

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 *Isaiah 11: 1 - 10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the
Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor
of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the
knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as
a signal to the peoples. It will be sought
out by the nations and its home will be
glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 71:1-2.7-8.12-13.17

**R. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.**

- O God, give your judgement to the
king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **[R]**
- In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **[R]**
- For he shall save the poor when they
cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **[R]**
- May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **[R]**

SECOND READING *Romans 15:4-9*

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

Everything that was written long ago in
the scriptures was meant to teach us
something about hope from the examples
scripture gives of how people who did not
give up were helped by God. And may he
who helps us when we refuse to give up,
help you all to be tolerant with each other,
following the example of Christ Jesus, so
that united in mind and voice you may
give glory to the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you
to treat each other in the same friendly
way as Christ treated you. The reason
Christ became the servant of circumcised
Jews was not only so that God could
faithfully carry out the promises made
to the patriarchs, it was also to get the
pagans to give glory to God for his mercy,
as scripture says in one place: For this I
shall praise you among the pagans and
sing to your name.

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 *Matthew 3: 1 - 12*

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

In due course John the Baptist appeared;
he preached in the wilderness of Judaea
and this was his message: 'Repent, for
the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'.
This was the man the prophet Isaiah
spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of
camel-hair with a leather belt round his
waist, and his food was locusts and wild
honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea
and the whole Jordan district made their
way to him, and as they were baptised
by him in the river Jordan they confessed
their sins. But when he saw a number of
Pharisees and Sadducees coming for
baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers,
who warned you to fly from the retribution
that is coming? But if you are repentant,
produce the appropriate fruit, and do not
presume to tell yourselves, "We have
Abraham for our father," because, I tell
you, God can raise children for Abraham
from these stones. Even now the axe
is laid to the roots of the trees, so that
any tree which fails to produce good fruit
will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I
baptise you in water for repentance, but
the one who follows me is more powerful
than I am, and I am not fit to carry his
sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy
Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his
hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and
gather his wheat into the barn; but the
chaff he will burn in a fire that will never
go out.'

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.



focus on sunday

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7th December 2025

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.

PREPARE
THE WAY

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.

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.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection 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.

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.



Growing up in the 1950s and 60s, I was told that holiness,
my relationship with God, consisted in obeying the laws,
which the Church told me God had laid down. Sin was
defined as a breaking of these laws. Matthew focuses John

the Baptist's ire on the Pharisees and Sadducees, those religious leaders
who also demanded, in God's name, exact obedience to the multiplicity of
laws that they had laid down. The religious leaders, Jesus said, had "tied
up heavy burdens and laid them on peoples' shoulders" (Matt 23 v 4).
This focus on obedience to laws often led to a feeling of righteousness,
and a sense of superiority over those who did not, or could not, obey the
laws (Pharisee and the Publican, Luke 18 v 9-14). They were sinners who
were rejected and excluded by God and therefore should be rejected and
excluded by the people of God. The law was intended to show people
how to love God and to love one another, but the religious leaders had
made it, not just a substitute, but an obstacle, to the development of a
relationship to God. When Jesus, out of compassion, healed the sick on
the Sabbath, he was condemned for "breaking the law" by working on the
Sabbath. St. Paul reminds us that all the commandments can be summed
up in this phrase, "Love is the fulfilment of the law." (Romans 13 v 8-10).
Jesus revealed that God's passion is not the observance of laws; God's
passion is compassion. We are called to holiness, to grow into the image
and likeness of God, by growing in compassion.

Fr. Peter McVerry SJ

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

John the Baptist came to tell people about Jesus, who was the Face of
God's Love. He gathered people around a river and blessed them. We
can always pray wherever we are. At Mass we are always reminded of
ways God is present for us everyday, everywhere.

ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 7th 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



MASSSES:

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 8th-13th DECEMBER 2025

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

Kitty & Jack Greally & decd. Drimbane

Maisie & Terence Sweeney, Drimbane

Barry Butler, Doctor’s Road

Bridie & Tom Mulrennan, Gurteen & Michael Mulrennan, Bracklaghboy

Nell & Tony Waldron, Holywell

Mary Moran & decd. Clagnagh

Ann McHugh, Devlis

Pat, Teresa & John Lyons, Skeghard & decd. of the Lyons & Waldron families

Maisin Meath, Clare St.

Clarence & Delia Grogan, Clare St & Joe Grogan, Knockbrack &

Conor Dempsey, Roscommon

Decd. members of the Ruane family, Johnstown

Tom Mitchell & decd. of Mitchell family, Irishtown & Pat Neary, Manchester

Decd. members of the Annagh Magazine Society

John & Catherine Cunnane & decd. Carrowkeel

Paddy & Josephine Ryan, Hazelhill

Michael & Margaret Nolan, Tooreen & decd. of the Cunniffe & Nolan families

Joe Glynn & decd., Bushisland

Jim & Mary Hopkins & decd. Larganboy

SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER – FIRST ANNIVERSARY:

Jim McLoughlin, Carrowreagh

8th-14th DEC.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Martin Fitzmaurice	Irene Healy, Marie Brennan
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Frances Mulhern, Lorraine Waldron
Wednesday	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Tarpey, Helen Freeley
Friday	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Mary Freeley
Saturday 7.30pm	Emer Gallagher	Seamus Mulrennan, Justina Lyons, Paul Sykes, Joe Byrne
Sunday 10am	Mike Byrne	Breege Halpin, Geraldine Murphy, Eileen Lynch, Helena Byrne

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

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

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 7th, 14th & 21st December will also be broadcast live on Midwest Radio, as well as the 10am Mass on Christmas Day.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: This Monday 8th December marks the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 10am.

GROW IN LOVE: The preparation programme for children receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation & Holy Communion next year continues at the 7.30pm Mass this 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.

CONFESSIONS: The Confession box has reopened after a recent upgrade, and Confessions are available at the usual time. A Service of Reconciliation will be held in St. Patrick’s Church on Sunday 21st Dec. at 6pm.

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.

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

“LIGHT THE FIRE” prayer meeting takes place on Tuesday 9th Dec. at 7pm in St. Joseph’s Chapel at the HUB, Knock Shrine. The reflection during this week of Advent will be on the second fruit of the Holy Spirit: the Gift of Joy. All welcome.

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

CATHAOIRLEACH’S AWARDS: Mayo County Council’s Cathaoirleach Awards 2025 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. Nominations close on 23rd January 2026, with the awards ceremony taking place in March. Nomination forms & further details are available on www.mayo.ie/cathaoirleachsawards2025

LINE DANCING HOEDOWN: Beginners’ line dancing hoedown takes place on Friday 12th December from 7.30pm to 10.30pm in Ballyhaunis Community Hall. Admission €12 including refreshments & free raffle. Proceeds to the Community Hall Renovation Fund. All welcome.

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

KNOCK CHRISTMAS MARKET will be held on 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.

MAYO CANCER SUPPORT– Men’s Support Group monthly meeting takes place on Tuesday 9th December at 7.30pm in Rock Rose House, Castlebar F23 P659. All welcome.

CHURCH GATES: The gates at St. Patrick’s Church will be automated from this Monday 8th December. 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.

Offertory Collection
30th Nov. 2025
€1,840

IRISH CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER: Copies are now on sale at the back of the Church. Cost €3, please place money in candelabra coinbox.

MAYO SPCA will hold a Christmas Craft Fair this Sunday 7th December from 10am to 5pm in Ballyhaunis Community Hall. Raffles, tombola, handmade gifts, cakes & refreshments. Please support us to help raise vital funds.

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

WESTERN ALZHEIMERS DAYCARE, based at Marian House in Ballindine, is accepting admissions. This is Dementia-specific day care which offers tailored daytime support for individuals living with Dementia, with a structured programme of activities & social engagement. Meals also provided. Open Mondays to Fridays 9.30am to 4pm. For further information ring 094 9364101.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT in Knock Basilica on Sunday 21st December. An evening of seasonal music, starting at 8pm.

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL: Monthly meeting takes place on Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm in the Community Hall. New members welcome.

PATRONAGE OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS SURVEY: The Department of Education is currently carrying out a survey of parents & guardians of primary school children & prospective parents on the future of school patronage. Decisions on what schools will retain or lose their Catholic patronage will be influenced by the opinions of those who participate in the survey. It’s important that your voice is heard in relation to your local school. The survey can be accessed at www.gov.ie/primaryschoolssurvey and the closing date is 16th December.

2025 PANTO: “Treasure Island & The Mysterious Mermaid” in Claremorris Town Hall Theatre on Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th Dec. Shows on Saturday at 1pm & 7pm, and Sunday matinee at 1pm. Tickets on www.townhall.ie or by calling 094 9310999