

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**GREETING**

In the name of the Father ..... Amen.  
The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.*

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
*For we have sinned against you.*  
Show us, O Lord, your mercy.  
*And grant us your salvation.*  
May almighty God have mercy on us....  
Amen.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**OPENING PRAYER**

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, .....

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING**

**1 Samuel 16: 1.6-7.10-13**  
*A reading from the first book of Samuel*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him, 'but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22**

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures

- where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. [R]
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. [R]
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. [R]
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. [R]

**SECOND READING Ephesians 5: 8-14**  
*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life.**  
**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**



**GOSPEL John 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38**  
*(Shorter Form Only)*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*  
As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been

blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, He said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born! And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped 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.

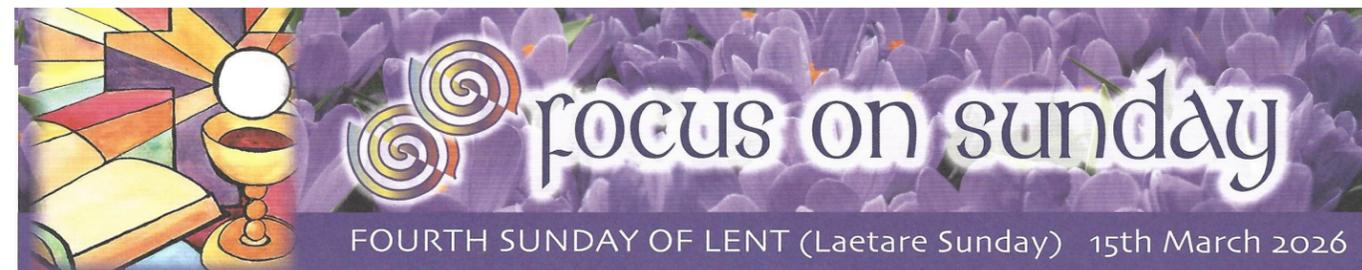
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

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**

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. 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.

**SANCTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.....

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

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

**THE SIGN OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
*And with your spirit.*

**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**

**The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak;  
give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**CONCLUDING RITE**

The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.*  
May the blessing of almighty God, .....  
Amen.  
Go in peace. *Thanks be to God.*

Without faith we are blind to the ways of God.  
With the light of faith we can see the path Jesus laid down for us so that we may follow him and enjoy the glory of the resurrection when our time comes.



The story of the gospel today deals with the two types of sight. A man who was blind from birth was cured and then his spiritual blindness was also cured. He began to see with the eye of faith.

The eye of faith lets us see beyond the externals to the goodness inside. It lets us see past our preconceptions. We can sometimes see further with new sight.

Jesus offers this. Most of his cures point to the spiritual. The eye of faith. When I look at a homeless person, what do I see? Do I see into the soul of the person who wants shelter and a home just like me? At the refugee who wants to be safe just like we want our loved ones to be? Can we see death as the door to new life, as Jesus sees it – dying, we will rise again! How does God see you? First – immensely loved and loveable; able to love others; able to share his mission of love and compassion in the world. The blind man saw Jesus as the son of God; can we see others as Jesus sees them?

Jesus will say later – blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. We pray for a strong spiritual sight. This is good news. We are happier when our spiritual sight is strong as well. Seeing people and the world with the eyes of Jesus brings joy and freedom. It sees the goodness in everyone, the possibility of a better world, and faith in the living God.

*Donal Neary SJ (Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger)*

**Jesus' Story**

*Fr. Liam Hickey*

People thought that a blind man was a sinner that God did not like. Jesus meets the blind man, touches his eyes, and tells him to wash in the holy well. He sees immediately. All people and all sorts are God's Friends. Jesus said that He is The Light of the world, come to bless us. When we light a candle we ask to see what God is like.

# ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

## PARISH NEWSLETTER 15th MARCH 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 MARCH 2026**

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

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- John Lyons, Main St.
- Sighle & John Forde, Clare St. & The Square
- Frances O'Toole, Doocastle
- Fr. Joe Cooney, former P.P. Ballyhaunis
- Robert Hunt, Cloonfad
- Mary & Michael Lyons, Lecarrow
- Margaret Lyons, Leow & John Bradley, Manchester
- John Mitchell & decd. Irishtown & Pat Neary, Manchester
- Tom, Delia & Marian Glynn, Upper Main St.
- Frances Webb Snr., Tooraree

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**SUNDAY 22nd MARCH – FIRST ANNIVERSARY**

- Susan Laffey, Abbey St.
- Alicja Budniok, Poland

16th-22nd MARCH	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 10am	Martin Fitzmaurice	Marion Regan, Irene Healy
Tuesday 10am St. Patrick's Day	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Lorraine Waldron, Frances Mulhern, Willie Broderick
Wednesday 10am	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Byrne, Mary Freeley
Friday 10am	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Eileen Jordan
Saturday 7.30pm	Alex Eaton	Jacinta Flynn, Jenny Glynn, Tim Byrne, Seamus Mulrennan
Sunday 10am	Frank Browne	Breege Halpin, Aileen Burke, Geraldine Murphy, Eileen Lynch

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)

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** will take place this Sunday, March 15th at 10am Mass, where the theme will be St Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, and also celebrating Mother's Day. All children who would like to get involved from the ages of 4 to 8 (up to 2nd Class) are invited to come to the sacristy during the Mass. The children will return to their parents/guardians after Communion.

**HOLY WATER BOTTLES:** Anyone who has Easter Holy Water bottles from last year is asked to return them to the Church porch to re-use this Easter.

**Recently Deceased** - We remember in our prayers:  
Della Finn, Lower Aghamore & formerly Drimbane-sister of John Stephen Greally, Drimbane;  
Frances Train, Camden, Maine, USA.

**Offertory Collection**  
8th March 2026  
€1,960

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY:** This Tuesday 17th March is the feast day of St. Patrick, principal patron saint of Ireland. Mass will be celebrated at 10am, with music provided by the combined Parish & Abbey Male Choirs. Guímid Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona ar ár bparóistí go léir, sa bhaile agus thar lear. (Wishing all our parishioners, at home and abroad, a happy St. Patrick's Day). After Mass, everyone is welcome to the Ballyhaunis Community Hall to celebrate our Irish culture through music, song & dance. Refreshments served.

**MIGRANT COLLECTION 2026:** On St. Patrick's Day, a collection will take place at the 10am Mass to support vulnerable migrants. They may be people who travelled to this country to begin new lives, often escaping war or persecution, or Irish people who have emigrated and are still part of our Church & communities around the world. Funds raised through this collection will be used to support the work of the Council for Migrants, Refugees, Justice & Peace and other projects that provide pastoral outreach to marginalised and vulnerable communities within Ireland and among Irish people abroad.

**CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK:** An evening of music & song to celebrate our patron saint in Knock Basilica this Sunday evening 15th March at 8pm. Presented by Knock Shrine Music Department and traditional Irish musicians and dancers. Admission is free, all welcome.

**WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:** The 10am Mass on Mondays in St. Patrick's Church is offered each week as a "Missa Pro Populo"- Mass for the People. This Mass is offered for the well-being of the people of the parish. Anniversary Masses for the deceased are offered from Tuesday to Saturday each week, including the 10am Masses on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays, and the 7.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday evenings.

**BAPTISED & SENT IN LENT:** This Lent, parishes, schools and groups across Ireland are invited to journey together through a set of reflective resources inspired by Baptised and Sent (the preparatory document for the 2025 Assembly in Kilkenny). Each week offers a simple structure for prayer, Gospel reflection and conversations that are linked to key insights from Baptised and Sent. Through these Lenten reflections, each person – lay, religious and ordained – is encouraged to rediscover who we are as God's people, to listen to the Holy Spirit and to take steps, individually and collectively towards living our baptismal calling more deeply. Visit <https://synod.ie> > baptised-and-sent-in-lent

**SAFETALK TRAINING:** Free Suicide Alertness for Everyone (safeTALK) training takes place on Tuesday 24th March at the TF Royal Hotel & Theatre, Castlebar from 10am to 1.30pm. This half-day training programme is for anyone over the age of 18 and is free to attend, funded by the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention. Email [Darlene@breakingthrough.org](mailto:Darlene@breakingthrough.org)

**CHILDREN'S ROSARY & EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** on Thursday 19th March from 5.30 to 6.15pm in the Apparition Chapel, Knock Shrine. For children & teens of all ages– all welcome. Under 18's must be accompanied by a parent/ guardian. For more information, call 087 2299623 or visit [www.childrensrosary.org](http://www.childrensrosary.org)

**SPRING STATIONS:** Anyone wishing to host a Station Mass in their home before Easter can contact the Parish Office.

**DOWN SYNDROME IRELAND—MAYO BRANCH:** Fundraising event to mark World Down Syndrome Day next Sat. 21st March in the Community Hall, Ballyhaunis from 8pm to 10.30pm. Featuring David Godfrey & Anne-Marie Foody of Harmony. Social dancing, refreshments & spot prizes. Donations at the door. All welcome.

**BALLYHAUNIS AUTISM FRIENDLY TOWN:** Ballyhaunis businesses, volunteer organisations and service providers are invited to attend our Autism Friendly Champion training, in association with AsIAM. Learn how you can support autism awareness within our community at the training session on Wed. 18th March at 7.15pm in the Communal House, Clare Court. Attendance is free, but registration is required via Eventbrite.

**DAFFODIL DAY 2026:** Daffodil Day, in aid of the Irish Cancer Society, takes place next Friday 20th March. A team of volunteers will be selling merchandise and collecting donations in Nolan's Supervalu, Ballyhaunis from 9am to 5pm on the day. Please come along and support this very worthy cause.

**GAZA CONCERT:** The organisers of the recent "Somebody Special- A Fundraising Concert for Gaza" in Claremorris Town Hall Theatre would like to thank all who supported the event. Over €12,800 was raised for medical relief work in Gaza.

**Recently Baptised**

We welcome into the Faith Community:  
Bernard James McDonagh, Tooraree

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

**GOOD FRIDAY CLEAN-UP:** Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns will host the annual Good Friday clean-up on Friday 3rd April as part of the National Spring Clean Campaign. Local residents groups, organisations and individuals are invited to team up and carry out a clean-up in your own local area, housing estate or "black spot". Bags, gloves, hi-viz vests will be available from 10am that morning at the Community Hall. For more details, email [ballyhaunistidytowns@gmail.com](mailto:ballyhaunistidytowns@gmail.com) or message us on social media

**BIKE CLINIC:** The monthly bike repair clinic takes place on Saturday 21st March in the Community Hall from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

**MOTHER'S DAY:** We wish all the mothers in our parish a very happy Mother's Day, and we remember in prayer our mothers who have gone to their eternal reward.

**Mother's Day Prayer**

*Thank you, Lord, for all our mothers.  
On this day, let us think of them,  
Whether they are with us, or gone to their heavenly home.  
We think of their kindness, their compassion, their care for us  
And, above all, their love for us at all times.  
We pray that You will watch over them  
And support them in the joys & struggles of their lives.  
This we ask, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*