

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

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

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

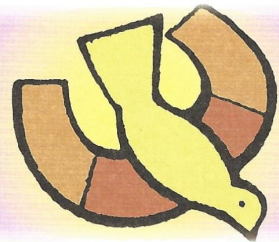
May almighty God have mercy on us.....
Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING **Isaiah 35: 1 - 6.10**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM **Ps.145:6-10**

R. Come, Lord, and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **[R]**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **[R]**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **[R]**

SECOND READING **James 5: 7 - 10**
A reading from the letter of St. James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Matthew 11: 2-11**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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,

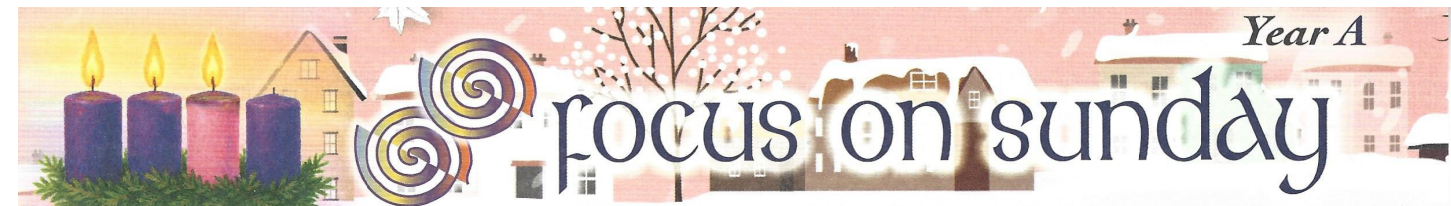
All bow for following three lines:

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.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE) 14th December 2025

The coming of Christ is a message of joy: a joy founded and rooted in God's love and care for his people, and his promise of an eternal companionship.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

EUCHARISTIC 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

**Say to the faint of heart:
Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come,
and he will save us.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. 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.



Rejoice in the Lord always...

Wednesdays are supposed to represent the worst of the week giving way to the still faint prospect of a barnstorming weekend; somewhere between, 'dammit, it's only Tuesday!' and 'thank

God it's Friday!'

There are two very well placed 'Wednesdays' in the middle of Advent and Lent as well. Both fall on a Sunday but, bear with me, they too look forward and the anticipation is palpable.

On the third Sunday in Advent we celebrate 'Gaudete' Sunday. We are told, 'rejoice!'. It's the 'Wednesday' we all want to get past because the 'weekend' of Christmas is getting near; just a few more sleeps and the big day will have dawned.

In a way I am doing an awful disservice to one of the richest seasons in the Church's year. Advent does indeed anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. There is a buzzing sense of anticipation. From another point of view, though, Advent is also a penitential season, a moment for deeper reflection and, yes, soul searching. In behind the cranberries, there needs to be repentance, contrition and reconciliation. The Christ who is coming asks us to come to him. No one stays the same. Read the story.

On this third, joyful Sunday in Advent, though, with your lists almost finished, have a moment and remember there is joy in your faith in Christ that illuminates your life every day, even when you feel it's Tuesday.

Paschal Scallion CM

Provincial Office | Vincentian Community

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

John the Baptist was very surprised when he heard that Jesus was friends with sinners, and even had meals with them. Jesus said "Where there is love, and new life, and people are healed and loved and cared for, there God Our Father is present. We pray "Lord,help us to see you in everyone we meet."

ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 14th DECEMBER 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

ANNIVERSARY MASSES 15th-20th DECEMBER 2025

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

Mary Kelly, Lecarrow

Paddy, John & Maggie Lyons, Redford

Peter & Imelda Murphy & decd. members of the Sloyan & McGowan families

Catherine & Michael Waldron,

Helen, May & Annie Waldron, Carrowkeel

John & Margaret Lyons, Redford & their son Patrick

Agnes & John Freyne & decd. Clare St.

John, Eileen & Dolores Nolan, Lisbane

Jack, Delia & Johnny Flynn, Ballinlough

Augustine, Catherine & Tommie McDermott, Ballinlough

Mary Fahey, Lecarrow & decd. of the Fahey & Armstrong families

James & Bridget Costello & Mary Kate Cosgrove, Bohogue

Michael & Katie Conroy, Claremorris & decd. of the Higgins family, Ballyhaunis

Michael, Catherine & Bertie Curley, Clare St.

Michael & Mary Webb & decd. Main St.

Maisín, Paul & Eamon Meath & decd. Clare St.

Joe & Mary Regan & decd. Ballaghadereen

Decd. members of the Ballyhaunis St. Vincent de Paul Society

Mary & Michael Morley, Island & decd. of the Morley & Carney families

15th-21st DEC.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Liam Devaney	Joe Byrne, Mary Freeley
Tuesday	Christina Concannon	Breege Halpin, Helen Freeley
Wednesday	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Byrne, Mary Sykes
Friday	Paula Donnellan	Willie Broderick, Eileen Jordan
Saturday 7.30pm	Kevin Henry	Fionnuala Nolan, Marina Coyne, Anne Carney, Laura Brogan
Sunday 10am	Martin Fitzmaurice	Deirdre Browne, Gilmar Neves, Eileen Donnellan, Bernie Quinn

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

The 10am Mass on Sundays 14th & 21st December will also be broadcast live on Midwest Radio, as well as the 10am Mass on Christmas Day.

Offertory Collection

7th Dec. 2025

€2,030

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers:

John Quinn, Manchester & late of Classaroe– brother of Jimmy Quinn

PRIESTS’ CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ENVELOPES & WEEKLY BOXES FOR 2026 are available in the Sacristy this weekend. We would be grateful if the distributors could collect them and deliver them to households in your area, and we thank the distributors for your assistance.

FESTIVE FAVOURITES AT THE FRIARY: Join us for an evening of seasonal hymns & songs in the beautiful surrounds of St. Mary’s Abbey, Ballyhaunis **this Sunday evening** 14th December at 7pm. A number of local choirs and groups will perform, along with soloist Brian Flanagan. Admission free. Donations welcome for local branch of St. Vincent de Paul.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: Collection envelopes for the local branch are available in the church porch and in local outlets. Envelopes 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. The SVP committee would also like to thank the students of Scoil Iosa N.S., who donated so generously to the recent food appeal. Their donations have made it possible to look after a number of families & individuals in our community.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY takes place at the 10am Mass next Sunday 21st December. Children aged 4-8 years are invited into the Sacristy during Mass where they will learn about the nativity & the birth of Jesus, as well as preparing food for Santa’s reindeer, which will be distributed at the Family Mass on Christmas Eve.

CONFESSIONS: A Service of Reconciliation will be held in St. Patrick’s Church next Sunday 21st December at 6pm.

Recently Baptised

We welcome into the Faith Community:
Aodhán Peter O’Shea, Australia & Lecarrow

LATIN MASS: The next Latin Mass will take place this Sunday 14th December at 6pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Knock.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT in Knock Basilica on Sunday 21st December. An evening of seasonal music, starting at 8pm. Music provided by local choirs & special guests.

MEN OF ST. JOSEPH: The next monthly meeting of the Tuam “Men of St. Joseph” group takes place on Sunday 14th December at 7pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Tuam. This month’s guest speaker is Dominican lecturer and scholar Fr. Conor McDonough who will speak about Catholic Social teaching in the lives of Christian men. New members welcome. Enquiries to fmarkquinn@tuamparish.com

“THE LONGEST NIGHT” AT KNOCK SHRINE: For many, the Christmas season can feel overwhelming. “The Longest Night-A Gathering of Comfort & Hope” takes place in the Apparition Chapel on Saturday 20th Dec. from 8.30 to 9pm, and offers a gentle, contemplative space for anyone who may be finding this time of year difficult. This quiet service provides solace, connection and a moment of calm amid the bustle of Christmas. All welcome.

KNOCK CHRISTMAS MARKET will be held this Sunday 14th Dec. from 10am to 4pm in St. John’s Welcome Centre. Buy unique local gifts & crafts. For more information, follow Knock Market on Facebook & Instagram.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2025:

Christmas Eve– Wednesday 24th Dec:

6pm: Special Family Mass, with the Scoil Íosa Children’s Choir.

9pm: Christmas Vigil Mass. Music by the Parish Choir.

(Please note there is no 10am Mass on Christmas Eve morning).

Christmas Day-Thursday 25th Dec:

Masses at 10am and 12 noon.

The 10am Mass, with music provided by the Abbey Male Choir, will be broadcast on Midwest Radio on 96.1FM.

St. Stephen’s Day– Friday 26th Dec:

Mass at 12 noon.

New Year’s Day– Thursday 1st January 2026:

Cluster Mass: A New Year’s Day Mass for the parishes in St. Joseph’s Cluster (Aghamore, Ballyhaunis, Ballinlough, Began & Knock) will take place in the Basilica at Knock Shrine at 12 noon, to mark the Basilica’s 50th anniversary

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

PILGRIMAGE: The Tuam Archdiocese Pilgrimage to Fatima & the Lisbon Coast takes place from 25th June 2026 for 7 nights. Flights, hotel accommodation, full religious programme and fully-guided tours & visits. For details, contact Joe Walsh Tours at 01 2410800.

ALONE is currently looking for new volunteers in Mayo and Roscommon. Would you be willing to provide companionship to an older person locally for 1-2 hours per week? Volunteers are needed to visit or provide telephone support to older people. Full training & support provided. If interested, visit www.alone.ie, or for more details, call Oliwia on 086 0135043.

If you are over 60 and would like to know more about the services ALONE can offer you, call 0818 222024.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS are available for sale in the Church porch. €6 for a pack of 10 cards. Please place money in the candelabra coinbox.

Advent Prayer by Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light & the darkness, Send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us. We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your Kingdom.

We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say “Come Lord Jesus!”



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.

