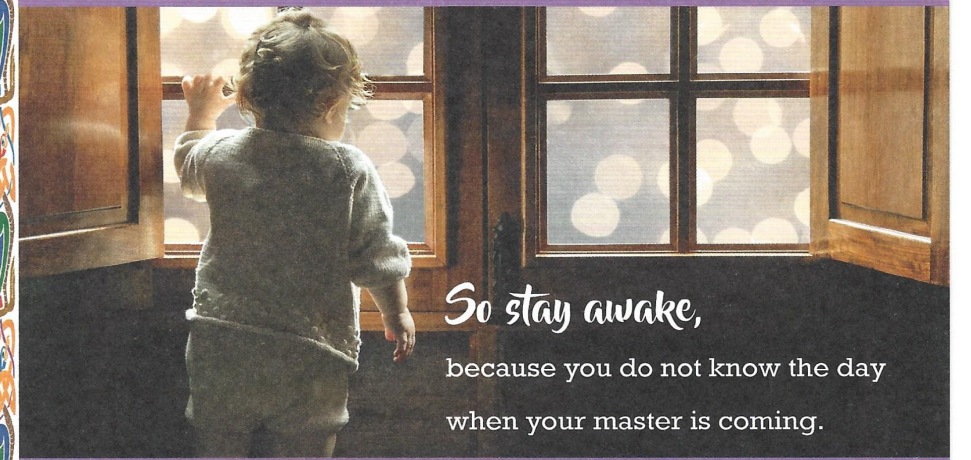
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 30th November 2025

Advent is a reminder that our life on earth is a preparation for the life of eternity in heaven; and that we wait for the coming of Christ to take us home.



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.
Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The circle of evergreen leaves stands for God who is without beginning and without end.
The purple ribbon and three purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin. The red candle stands for joy of living in God's way of love.
Today the first purple candle is lit as we begin our preparations for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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 2007 film *The Bucket List* stars Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson as two terminally ill men who put together a wish list of things to do before they 'kick the bucket'. They do a skydive, get tattoos and visit the pyramids. Some of the items on the list are more abstract - witness something truly majestic; help a total stranger for the good; find the joy in life. Of course, we would live very differently if we knew our days were numbered. Sometimes it is only when the fragility of life is laid bare that we manage to get our priorities in order. Everything can change in an instant.

As we begin Advent, a season of joy and expectation, this might seem like a gloomy Gospel to reflect on. Its tone is apocalyptic but when Matthew was writing his Gospel, his community had these questions at the forefront of their minds - when will Jesus return? What signs will there be? Why is it taking so long? Jesus does not offer an answer to this question except to say, "Keep awake!" Instead of worrying about questions that we cannot possibly know the answer to, what is important is how we are living now, today, in the present moment. Are we living aware of Christ present here and now in each person and in all of creation? Awakening to this miracle of universal love is a second coming or re-awakening we can get on board with. Advent is a very special time, a liminal space where we are full of expectant hope. It is an opportunity to take stock and see what is truly important; then we can experience the true joy which the season offers. Today's Gospel invites us to be ready; not on tenterhooks and full of anxiety, but to be attentive, with open hearts, so that God's grace and love can enter once more this Christmas. How might you embrace this call to live with greater awareness, waiting and watching for Christ's presence in the world around you this Advent?

"God's hope for history seems to be that humanity will one day be able to recognize its own dignity as the divine dwelling place, which it also shares with the rest of creation." - Richard Rohr

Jane Mellett & Triona Doherty. Adapted from *The Deep End - A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew*, Messenger Publications, Dublin, 2022.

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Come Lord Jesus, Come and be born in our hearts, this Christmas. Jesus was born in Mary's heart first, when she listened to the Angel, and she said "Yes." Then she went quickly to help her cousin, Elizabeth, who was expecting a baby. To see ways that we can help others at home, at work, and to share our gifts, and be attentive to God's blessing is the best way to celebrate Christmas.

ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 30th NOVEMBER 2025

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:

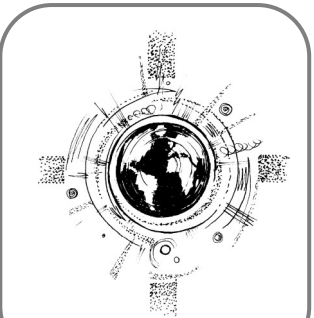
Before Saturday Vigil Mass

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 1st - 6th DECEMBER 2025

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

Delia & John Culliney, Johnstown & Philadelphia

Patrick & Mary Moran, Tooraree

Bernie, Pado & Jarlath Moran, Tooraree & Alacoque Fleming, Ballinrobe

Gerry Cribbin & decd. Tooraree

Joan Kilboyle, Tullaghane

William & Bridget Curran, Doctor’s Road

Denise & Michael Nolan, Mountain & Togher & decd. of the Burton & Nolan families

Vera & John Waldron & decd.

Jim & Delia Cruise, Johnstown, Paddy & Mary Murray, Brickens, & decd. of the Cruise & Murray families

Patrick & Mary Walsh & decd. Johnstown

Patrick & Ellen Mulkeen & decd. Kildarra, Tulrahan

Frank & Mary Davis, Limerick

Michael A. & Nora Keane, Annagh, Bernard & Margaret Keane, Coventry

John & Anne Glynn, Tom, Sean, Andy & Lillian Glynn, Carrownedan

Kevin Jordan, Annagh

Peter & Lizzie Micholson & Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lang

David & Ann Fitzmaurice & decd. of the Fitzmaurice family, Forthill & Mountain

Mona Molloy, Gurrane

Pat & Margaret Byrne, Knox St.

Delia & Pat Finn, Carrowkeel

Decd. members of the Lyons family, Classaroe

SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER – MONTH’S MIND:

Philomena Heffernan, Manor Brook

Maureen Clarke, Devlis

1st - 7th DEC.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Liam Devaney	Joe Byrne, Irene Healy
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Helen Freeley
Wednesday	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Byrne, Mary Sykes
Friday	Paula Donnellan	Willie Broderick, Mary Freeley
Saturday 7.30pm	Emer Gallagher	Jacinta Flynn, Tim Byrne, Frances Mulhern, Lorraine Waldron
Sunday 10am	Orla Phillips	Bernie Quinn, Margaret Tarpey, Daniela Balbino Romao, Aileen Burke
COLLECTORS FOR DECEMBER		
Saturday 7.30pm.	Pat Devine, Kieran Connolly, Gideone Alves da Silva, Gabrielle Lyons	
Sunday 10am.	Martin Finan, Carlos Balbino Romao, Seamus Coffey, Mike Griffin	

All weekday and weekend Masses 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

MASS SERVERS FOR DECEMBER:

Sat 7.30pm: Team A– Niamh Conlon, Eva Grace Kilcourse, Peter Gallagher, Thaemy Rodrigues, Sonny Kelly.

Sunday 10am: Team B– Ben Jordan, Jonathon Powers, Sara Romaric, Matthew Jordan, Valentina Coutinho Roriz, Jao Lucas Dias Ferreira.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY takes place at the 10am Mass this Sunday 30th November. Children aged 4-8 are invited into the Sacristy during Mass to hear and discuss the day’s Scripture readings through activities like worksheets and storytelling, and will return to their family after Communion.

CONFESSIONS: The Confession box has reopened after a recent upgrade, and Confessions are available at the usual time.

FUNERAL MINISTRY TEAM: Members of the new Funeral Ministry Team will receive a special blessing at this weekend’s Masses. The volunteers have been trained to assist Fr. Stephen in leading the prayers at a Funeral Home or in the home of the deceased person, and to step into this role in the event that a priest is not available. From this first weekend of Advent, the Funeral Ministry team will accompany Fr Stephen to funerals, and we ask God’s blessing on these volunteers as they take this step in their new pastoral service in our parish.

GROW IN LOVE: The preparation programme for children receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation & Holy Communion next year continues at the 7.30pm Mass next Saturday evening 6th December. Our focus this month is on helping them learn how to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. May we all try our best to keep our focus on Jesus as the “reason for the season” this Advent.

BLESSING FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS in the Basilica at Knock Shrine on Saturday 6th December at 11am. All welcome.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL IN KNOCK BASILICA on 7th/8th Dec. Starts at midnight on Sunday 7th and includes the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and a Holy Hour. Concludes with Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at 4am on 8th Dec.

ANNAGH 2025 will be on sale in all the usual outlets towards the end of this week. This is the forty-eighth edition of the annual parish magazine and this year runs to 200 pages of articles, reports and photographs documenting Ballyhaunis and the parish of Annagh, past and present. It retails at the usual price of €12 and will be in plenty of time for posting abroad. Annagh Magazine Society would like to thank all its readers, contributors & patrons for your ongoing support.

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: IBAN: IE96 BOFI 9037 2855 8553 48. BIC: BOFIE2D. SVP are currently looking for the base for a double bed for a family in need. If you can assist, please call 086 2640969. If you need support from the society, you can also call this number.

CHURCH GATES: The gates at St. Patrick’s Church will be automated from Monday 8th December onwards. The gates will open at 8am each morning and close at 11.00pm. We would ask that, on days when funerals or weddings are taking place, the carpark would be reserved for families & friends attending.

BALLYHAUNIS TIDY TOWNS: A meeting will take place in the Community Hall on Wednesday 3rd December at 7.30pm. New members welcome.

BALLYHAUNIS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS will be switched on this Sunday 30th Nov. Blessing of the Crib at 4.30, with Carol Singing, Santa visit, and switch-on of lights at 5pm. Stalls in the Square from 12pm, and Knox St. will be closed to traffic from 10am to 6.30pm.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO EMIGRANTS: We are now sending Christmas cards to Ballyhaunis people living overseas, as in previous years. If you have family members or friends abroad who you think would appreciate a card from Fr. Stephen, please email their names and full postal addresses to ballyhauniparish@gmail.com or drop them into the parish office post-box. Also, please inform us of any change of address for those to whom we sent cards last year.

CHRISTMAS FAIR in Granlahan Community Centre this Sunday 30th November from 11.30am to 2.30pm. Crafts, cake sale, raffles, tombola & refreshments. All welcome.

Offertory Collection
23rd Nov. 2025
€2,600

SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY: The Ballyhaunis Golden Years/ Senior Citizen’s Christmas Party will take place in Clare Court next Sunday 7th December, starting at 1.30pm with Christmas dinner, drinks, music & fun. If you would like to attend, call Aisling on 086 1229702.

PRE-LOVED SALE: The Parents’ Association of Cloonfad N.S. are holding a Pre-Loved kids toys, clothes, books and small furniture sale this Sunday, November 30th from 2-5pm in the Cloonfad Community Centre. We invite you to come along, support the school and get some gifts locally.

CHRISTMAS MOVIE EXPERIENCE AT THE FRIARY: The Friary Events Committee presents a day of Christmas magic with a choice of four movie screenings on Saturday 6th Dec. 11am: Sensory friendly screening (limited availability). 1pm: Kids and family screening. 4pm: Teens movie (12+). 8pm Adult screening. Ticket outlets: McHugh’s Cafe & Costcutter, The Gem. Online Tickets via Eventbrite. Secure your tickets to avoid disappointment. More details on the Friary social media pages.

CHIME: SERVICES FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING: Outreach clinic in the Old Health Centre (room 26), Vicar St., Tuam H54 HO28, on Friday 5th December, 10am - 1pm. Contact Tony Dolan for more information or an appointment 086 8341318 or email Tony.dolan@chime.ie

FESTIVE FAVOURITES AT THE FRIARY: Join us for an evening of seasonal hymns & songs in the beautiful surrounds of St. Mary’s Abbey, Ballyhaunis on Sunday 14th December at 7pm. A number of local choirs and groups will provide the music & song. Admission free but donations welcome for local branch of St. Vincent de Paul.