

## 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 Father .....Amen.  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God, and the communion  
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
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

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

*Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus  
The Lord honours the father in his  
children, and upholds the rights of a  
mother over her sons.  
Whoever respects his father is atoning  
for his sins, he who honours his mother

is like someone amassing a fortune.  
Whoever respects his father will be  
happy with children of his own, he shall  
be heard on the day when he prays.  
Long life comes to him who honours his  
father, he who sets his mother at ease is  
showing obedience to the Lord.  
My son, support your father in his old  
age, do not grieve him during his life.  
Even if his mind should fail, show him  
sympathy, do not despise him in your  
health and strength; for kindness to a  
father shall not be forgotten but will serve  
as reparation for your sins.

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

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 127: 1 - 5

**R. O blessed are those who fear the  
Lord and walk in his ways!**

- O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall  
eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. [R]
- Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. [R]
- Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life! [R]

### SECOND READING

*Colossians 3:12-17 (Alternative shorter form)*  
A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the  
Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints;  
he loves you and you should be clothed  
in sincere compassion, in kindness and  
humility, gentleness and patience. Bear  
with one another; forgive each other as  
soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has  
forgiven you; now you must do the same.  
Over all these clothes, to keep them  
together and complete them, put on  
love. And may the peace of Christ reign  
in your hearts, because it is for this that  
you were called together as parts of one  
body. Always be thankful.  
Let the message of Christ, in all its  
richness, find a home with you. Teach  
each other, and advise each other, in all  
wisdom.  
With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms  
and hymns and inspired songs to God;  
and never say or do anything except  
in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving  
thanks to God the Father through him.

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**May the peace of Christ**  
**reign in your hearts;**  
**let the message of Christ**  
**find a home with you.**  
**Alleluia!**



## GOSPEL Matthew 2: 13-15.19-23

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

After the wise men had left, the angel of  
the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream  
and said, 'Get up, take the child and his  
mother with you, and escape into Egypt,  
and stay there until I tell you, because  
Herod intends to search for the child and  
do away with him.' So Joseph got up  
and, taking the child and his mother with  
him, left that night for Egypt, where he  
stayed until Herod was dead. This was to  
fulfil what the Lord had spoken through  
the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord  
appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt  
and said, 'Get up, take the child and his  
mother with you and go back to the land  
of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the  
child are dead.' So Joseph got up and,  
taking the child and his mother with him,  
went back to the land of Israel. But when  
he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded  
his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he  
was afraid to go there, and being warned  
in a dream he left for the region of  
Galilee. There he settled in a town called  
Nazareth. In this way the words spoken  
through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

**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.



# Year A focus on sunday

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 28th December 2025

## 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

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.

## 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.*

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

**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.



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.



Family gathering – the elders – all talking about their children  
and grandchildren. Lot of joy, laughter, love. Joy on a  
grandad's face as he showed a few pictures on the phone of his  
grandchild. The centre of life is family – what we talk about so  
often. It's where we learn most about life. Looking over a family  
album generally brings out a lot of laughter. Family even with its ups and downs,  
brings a lot of our joy.

Think for a while sometime today of the joys of family. Recall them, and enjoy  
them. It's the place where we find unconditional love. We may drive each other  
mad at times, or let each other down. But love is strong for the person just as you  
are. In that way family is a sacrament, a sign, of God, accepting us, forgiving us,  
moving us on to greater love and maturity and always faithful.

Family today is varied. Stresses are different as before. We live in a world which  
needs the values of family life but finds difficulty. Financial worries, worries about  
children and the life they will have, are many, and about the elders in the family.  
Family joy is in receiving and giving love, also with family friends friends and  
extended family.

So family also lets us be and lets us go. We miss our family who are away but  
realise that is what they chose to do, or more often, had to do. We find roots in  
the family – where we came from, and wings to start on our own way in life, with  
a new family.

So every family is a 'holy family'! Not just a saint and an immaculate mother. But  
holy in trying to love each other as best we can. As a woman said to her family  
as she was approaching the end: 'I did my best to love you all'. A great legacy to  
leave behind!

**Donal neary SJ,**  
**Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger**

## Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. They are called The Holy Family. Joseph  
protected the family from danger. Mary was always caring. Jesus had respect for his  
parents. Once, as a teenager, Jesus got lost, and his parents were very worried. Jesus  
said to them "Didn't you know where I was?" There are always misunderstandings in  
family life. We ask Jesus, Mary and Joseph to help us, to be caring and respectful to  
each other in our home.



ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 28th 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



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 29th DEC. 2025-3rd JAN. 2026

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00am; Saturday 7.30pm.  
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Gerry Lyons, Knockbrack  
Bill, Kathleen, Micheál & Norma Lyons, Knockbrack & Brickens  
Paddy & Úna Phillips, Main St.  
Josie & Liam Smyth, Knox St.  
Colin Egan, Clagnagh  
Kathleen Webb, Station Rise  
Thomas Patrick Costello, Carrowhawny  
John Dyer & decd. of the Dyer family, Brackloon  
Johnny Flynn & decd. of the McDermott & Flynn families, Ballinlough

29 DEC– 4 JAN.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 10am	Liam Devaney	Marion Regan, Marie Brennan
Tuesday 10am	Tommy Caulfield	Frances Mulhern, Irene Healy
Wednesday 10am	Mary Donnelly	Mary Sykes, Margaret Byrne
Friday 10am	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Eileen Jordan
Saturday 7.30pm	Margaret Monaghan	Justina Lyons, Paul Sykes, Joe Byrne, Fionnuala Nolan
Sunday 10am	Joan Flanagan	Geraldine Murphy, Eileen Lynch, Helena Byrne, Breege Halpin

COLLECTORS FOR JANUARY

Sat. 7.30pm	John Jordan, Oliver Cribbin, Gerry Winston, Peter McCafferty
Sunday 10am	Pat Phillips, Mike Griffin, Michael J. Walsh, Bernie Quinn

MASS SERVERS FOR JANUARY

Sat. 7.30pm	Team C: Kleber Lucas, Joao Miguel De Oliveira Guerra, Luis Philipe Da Cruz, Heliosa Neves, Hellena De Oliviera Guerra
Sunday 10am	Team D: Hazel Murphy, Fionn Finnegan, Séan Monaghan, Hannah Toparowska

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](http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie)

**LATIN MASS:** The next Latin Mass takes place on Sunday 11th Jan. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Knock at 6pm.

**IRISH CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER:** Copies are available in the church porch at a cost of €3. Please place money in candelabra coinbox.

Offertory Collection

21st Dec. 2025  
€2,190

NEW YEAR’S DAY 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 on Thursday 1st January, to mark the start of the Basilica’s 50th anniversary year.

**PRIESTS’ CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:** Sincere thanks to those who have already returned their Christmas envelopes. Your ongoing support & generosity is much appreciated. Envelopes 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 2026:** Ballyhaunis parish calendars/ wall-planners are now available in the Church porch. Please take one home.

**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.

**MEDJUGORJE WITH MARIAN PILGRIMAGES:** Fly Knock to Mostar from 23rd to 30th September, or 30th Sept. to 7th October 2026. Flights, coach transfers, accommodation, breakfast & evening meal included. Discount if deposit paid before the end of January. Early booking advised. Contact Anne at 086 3766293 or Marian Pilgrimages at 01 8788159 for more details.

**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](http://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.

**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](http://www.al-anon.org)

**MARY’S MEALS** provide life-changing school meals to more than 3 million children in some of the world’s poorest countries. It costs just €22 to feed a child every day for a school year. Donations made before 12th January 2026 will be doubled, thanks to the Tom Cunningham Trust. Together, through Double the Love, we can transform the lives of many more hungry children. To donate, go to [www.marysmeals.ie](http://www.marysmeals.ie) or call 01 8535163.

**CHILDREN’S ROSARY** on Friday 2nd January at 5.30pm in the Apparition Chapel, Knock Shrine. For children and teens of all ages, including those new to praying the Rosary. All under-18’s must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. For more details, call 087 2299623 or visit [www.ChildrensRosary.org](http://www.ChildrensRosary.org)

**EUCCHARISTIC HEALING RETREAT** with Fr. John Keane & Deacon Don Devanney in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Sunday 8th February 2026. Limited places. Booking essential. Call Nicola on 087 9622800

**CHRISTMAS WRAP-UP:** Round off the Christmas festivities with an evening of music, song & dance with Harmony in the Community Hall on Sunday 4th January from 6.30 to 9.30pm. Hosted by Ballyhaunis Community Council. Free admission, refreshments served, all welcome.

**CATHAOIRLEACH’S AWARDS:** Mayo County Council’s Cathaoirleach Awards are now open for nominations. The awards honour and celebrate the many groups and individuals working behind the scenes to make our communities stronger, more vibrant and caring, and often inspiring and motivating others to become actively involved in their communities. Nominations close on 23rd January 2026, with the awards ceremony taking place in March. Details of the awards, including nomination forms, are available on [www.mayo.ie/cathaoirleachsawards2025](http://www.mayo.ie/cathaoirleachsawards2025)

**SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER OF ACHILL / KNOCK:** Would you like to join the Franciscan family? We commit ourselves to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in the manner of St. Francis. Join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2pm for Mass, a short meeting & refreshments at the Capuchin Friary, Knock F12XF95, next to Knock House Hotel. For details, call Fr. Matthew on 083 3527308

**CARE FOR CREATION CONFERENCE:** On Saturday 17th January, the Irish Inter-Church Meeting, the Irish Council of Churches and the Church leaders will jointly host a conference on Care for Creation entitled “Let Justice Flow Like Rivers” in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry, Co. Down from 10am to 3.30pm. All welcome. Tickets available on [www.Eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.Eventbrite.co.uk)

Recently Baptised

We welcome into the Faith Community:  
James Slammon, Greenwood

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.

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Wishing all our parishioners and visitors a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. May 2026 bring you blessings in abundance of love, joy, health & peace.

