

## SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 4th January 2026

## ENTRANCE ANTIphon

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

## 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

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
May almighty God have mercy on us.  
Amen.

## OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,.....

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

## FIRST READING Ecc 24:1-2.8-12

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus  
Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself.

She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One.  
‘Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent.

He said, ‘Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance.’  
From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain.  
I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion.  
In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority.  
I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord’s property, in his inheritance.’

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

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.147:12-15.19-20

**R. The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!  
Zion, praise your God!  
He has strengthened the bars of your gates, he has blessed the children within you. **[R]**
2. He established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat.  
He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his command. **[R]**
3. He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees.  
He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees. **[R]**

## SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-6.15-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL John 1:1-18 (or \*1:1-5.9-14\*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. (shorter version in italics)

\* In the beginning was the Word:

the Word was with God and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.\* A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.  
\*The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.\*

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:  
‘This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.’

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received - yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

**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.



## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

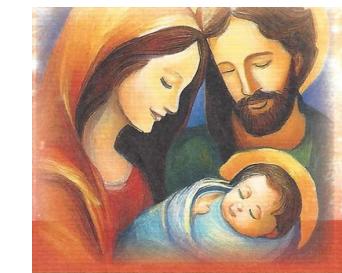
Pray brothers and sisters, .....  
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, for by it you show us the way of truth and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom. 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.



## FOCUS ON SUNDAY

## SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 4th January 2026

Jesus is the One sent by God who speaks to us about the wisdom and truth of God. By accepting him we too become children of God and are filled with grace and truth.

## The light shines in the dark.

## JOHN 1:5

Today's Gospel, the Prologue of John, is one of the most poetic, symbolic, and theologically rich passages in our Scriptures. It places Christ at the very dawn of time, at the creation of the world, and is unequivocal in its assertion of his full humanity and full divinity.

The imagery of light is particularly striking in this passage: it is a powerful, illuminating beam, which cannot be swallowed up in darkness. In the Nativity of Our Lord, which we have just celebrated, the birth of Jesus defies the odds by emerging in a very dark, grim situation. John contextualises this today by bathing the birth of a small baby in the eternal light beaming from God the Father. This is where Jesus's power comes from, and this power to become a child of God is shared with us, when we accept the Lord into our hearts and our lives. We do this by allowing God's light to shine through us: to illuminate both our own paths and those of others, safe in the conviction that our light will always cut through the darkness even if, at certain times, we are around a corner and cannot see its healing, almighty beam.

This Prologue also highlights the divine sacredness of the Word of God. Somewhat incongruous with a disposable paper leaflet you hold in your hands! As Mary handled the new-born Jesus with the utmost love and reverence, we too are called to treat the Word with the same care!

**Dr Giovanna Feeley, DCU School of Theology, Philosophy, and Music**

## Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

God Our Father wanted to share happiness. So God made the sun, the stars, the mountains, the oceans. They were “God’s Voice,” but they could not speak “words.” Then, God made human beings, boys and girls who could speak words, like love, please, thanks, sorry. God made all people in the image and likeness of His Own Son, Jesus Christ, and He is called “THE WORD OF GOD.” To be human and happy is to follow Jesus, and learn to love. The Angelus Bell always reminds us of God’s Love Story.

# ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

## PARISH NEWSLETTER 4th JANUARY 2026

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Farragher, 094-9630006 / 087-9210305

Email: [ballyhaunisparish@gmail.com](mailto:ballyhaunisparish@gmail.com) Parish Office: 094-9630006

PARISH WEBSITE: [www.ballyhaunisparish.ie](http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie)

PARISH RADIO: 105.2FM Newsletter on line: Parish website & [www.mcn.live](http://www.mcn.live)

WEBCAM: [www.ballyhaunisparish.ie](http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie) or [www.mcn.live](http://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.



### ANNIVERSARY MASSES 5th-10th JANUARY 2026

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

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Patrick & Mary Moran, Tooraree  
Bernie, Pado & Jarlath Moran, Tooraree & Alacoque Fleming, Ballinrobe  
Gerry Cribben & decd. Tooraree  
Helen, Thomas & Bridget Meehan & decd., Curries & Dolores King, Ballaghaderreen  
Frank Fetherston, Abbeyquarter  
Tom, Rosie, Bernie, Paddy, Martin & John McDonagh  
Sylvester & Kathleen McBride & decd., Annagh  
Kieran, Elizabeth & Tom Carney, Classaroe  
Andrew & Bridget Devine & decd.  
Tom, Delia, Joe & John Stenson  
John, Greta & Micheál Murren, Upper Main St. & Mary Commins, Knock  
Noreen Hopkins, Upper Main St.  
Jim & Mary Plunkett, Forthill & Noel Sloyan, Tully  
Eugene & Mary Carney & decd. Holywell  
Tom Flatley, Clare St.  
Timothy & Elizabeth Rabbitte, Timothy & Nora Rabbitte, Derrylea & decd. of the Sullivan family, Derrylea  
Larry Farrelly & decd. of the Farrelly family

5th-11th JAN.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 10am	Martin Fitzmaurice	Marion Regan, Joe Byrne
Tuesday 10am	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Lorraine Waldron
Wednesday 10am	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Byrne, Irene Healy
Friday 10am	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Eileen Jordan
Saturday 7.30pm	Alex Eaton	Marina Coyne, Laura Brogan, Helene McCafferty, Deirdre Browne
Sunday 10am	Brendan Donnellan	Marie Brennan, Dympna Greally, Gilmar Neves, Eileen Donnellan

### 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 Filipe Da Cruz, Heliosa Neves, Hellen De Oliveira Guerra
Sunday 10am	Team D: Hazel Murphy, Fionn Finnegan, Séan Monaghan, Hannah Toparowska

**Recently Deceased** - We remember in our prayers:  
Angela Monks (née Levins) Merseyside & formerly of Upper Main St.

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)

**FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY:** Tuesday 6th January is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Mass will be at 10am.

**GROW IN LOVE:** The preparation programme for children receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation & Holy Communion continues at the 7.30pm Mass next Saturday evening 10th Jan. Our focus this month is on teaching them about Baptism, the sacrament through which new members are welcomed into our parish family. One good way for all of us to recall our Baptism is to use holy water in our homes regularly.

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

**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 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.

**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.

### Offertory Collection

28th Dec. 2025  
€2,020

**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.

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

**EUCARISTIC HEALING RETREAT** with Fr. John Keane & Deacon Don Devaney in the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Sunday 8th February 2026. Limited places. Booking essential. Call Nicola on 087 9622800 for more details or to book a place.

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

**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 Iosa. More information on [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)

**MAYO CANCER SUPPORT** offers a range of emotional supports to people with cancer and their families. Call 094 9038407 for information.

**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)

**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.

**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.

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**NEW YEAR'S BLESSING FOR ST. JOSEPH'S CLUSTER** (Aghamore, Ballinlough, Ballyhaunis, Bekan, Knock):

*Heavenly Father, thank you for this new year, a fresh start filled with hope and new possibilities; guide us, renew us, and strengthen us to walk in your light, serving you and bringing your love to a world in need.*

*We entrust this year to the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit, through the loving intercession of Our Lady of Knock. Amen.*

Prayer cards containing this blessing were distributed at the Cluster Mass in Knock Basilica on New Year's Day, and are also available in the Church porch. Please feel free to take one home. Wishing all our parishioners and visitors a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

