

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.**

**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.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

**A reading from the book of Genesis**  
 The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 50: 3-6, 12-14, 17**

**R. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
 In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **[R]**

2. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. **[R]**

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **[R]**

4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. **[R]**

**SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19**

**(or \*5:12.17-19 Shorter Form) A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*\*Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.\* Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.*

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. *\*If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.\**

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**



**GOSPEL Matthew 4:1 - 11**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**  
 Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the

wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after 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.

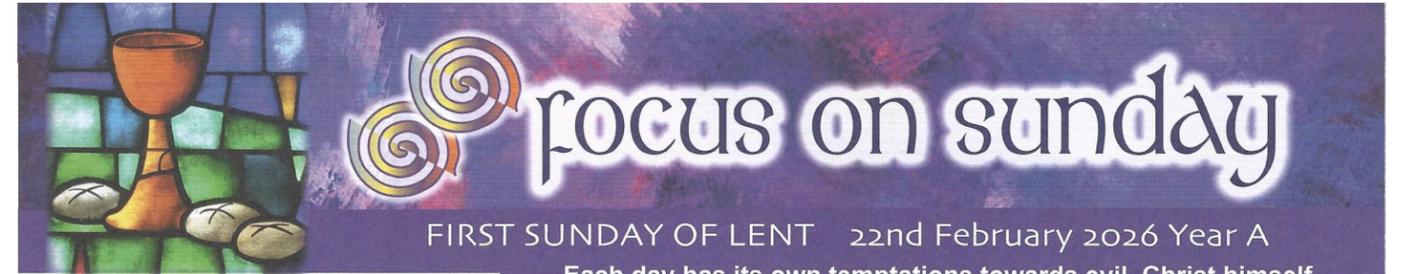
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

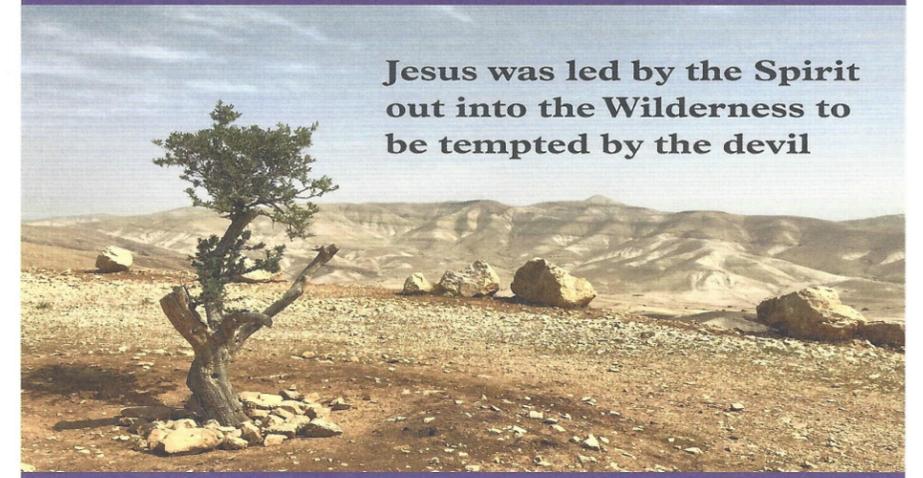
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

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.



Each day has its own temptations towards evil. Christ himself was tempted away from good and from what he knew was best in life. As the angels looked after him in his temptation, so he and his saints look after us in ours.



**Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the Wilderness to be tempted by the devil**

**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**

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time.  
 Through Christ our Lord.

**EUCCHARISTIC 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.**

**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**

**One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord.

**PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

May bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray, come down upon your people, that hope may grow in tribulation, virtue be strengthened in temptation, and eternal redemption be assured.  
 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.**



We have all had the experience of needing time apart to prepare for significant life events. Time can feel suspended as we are fully absorbed in pondering the future. We often emerge from such times with a new understanding of ourselves, of what is important to us, and what our purpose in life is.

Jesus's time apart to prepare for his upcoming ministry sees him come face-to-face with the deepest recesses of human nature. The number forty is symbolic: the Israelites spent forty years in the desert, where they were tempted into idolatry, and Moses spent forty days and nights on Mount Sinai. As Jesus emerges from his time of reflection, hungry and willing to sacrifice himself, the devil subjects him to a triple temptation, all with the same aim: to rebel against God and deny his vocation. Of course, these temptations are particularly potent, as Jesus knows the path he has been called to will lead to abject bodily suffering, death, and ignominy – the very opposite of what the devil offers.

Jesus refuses to test God. Today's responsorial psalm reminds us that, while to err is human, to forgive is divine. Jesus's strength in the face of temptation is not a challenge to us, but a reminder that he was fully human while being fully divine. His humanity enables him to understand our human weaknesses and yearnings, and his divinity enables us to know we are forgiven and loved when our path becomes unclear.

**Dr Giovanna Feeley,**

DCU School of Theology, Philosophy, and Music

**Jesus' Story**

*Fr. Liam Hickey*

Jesus was tempted to be selfish, and make food for himself, to do magic and be noticed, and have a lot of money. I bring Love, Jesus said, because God is Love. Only love makes us really happy. With love there is always giving with our hearts to help others. Everyday we can help at home, at work, and travelling on the road. Lord, You accepted temptation to bless us.

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, Ballybogdan Rd, Glasnevin, D11 WK38 Phone (01 830 6751).

# ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

## PARISH NEWSLETTER 22nd 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**

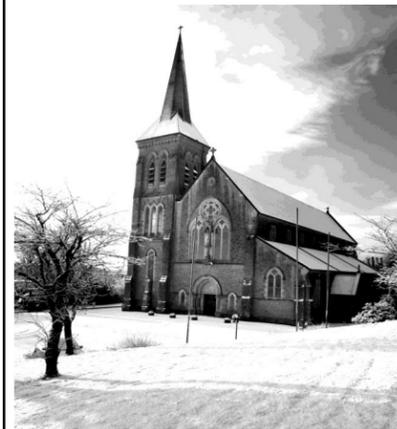
**Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)**

*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:**

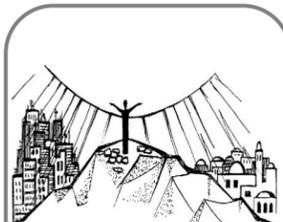
Before Saturday Vigil Mass

**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 24th-28th FEBRUARY 2026**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

- Mary McQueeney, Main St.
- Una Collum, Devlis
- Eugene Morley, St. Gerard's Crescent
- Paddy & Kathleen Morley, Woodpark & Howard Morley, Derrymore
- Julia & Michael McCarthy, Beech Park
- Seamus Cribbin, Drimbane
- John & Vera Waldron & decd. Scrigg
- John, Mary, Tom & Mark Dillon Leetch, Main St.
- Eugene & Mary Carney, Holywell & decd. of the Carney & Folliard families
- Mary Neale née Keane & decd. of the Keane family, Knox St.
- Nora & Thomas Greene & decd. Knox St.
- Michael Murray & decd. Doctor's Road
- Anthony & Séan Coyne & decd. Leenane & Ballintubber
- Freddie O'Brien & decd. Upper Main St.
- Josie & Jason Morley, Knox St.
- Philip, Delia, Mary & Seamus Morley, Knox St.
- Tom McCormack, Clare Court & Tulsk
- Paddy & Josephine Ryan, Hazelhill
- Tom & Dora Forde, The Square
- Patrick Freeley & decd. Gurteen

**SUNDAY 1st MARCH- MONTH'S MIND**

Jarlath Fahey, Devlis

23 FEB-1st MAR.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 10am	Liam Devaney	Marion Regan, Irene Healy
Tuesday 10am	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Lorraine Waldron
Wednesday 10am	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Byrne, Mary Sykes
Friday 10am	Martin Fitzmaurice	Willie Broderick, Mary Freeley
Saturday 7.30pm	Marie Jordan	Frances Mulhern, Seamus Mulrennan, Justina Lyons, Paul Sykes
Sunday 10am	Mary Finan	Marie Brennan, Helena Byrne, Deirdre Browne, Gilmar Neves
<b>COLLECTORS FOR MARCH</b>		
Sat. 7.30pm	Hugh Rudden, Ann Curley, Padraic Regan, Kieran Connolly	
Sunday 10am	Seamus Coffey, Mike Griffin, Eddie Mooney, Vincent Higgins	
<b>MASS SERVERS FOR MARCH</b>		
Sat. 7.30pm	Team A: Niamh Conlon, Eva Grace Kilcourse, Peter Gallagher, Thaemy Rodrigues, Sonny Kelly	
Sunday 10am	Team B: Ben Jordan, Jonathon Powers, Matthew Jordan, Valentina Coutinho Roriz, Jao Lucas Dias Ferreira	

**Recently Deceased** - We remember in our prayers:  
Delia McManus née Conway, San Francisco-sister of Joan Biesty, Pattenspark

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)

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

**WALK WITH ME:** Prayer booklets for Lent 2026 are available in the church porch at €2. Please place money in candelabra coinbox if you wish to take one.

**TRÓCAIRE:** This year's Trócaire Lenten campaign focuses on a three-generation family in rural Rwanda, where the effects of climate change have intensified, causing crop yields to drop significantly, meaning more hunger & poverty for farm families. The 2026 Trócaire box features Uwamahoro, a 28-year old mother who's supporting her daughter, niece and elderly mother. Earning just 60 cent per day working the land, she's struggling to feed her family. They have already lost all their belongings in floods, and with each storm, they live in fear of losing their mud-brick home. With your help, Uwamahoro can begin to rebuild her family's life. Trócaire is helping communities in Rwanda to better prepare for, respond to and recover from the growing impacts of climate change, and is asking the people of Ireland to assist by supporting their fundraising campaign this Lent. Trócaire boxes are available in the church porch, or you can donate by calling 1800 408 408 or online at [www.trocaire.ie](http://www.trocaire.ie) Last year, parishioners in the Archdiocese of Tuam donated over €258,000 to Trócaire during the Lenten campaign.

**LIGHT THE FIRE** prayer meeting takes place next Tuesday 24th Feb. at 7pm in St. Joseph's Chapel at the HUB, Knock Shrine. Tea/coffee afterwards. All welcome.

**"WHISPER OF GOD":** A one-day silent retreat takes place in Knock Prayer Centre, Saturday 28th March from 10am to 5pm, offering a serene space for quiet prayer, reflection and spiritual direction. For more information, contact John Farrelly at 086 0108623 or email [prayerguidance@knockshrine.ie](mailto:prayerguidance@knockshrine.ie)

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

**VOCATIONS:** Contemplative Dominican Monastic Vocation Discernment Weekends take place from 20th to 22nd March and 17th to 19th April in the Monastery of St. Catherine of Siena in Drogheda, Co. Louth. For single women aged 18-35. For details, call Sr. Mairéad on 041 9838524 or visit [www.dominicannuns.ie](http://www.dominicannuns.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)

**LATIN MASS:** The next Latin Mass will take place on Sunday 8th March at 6pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Knock.

**HOLY WEEK RETREAT** in the Dominican Retreat Centre, Tallaght, Dublin from 1st to 4th April with Donagh O'Shea OP. Residential or daily options available. Call 01 4048123.

**BALLYHAUNIS AUTISM FRIENDLY TOWN:** Official launch in partnership with As I Am in Ballyhaunis Community Hall next Wednesday 25th Feb. at 7pm. The aim of this project is to make our town more inclusive for autistic people through community training, sensory-friendly events, resources and support. Come along to learn about this exciting initiative and how we can work together towards achieving this milestone for our town. Free event, but please register on [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com)

**"HOSANNA! Singing in God's Name":** A school choirs concert featuring over 400 students from across the diocese will take place in Knock Basilica on Thursday 5th March from 7pm to 8pm. Tickets €10 on [Eventbrite](http://Eventbrite). A percentage of all ticket sales will be donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

**MAYO COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION** will hold an Open Day on Tuesday 3rd March from 12pm to 6pm in all of their locations throughout Co. Mayo. The Open Day will allow potential learners to meet teachers and tour the college facilities at their campuses in Ballina, Castlebar, Westport, Swinford and Ballinrobe. Also some courses offered in Ballyhaunis. Visit [www.mayocollege.ie](http://www.mayocollege.ie) for more information on courses or to make a free online application for September.

**GAEILGE FOR BEGINNERS & IMPROVERS:** New 5-week term of classes commences next Tuesday 24th Feb. from 7pm to 8pm in the Community Hall. Learn to improve your Irish in a fun, light-hearted atmosphere with múinteóir Colm. Fee €25 includes tea/coffee. Email: [ballyhauniscommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ballyhauniscommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

**MAYO CANCER SUPPORT** would like to thank all who supported the recent Church Gate collection in Ballyhaunis which raised €520. A special thanks to the volunteer collectors. Funds raised will support the ongoing provision of emotional supports to local people affected by cancer.

**Offertory Collection**  
15th Feb 2026  
€1,890

**SPRING LINE DANCING HOEDOWN** on Friday 27th Feb. from 7.30 to 10.30pm in Ballyhaunis Community Hall. Admission €12 including raffle & refreshments. All welcome.

**GAZA FUNDRAISING 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)

**MUSIC WORKSHOP & OPEN MIC:** On Saturday 28th Feb. from 4pm to 6pm in Ballyhaunis Community Hall. Try out musical instruments, share your musical talent- the stage is yours! Free admission, refreshments provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**CLOONFAD ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE:** Cloonfad Entertainment Committee will host a St. Patrick's Day Parade at 2.45pm on 17th March. All floats welcome. Prizes on the day. Contact any committee member to enter.

**GAMES EVENING:** All welcome to our next Games Evening on Sunday 1st March in Ballyhaunis Community Hall from 4pm to 6pm. Board games e.g. draughts, chess, backgammon, ludo etc. and cards. Beginners & experienced welcome. Admission is free, refreshments served.