

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.**

**GREETING**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:  
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
 Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:  
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
 Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:  
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
 May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **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**

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING** *Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20*

*A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.* If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**PS. 118:1-2.4-5.17-18.33-34**

**R. They are happy who follow God's law!**

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!  
They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. **(R)**
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.  
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **(R)**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.  
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. **(R)**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.  
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. **(R)**

**SECOND READING** *1 Corinthians 2: 6 - 10*

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** *Matthew 5: 17 - 37*

*( or \*5:20-22.27-28.33-34.37) (Shorter form in italics)*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.* Jesus said to his disciples: Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in

the kingdom of heaven.

*\*\*For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.*

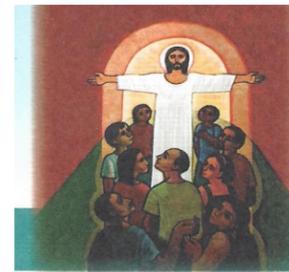
*\*You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;\* if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.*

*\*\*You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.\* If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.*

*It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.*

*\*Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all,\* either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. \*All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.\**

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



*Day of Prayer for Temperance*

The gospel of Christ will often force difficult decisions in our lives. The gospel offers a fullness of life which in turn offers us joy and a meaning of life which promises a hope and love that is eternal.

**THE 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**

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. Through Christ our Lord.

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

*The mystery of faith.* When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

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**

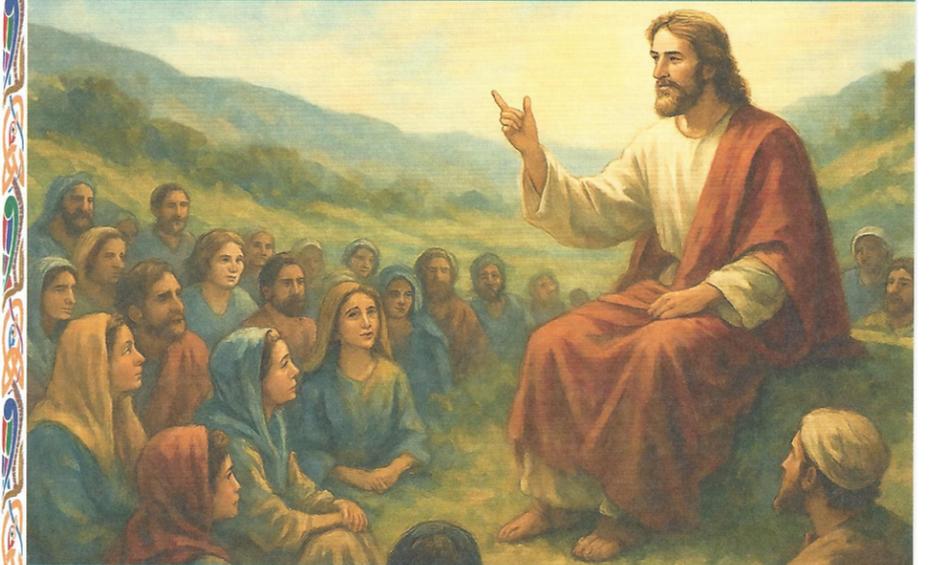
**God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for that food by which we truly live. Through Christ our Lord.

**CONCLUDING RITE**

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit. Go in peace, Thanks be to God.**



This Sunday immediately before Lent is a day of prayer and reflection on Temperance. The psalm texts "they are happy who do his will" and "may my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes" resonate in the hearts of all who are recalibrating their lives according to the Twelve Step Programme and their AA meetings.

They know the beautiful truth which Jesus radiates in the Gospels and the Sacraments. This truth is summarised by Sr Consilio in Cuan Mhuire in the simple message "God made me good". Accepting this truth, they have found daily happiness in "all that God has prepared for those who love him."

The high standards which they now set for themselves bring joy and peace back into homes which had lived under a dark shadow of addiction. Gone are the days of "an eye for an eye". With the kind support of family and of a Sponsor, their daily journey from addiction towards recovery continues on with the help of prayer and meditation.

I invite you to take the Pioneer pledge for Lent as a gesture of solidarity with people who are living "one day at a time" according to the 12 Step AA programme. Drop me a line to prayer@pioneers.ie

**Fr Robert McCabe** www.pioneers.ie

**Jesus' Story** *Fr. Liam Hickey*

Jesus tells us that the Law of Love, is better than the love of law. Laws are important, but not complete, without the heart of love. I can read books, and know about Love, but loving means kindness, putting others first, caring, saying thanks, offering help. The Holy Spirit helps to make our knowing into loving. No matter how much I think I'm right, it's good to say, but I may be wrong.

# ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

## PARISH NEWSLETTER 15th 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

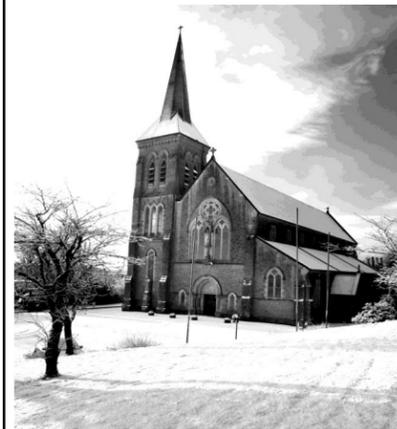
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)

### 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 17th-21st FEBRUARY 2026

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

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Anne O'Dwyer, Abbey St. & Mary P. O'Dwyer, Galway

Alec Greene, Main St.

Margaret & Pat Byrne, Knox St.

Carmel Waldron, Upper Main St.

Séan & Maura Griffin, decd. of the Griffin & O'Reilly families & Mike Freeley

Ted Webb, Main St.

Mary Webb, Main St. & Devlis

Seamus & Tina Waldron, Abbeyquarter & decd. of the Waldron family, Woodpark

John, Mary, John, Martin & Nuala Kenny, Kiltimagh & Wahey Vahey, Ballyheane

Martin, Bridget, Patrick & Maria Moran, Manchester & decd. of the

Moran family, Bracklaghboy

Charlie & Phyllis Phillips & decd. of the Phillips & Neary families, Main St.

Ted & Nell Maughan, Cherryfield

Charlie & Mary Agnes O'Reilly, Holywell

Decd. of the Murphy & Kilduff families, Brackloon North & decd. of the Regan &

Nolan families, Tulrahan

Ellie, John Joe, Ann & David Fitzmaurice & decd., Forthill & Mountain

John, Gretta & Micheál Murren, Upper Main St. & Mary Commins, Knock

Pat O'Connor, Hazelhill

Mary & Patrick Gildea, Johnstown

Margaret Kavanagh, Dublin & Pat Gildea, Johnstown

Doris & Eddie Duddy & decd. of the Roddy & Duddy families

Kate, John, Noel, J.J. & Patrick Goulding & Anne Joyce

Moirea, Jackie, Ciara & Andrew Gallagher

Ellie & Tom Donnelly, Andy Killeen & Brian Hassall

Declan Mulhern, Knock Road

Michael & Kathleen Mulhern, Clare St.

John, Annie & Brendan Hoban, Lisbane

### SUNDAY 22ND FEB.- MONTH'S MIND

Mary Squire, Lavallyroe

16th-22nd FEB.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 10am	Martin Fitzmaurice	Marion Regan, Marie Brennan
Tuesday 10am	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Frances Mulhern
Ash Wed. 10am	Mary Donnelly	Mgt. Byrne, Irene Healy, P. Plunkett
Friday 10am	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Eileen Jordan
Saturday 7.30pm	Grow in Love parent	Jacinta Flynn, Jenny Glynn, Tim Byrne, Lorraine Waldron
Sunday 10am	Julia Kelly	Aileen Burke, Geraldine Murphy, Eileen Lynch, Dympna Greally

### Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers:

Bernard Lyons, Annagh; formerly Buckinghamshire & Bridge St;  
Hélio Francisco de Oliveira, Cloonfad; formerly Naas & Brazil.

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)  
The 10am Mass this Sunday 15th February will also be broadcast on Midwest Radio 96.1FM.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** takes place at the 10am Mass this Sunday 15th February. Children aged 4 to 8 are invited into the Sacristy during Mass and will learn about St. Valentine.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** on 18th February marks the beginning of Lent, and is the start of our journey to the celebration of Easter. Blessed ashes will be distributed at the 10am Mass on Wed.

**BAPTISED AND SENT IN LENT** is a reflection programme for Lent 2026, prepared as part of the Irish Synodal Pathway. Parishes, schools and groups across Ireland are invited to journey together through the prayers & Gospel reflections in this programme, with themes for each week such as belonging, healing, renewal & mission, as we try to live our baptismal calling more deeply. For further details, visit [www.synod.ie](http://www.synod.ie)

**GROW IN LOVE:** The preparation programme for children receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation & Holy Communion continues at the 7.30pm Mass **next Saturday evening 21st Feb.** This month's focus is on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. First Confessions will be heard in St. Patrick's Church on Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm.

**PPC MEETING:** The monthly meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place this Monday evening 16th February at 8.30pm in the Community Hall.

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS & VICTIMS OF ABUSE** will be marked next Friday 20th February, the first Friday of Lent. This day is not only for victims and survivors of abuse within the Catholic Church, but also for the families and communities affected. Blessed candles will be lit in parishes across the country as a reminder of the need for atonement and to symbolise repentance; light in the darkness.

**TOWARDS HEALING** is an independent organisation, funded by the Catholic Church, providing professional support for people who have experienced institutional, clerical or religious abuse in Ireland. Freephone 1800 303416 (open 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Friday) or visit [www.towardshealing.ie](http://www.towardshealing.ie)

**TOWARDS PEACE** provides spiritual support for survivors of abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. Phone 01 5053028 or visit [www.towardspeace.ie](http://www.towardspeace.ie)

**CHY3 CERTIFICATES:** This is the **final call** for parishioners who recently received a CHY3 certificate in the post. Please complete the green form and post it back in the enclosed stamped 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, but will not incur any additional cost for you. The certs are valid for 5 years.

**COLLECTION FOR UGANDA:** If you have unwanted items of clothing, shoes, reading glasses, face masks, disposable gloves, schoolbags, pens, pencils etc, please contact Patricia Plunkett at 087 7573737. The items will be collected and sent to people in need in Uganda.

### MOTHER & BABY INSTITUTIONS PAYMENT SCHEME:

This Government scheme provides financial payments and health supports to eligible people who spent time in Mother & Baby and County Home institutions in Ireland. The scheme is now open for applications, which can be made online or by post. For further information, visit [www.gov.ie/paymentsscheme](http://www.gov.ie/paymentsscheme) or call the helpline on 01 5229992. All applications will be treated confidentially.

**COME AND SEE DAY** takes place in Knock House Hotel on Saturday 28th March from 11am to 4.30pm. A day to explore vocations to the priesthood. For more information, contact [carol.king@vocations.ie](mailto:carol.king@vocations.ie)

**BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL:** Monthly meeting will be held on Wed. 18th February at 7.30pm in Ballyhaunis Community Hall. New members welcome.

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND** takes place in St. Mary's Retreat Centre, Knock from 20th-22nd March. Marriage Enrichment supports married couples by offering them a sacred space to deepen their relationship, renew their commitment and grow together through reflection, prayer & dialogue. For more details, visit [www.marriageencounter.ie](http://www.marriageencounter.ie)

**CONFERENCE ON HAPPINESS** takes place on Sunday 8th March in the Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill from 2pm to 9pm. American theologian & philosopher Fr. Gregory Pine OP will be the lead speaker. For details, visit [www.dominicans.ie](http://www.dominicans.ie)

**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](mailto:faithrenewal@knockshrine.ie)

**INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY DAY** takes place on Thursday 26th March. In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. For further information, visit [www.epilepsy.ie](http://www.epilepsy.ie)

**GENEALOGY GROUP:** Next meeting takes place on Tuesday 17th Feb. from 7.30 to 9.30pm in Ballyhaunis Community Hall. We will have some old newsreel films to show, as well as discussions on family research.

**Offertory Collection**  
8th Feb 2026  
€1,715

**GAZA FUNRAISING CONCERT:** "Somebody Special- A Fundraising Concert for Gaza" takes place in Claremorris Town Hall on Saturday 28th Feb. at 7.30pm featuring local musicians. The concert is an act of solidarity with families in Gaza, and all proceeds will go to Medical Aid for Palestinians. Tickets at Claremorris Town Hall 094 9310999 or [www.townhall.ie](http://www.townhall.ie)

**GAMES EVENING:** All welcome to our next Games Evening this Sunday 15th February from 4pm to 6pm in Ballyhaunis Community Hall. Board games e.g. draughts, backgammon, chess, ludo and cards. Beginners and experienced players welcome. Free admission, refreshments served.

**BIKE REPAIR CLINIC:** Monthly bike clinic takes place next Saturday 21st Feb. from 9.30am to 12 noon in the Community Hall. As well as repairs, there will be a bicycles for sale that have been donated to the clinic.