

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Did I not feel for those whose day was hard? Was not my soul grieved for the poor?

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you have given us the consolation of the truth:

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting life:

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

Merciful God, origin and reward of all charity, you called Saint Brigid to teach the new commandment of love through her life of hospitality and her care of the needy; give to your people, by her intercession, a generous spirit, so that, with hearts made pure, we may show your love to all.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13*

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands.

Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong, will tell no lies;

and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 145:7 - 10

R. How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven or Alleluia!

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

1 Corinthians 1:26 - 31

A reading from the 1st letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen - those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 5: 1 -12*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined

by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.



focus on sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1st February 2026
ST BRIGID, ABBESS, SECONDARY PATRON OF IRELAND

The gospel today is the charter of a Christian (The Beatitudes): Jesus' sermon on the mount. It is an invitation to live like him, and a challenge to serve him in our neighbour.



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

As we present these gifts, O Lord, on the feast of Saint Brigid, may we come to know you as the source of all true love. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord. I was sick and you visited me. In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these, you did it to me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

You give us food from heaven, Lord, to strengthen us in love; grant, we pray, through the intercession of Saint Brigid, that works of charity continue to flourish and the light of true faith not fail. Through Christ our Lord.

SOLEMN BLESSING

May God, who in Saint Brigid has provided an outstanding example of generosity: make your ears be ever open to the cry of the poor. Amen.

May you who greet Saint Brigid as Mary of the Gael receive from Jesus, Son of Mary, the reward promised to the pure of heart. Amen.

May God fill you with his love, as you honour Saint Brigid, whose heart and mind became a throne of rest for the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain for ever. Amen.

Go in peace. Thanks be to God.



An alternate wisdom. Today we read and hear from the opening verses of Matthew's most famous passage, *The Sermon on the Mount*. The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' teachings and are far from a tick box exercise in order to receive God's love, on the contrary, they speak a language of grace. They do not condemn,

rather they give us a glimpse of a life that is lived out of the call to love God and neighbour, spoken in a way that motivates rather than criticises. While the first part of each beatitude speaks about the present and is rooted in human experience, the second part invites us to contemplate what is to come. The Beatitudes are not idealising some future utopia either but are lived and experienced in the here and now. It sounds like a paradox or a riddle but here we are lovingly invited to grow into what the beatitudes praise. This is what a real metanoia (a turning around) looks like. As the Sermon on the Mount unfolds, we are invited into whole relationships, with God, with our loved ones, even with our enemies! The Beatitudes are a predisposition for what follows, like a compass, they orient us towards restoration. And the first Beatitude sets the scene for everything that follows: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"*.

This Beatitude, ironically, praises spiritual poverty or emptiness and invites us to gently examine our inner attitude and attachments. For when we are free, we are open to receive God's grace in our hearts. The reward is not necessarily referring to the afterlife. The kingdom of heaven is a state of being that can be experienced in the here and now. The Beatitudes promise comfort, greater awareness and intimacy with God. Through the Beatitudes, Jesus blesses those that this world crushes: the meek, the peacemakers, those who are persecuted. They turn the world upside down with their dramatic reversals and are the essence of the in-breaking kingdom of heaven. This week perhaps you can spend time ruminating on one of the Beatitudes each day. See what arises. Living the Beatitudes in today's world involves living an alternative reality to the status quo. We are invited to dream and to take risks. What might this look like for you?

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

Jesus tells the people of new ways to be happy. Because God is Love, we are called to love God with our mind and heart. Our mind helps us to know about things, our heart helps to love and to give. It is not enough to see people who are hungry, who are lonely, who are different, who are at war. We have to try to help. We help with our heart, by talking, and listening. Peacemaking is trying to put oneself in the other person's shoes, to feel how they feel.

Liturgical texts: concordat cum originali: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin Other texts: cum permissu: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin. Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal: © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The Jerusalem version of the Scripture is copyright Darton, Longman & Todd & Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail & or Geoffrey Chapman Ltd. Published by Logos Publications, 26 Tolka Valley Business Park, Ballyjoggan Rd, Glasnevin, D11 WK38 Phone (01 830 6751).

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 1st FEBRUARY 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

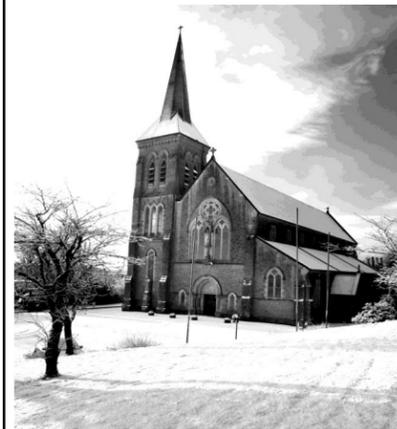
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)

Emergency numbers:

Knock: 094-9388100

Fr. Feeney, Ballinlough: 094-9640155

Fr. McGuinness, Bekan: 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 3rd-7th FEBRUARY 2026

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

Katie, Thomas & Carmel Johnston, Knox St.

Henry Madden, Gurteen

Jack & Kitty Greally & decd; Drimbane

Christopher Mongan, Tooraree

Paddy & Eileen Kelly, Drimbane

Michael, Maureen & Tom Cunnane

Delia Mulkeen & decd. Cloonbullig

Thomas & Nora O'Boyle, Carrowreagh & daughters Christina, Noreen & Anne

Martin & Kathleen Tevenan, Williamstown

Paddy & Mary Carney, Island & decd. of the Carney & Keane families

Kathleen & John Fleming, Lavallyroe & granddaughter Brídann

Pat Lyons, Classaroe

Tom & Lily Moran & Maria Evangelidou (née Moran), Main St.

Jackie, Rita, Donal & Brendan Toolan, Knockanara

Dan Finn & decd. Erriff

Bertie Curley, Clare St.

2nd-8th FEB.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 10am	Martin Fitzmaurice	Joe Byrne, Marion Regan
Tuesday 10am	Tommy Caulfield	Lorraine Waldron, Breege Halpin
Wednesday 10am	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Byrne, Irene Healy
Friday 10am	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Eileen Jordan
Saturday 7.30pm	Aoife Doherty	Joe Byrne, Fionnuala Nolan, Marina Coyne, Anne Carney
Sunday 10am	Willie Ryan	Eileen Donnellan, Mary T. Griffin, Mary Sykes, Mary Murphy
COLLECTORS FOR FEBRUARY		
Sat. 7.30pm	Eamonn Egan, Patsy Glynn, Pat Devine, Gabrielle Lyons	
Sunday 10am	Kieran Fitzmaurice, Richard Waldron, Mike Griffin, Jaroslav Drunnik	
MASS SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY		
Sat. 7.30pm	Team F: Liam & Matilda Thompson, Kyle Kilbane, David Gerard Ward, Ellie Higgins, Sophie Coen	
Sunday 10am	Team E: Emily Lynch-Hussey, John Caulfield, Luke Marigliano, Natalie Dosek, Tjasa Barcanec	

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers:
Jarlath Fahey, Devlis;
Kieran Sykes, Leeds - brother of Paul Sykes, Agloragh
May they rest in peace.

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 1st, 8th & 15th February will also be broadcast on Midwest Radio 96.1FM

ST. BRIGID'S DAY: This Sunday 1st February is the Feast of St Brigid, secondary patron saint of Ireland. Mass is at 10am.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD: Candlemas Day is on Monday 2nd February.

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE on Tuesday 3rd February. St. Brigid's crosses, candles and throats will be blessed at the weekend Masses.

FIRST FRIDAY: As next Friday is the first Friday of the month, Fr. Stephen will do his house calls during the coming week.

CHANGE TO WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS: From this week, the 10am Mass on Mondays in St. Patrick's Church will be a "Missa Pro Populo" - Mass for the People. This is a weekly Mass offered for the well-being of the people of the parish. Anniversary Masses for the deceased will be offered from Tuesday to Saturday each week.

LÁ FHÉILE BRÍDE: A celebration of St. Brigid at Knock Shrine this Sunday 1st Feb. St. Brigid's Flame will be present at the Shrine on the day, courtesy of the Brigidine Sisters, Kildare. The celebration starts at 11am with guided prayer in the Apparition Chapel, and Mass at 12pm in Knock Parish Church, starting with a one-minute Pause for Peace at noon. A special welcome is extended to all named in honour of St. Brigid, and a blessing will take place during the 12pm Mass.

Recently Baptised

We welcome into the Faith Community:
Cousins Leah Freeley, Doctor's Road & Cliona Hennigan, Boston, USA

CHY3 CERTIFICATES: Sincere thanks to parishioners who have returned their CHY3 certificates. For those who received a certificate in the post recently and have not yet returned it, please complete the green form and post it back in the enclosed stamped & self-addressed envelope, or drop in the letterbox of the Parochial House as soon as possible. This is a Tax Rebate Scheme which is of considerable financial benefit to the parish. Once completed, the CHY3 Cert is valid for 5 years. We are currently awaiting the return of about 20 certificates before we can file a return to Revenue, so we would ask that you sign the form and return it **as soon as possible** to the parish office.

CHURCH ACCOUNTS: A summary of the 2025 accounts for the parish is now available to view on the notice board in the church porch. The accounts reflect the considerable funds spent on the Church restoration project, which is now almost complete.

CHILDREN'S ROSARY & ADORATION in the Apparition Chapel, Knock on Friday next 6th Feb. from 5.30 to 6.15pm for children and teens of all ages. U18's must be accompanied by a parent/ guardian. Everyone welcome. For details call 087 2299623 or visit www.childrensrosary.org

"WHISPER OF GOD" silent residential retreat takes place in Knock Youth Village on Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th February. For more details, contact John Farrelly, Knock Shrine on 086 0108623 or email prayerguidance@knockshrine.ie

MEN OF ST. JOSEPH: The next monthly meeting of the Tuam Archdiocese Men of St. Joseph group takes place this Sunday 1st Feb. at 7pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Tuam. Guest speaker will be Catholic evangelist & catechist Gerard Hanley. New members always welcome. For more details, email frmarkquinn@tuamparish.com

Offertory Collection
25th Jan.2026
€2,070

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE with Spiritual Director Fr. John Mockler from 29th July to 5th August, including return flights from Dublin to Mostar, transfers and half-board accommodation. For details, call Nicola on 087 9622800.

LATIN MASS: The next Latin Mass takes place on Sunday 8th February at 6pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Knock

PICKING UP MY PEN: Finding God in Writing: A 2-day retreat at Knock Shrine on 21st & 22nd February with Sr. Moira McDowell and Deirdre Rowe. No previous experience of writing or journaling is needed, just a willingness to pick up a pen and be open to what happens next. For details, contact Nicola on 094 9388100 or email faithrenewal@knockshrine.ie

BALLYHAUNIS AUTISM FRIENDLY TOWN: The official launch, in association with AsIAm, will take place in the Community Hall, Ballyhaunis on Wednesday 25th February at 7pm. Through this project, the aim is to make our town more inclusive for people with autism through community training, sensory-friendly events, resources & support. Come along to learn about this exciting initiative. Admission free, but please register on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

GENEALOGY GROUP MEETING: The next meeting takes place on Tuesday next 3rd Feb. from 7.30 to 9.30 pm in Ballyhaunis Community Hall where local family and townland history will be explored with local historian Billy Lyons. You are invited to bring along your laptop /tablet and Billy will guide you on doing your own research on the evening, with a view to building your family tree. Wi-Fi is available in the Hall. Refreshments served, all welcome.

PRAYER TO ST. BRIGID

*You were a woman of peace,
You brought harmony when there was conflict,
You brought light to the darkness,
You brought hope to the downcast.
May the mantle of your peace
cover those who are troubled & anxious
And may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts
& in our world.
Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.
Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the weary,
Strengthen what is weak within us,
Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.
May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body
and spirit. Amen.*

