

focus on sunday

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 11th January 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

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

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

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice;

he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you;

I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 28:1 - 4. 9 - 10.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. **[R]**

2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **[R]**

3. The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. **[R]**

SECOND READING *Acts 10: 34 - 38*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 3: 13 - 17*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said, 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

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, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

EUCARISTIC 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

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. 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.

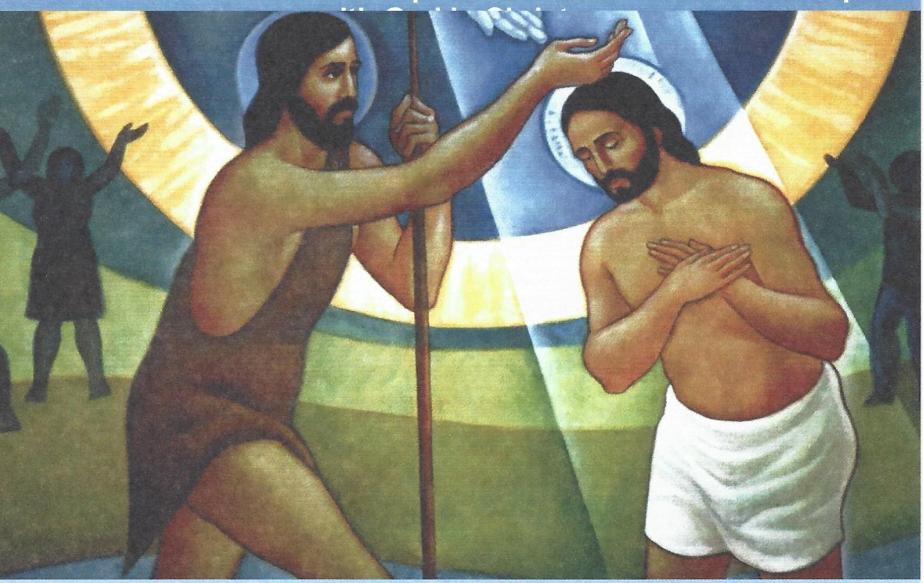
Amen.

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 11th January 2026

This is the feast of Jesus receiving from his Father the calling and mission which he followed through in his life, death and resurrection. We too are baptised into a similar relationship



The Great Turning. Full of conviction, passion and righteous anger, John the Baptist pleaded with people to turn around and 'prepare the way' (3:3). Yet, in today's Gospel we meet a different John. He is surprised to see that Jesus has arrived to be baptised by him and feels unworthy of such a task. Jesus

explains to John that this is a necessary signal at the beginning of his ministry, a public statement of identity. It is also more than that. In Jesus' first spoken words in Matthew's Gospel he says this baptism is 'to fulfil all righteousness', and here we have the central theme of Matthew's Gospel announced. In the Old Testament, 'righteousness' literally meant 'right relationship'. It was not solely focused on an individual's repentance but referred to the turning around of God's people, a collective turning, towards restoration and justice across the land. Jesus at the Jordan stands with God's people, in solidarity yes, but also in his full human experience, in his living, suffering, dying, and in the making of straighter paths. Jesus is baptised in the Jordan because he is modelling the way for humanity as we strive for 'righteousness' in our communities and in the complexities that life brings for each of us.

We are not short of situations in our world which require people to turn around and walk a new path. The environmental crisis is one example, calling the entire

human species to wake up and walk an entirely different path in order to ensure a sustainable future for all. This requires a collective turning, what authors Joanna

Macy & Chris Johnson call 'The Great Turning'. This Great Turning is the global

awakening, the ecological revolution which is necessary, which is underway and

which must be fully embraced if we are to bring healing to our world.

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

When Jesus is baptised, He tells us that we have Three Special Friends. God The Father, who makes the sun shine on the good and not so good. God, The Son, who came at Christmas, to be our forever Friend, and God The Holy Spirit who is 'The Breath of God' in us and in all the Universe. We bless ourselves in Thanks, and say 'Glory be to The Father, and to The Son, and to The Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.'

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 11th JANUARY 2026

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)



MASSES:

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday 10.00am.
Saturday Evening Vigil:
7.30pm
Sunday: 10.00am.

CONFESIONS:

Before Saturday Vigil Mass

EUCARISTIC 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.



Emergency numbers:

Knock: 094-9388100
Fr. Feeney, Ballinlough: 094-9640155
Fr. McGuinness, Bekan: 094-9313937

ANNIVERSARY MASSES 12th-18th JANUARY 2026

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

P.J. Kelly & Liam Carney, Bekan

Kathleen & Thomas Connell, Redford & decd. of the Connell & Molloy families

John Grady, Tooreen

John, Teresa & John Murphy & Phyllis Nolan, Cartron North, Tooreen

Jim & Christina O'Connell, Aisling Drive

Mark & Eileen Waldron, Cave

Danny & Annette Fadian, Achill & Padraig Phillips, Leow

Thomas, Mary, Martin & Terry McDonagh, Tooraree

Tom Kelly, Merseyside

Jimmy, John & Helena Finnegan, Bohogue

SUNDAY 18th JANUARY - FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Sinéad Loughran, Galway & Upper Main St.

Phil Rattigan, Island

12th-18th JAN.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 10am	Liam Devaney	Joe Byrne, Marie Brennan
Tuesday 10am	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Frances Mulhern
Wednesday 10am	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Byrne, Mary Sykes
Friday 10am	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Irene Healy
Saturday 7.30pm	John Doyle	Marion Regan, Breda Davis, Eileen Jordan, Mary T. Griffin
Sunday 10am	Lauren Feeney	Mary Murphy, Willie Broderick, Patricia Plunkett, Daniela Balbino Romao

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

PARISH CALENDARS 2026: Ballyhaunis parish calendars are now available in the Church porch, free of charge. Please take one home, or bring one to a neighbour or friend who might appreciate it.

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers:

Maria Evangelidou née Moran, Cyprus & formerly Main St. -sister of Tommy Moran, Main St.

Tom Stenson, Mountain, Aghamore & formerly Leeds & Tooreen-brother of Geraldine Devine, Aisling Drive;

Michael Broderick, Dundalk & Castlerea-brother of Willie Broderick, Brackloon

May they rest in peace.

GROW IN LOVE: The preparation programme for children receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation & Holy Communion continues at the 7.30pm Mass this Saturday evening 10th Jan. Our focus this month is on teaching the children about Baptism, the Sacrament through which new members are welcomed into our parish family.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY returns next Sunday 18th January at 10am Mass. Children aged 4 to 8 are invited into the Sacristy during Mass, and will learn about Jesus the Lamb of God, who loves and cares for us.

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

PPC MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council takes place this Monday evening 12th January at 8.30pm in the Community Hall.

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**.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2026 runs from 18th to 24th January and will focus on doing ordinary things well, with faith & kindness. The theme this year is "Catholic Schools-Normal Lives, Called to Holiness". Inspired by the recently-canonised St. Carlo Acutis, Catholic Schools Week celebrates the extraordinary call to holiness in the midst of ordinary life, and calls pupils, teachers, families & parishes to holiness in the concrete circumstances of ordinary life. As Pope Francis said: "Holiness does not mean performing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things with faith and love".

Recently Baptised

We welcome into the Faith Community:
Oskar Hugh Basista, Classaroe

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.

Offertory Collection
4th Jan. 2026
€1,260

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

SCOIL ÍOSA: Enrolment of new pupils in Scoil Íosa Primary School, Ballyhaunis for the 2026-2027 school year is now open. Application forms are available from the school, ring 094 30310, or from the website www.iosaballyhaunis.com Closing date for enrolment is 30th April 2026.

CHY3 CERTIFICATES: Over the coming days, a number of parishioners will receive letters in the post, as their 5-year CHY3 cert has now expired. Please complete the green certificate and return it in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope, or drop it into the Parish Office (in Fr. Stephen's house). This is a Tax Rebate Scheme which is of considerable financial benefit to the parish. It will not place any additional cost on you, but is an important part of the parish income stream. Please return the completed certificate as soon as possible. If you receive a cert and are NOT eligible for tax, please sign the relevant section at the bottom of the letter, and return it to the Parish Office so we can update our records.

PILGRIMAGE: The Tuam Archdiocese Pilgrimage to Fatima & the Lisbon Coast takes place from 25th June 2026 for 7 nights. For details, contact Joe Walsh Tours at 01 2410800. Discount if booked before end of November.

MEN OF ST. JOSEPH: The next monthly meeting of the Tuam Archdiocese Men of St. Joseph group takes place this Sunday 11th Jan. at 7pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Tuam. Guest speaker this month is lecturer & philosopher Prof. Robert McNamara. New members welcome. Enquiries to frmarkquinn@tuamparish.com

FAMILY CENTRE CASTLEBAR: The Family Centre on Chapel St, Castlebar provides a number of services in association with the HSE and Túsla including counselling services, suicide bereavement support group, the Rainbows programme and bereavement support services, family mediation service, education & training courses, a support group for carers of people with dementia and a peer support group for widows, widowers & partners. For details, call the centre on 094 90 25900 or visit www.thefamilycentre.com

BALLYHAUNIS PARENT, BABY & TODDLER GROUP meets every Wednesday during school term from 10am to 12pm in the Community Hall. €5 per family, includes tea/coffee & snacks.

GAMES EVENING: All welcome to join our Games Evening next Sunday 18th January from 4pm to 6pm in Ballyhaunis Community Hall. Board games e.g. chess, ludo, backgammon etc. and cards. Beginners & experienced players welcome. Admission is free, refreshments served.

CLINICAL SOMATICS: Learn slow, gentle movement exercises to relieve chronic shoulder, hip & back pain. Classes start on 12th January for 5 weeks. Mondays 12pm to 1pm, or 7pm to 8pm at the Family Resource Centre, Claremorris F12 H2C2. Contact John Rowe on 087 7495573 to book a place.

BICYCLE REPAIR CLINIC: The monthly bike repair clinic resumes on Saturday 17th January from 9.30am to 12.30 pm in the Ballyhaunis Community Hall.

LINE DANCING CLASSES with Mary Kathleen resume this Sunday 11th January from 7pm to 8.30pm in the Community Hall. All welcome.