

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

GREETING

In the name of the Father..... Amen. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And with your spirit.

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. Lord, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. May almighty God have mercy on us.... Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ezekiel 37: 12 -14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 129

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (R)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (R)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) (R)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R)

SECOND READING Romans 8: 8 - 11

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

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; who ever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL John 11:3-7.17.20-27.33-45 (Shorter Form Only)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already.

When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Martha remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.'

Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.'

Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you

are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart,

'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me. But I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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

NICENE CREED

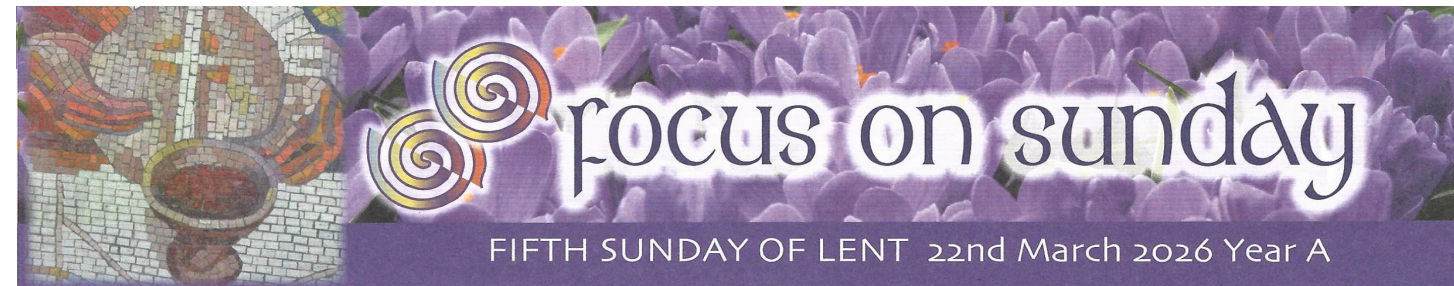
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with 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.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 22nd March 2026 Year A

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

Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. 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.

SANCTUS

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

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Bless, O Lord, your people, who long for the gift of your mercy, and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire they may receive by your generous gift. Through Christ our Lord.

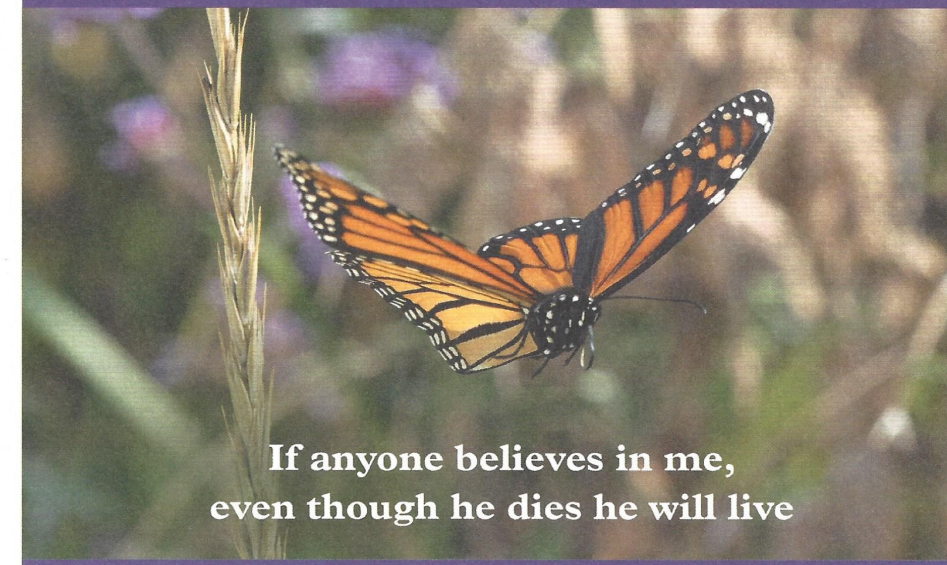
CONCLUDING RITE

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, glorifying the Lord by your life. Thanks be to God.

The gospel of Jesus is one of hope. In raising someone from death he promises companionship, hope and eternal presence to all his people. This is the message of Christian hope.



If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live



In today's dramatic narrative we read how Jesus is surrounded by a culture of death. The disciples are afraid to go back to Bethany because Jesus' opponents want to stone him to death, Mary and Martha are distraught over the death of their brother, and Lazarus himself lies bound in the darkness of the tomb.

It appears as if there is no hope as even Jesus weeps, sharing in this grief and distress as he stands before the tomb of Lazarus. If Lazarus represents anything, he represents all of humanity, and the tomb holds all the situations of death in our world: grief, poverty, heartache, war, injustice, despair, brokenness.

In our own lives, feelings of anxiety, resentment and worries can imprison us. But the good news is we do not have to live in despair. The story of Lazarus invites all of us to resurrection in the here and now! Jesus calls us out of the tomb and into the fullness of life, to experience the consolation of God's love and peace today, not somewhere far off in the future.

It is often easier to remain in the tomb, we tell ourselves, "this will do." But Jesus wants more for us and says, "Lazarus, come forth." To the people Jesus demands, "Unbind him, let him go" and then "They took away the stone". In this story of liberation, we are given a new insight into the power of faith and love. During Lent, this is a message for us all to turn away from a culture of death; to help unbind one another and to allow ourselves and others to emerge into the light. To be saved in this sense is to be made well, to restore wholeness and happiness. In the global sense it means acknowledging that "Injustice is not invincible" (Laudato Si' §74). What comes to mind when you think of a culture of death? Where do you see people trying to move the stone? Where do you see people liberated, free to live in the fullness of life?

At the heart of this story is the fact that love can conquer all, even death and despair. We can all share in this risen life, in love and peace, today. Jesus comes so that we may live life to the full (Jn 10:10).

Jane Mellett is the co-author of *The Deep End – A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew*, Messenger Publications, 2022

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 22nd 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 24th-28th MARCH 2026

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

Carmel, Katie & Thomas Johnston, Knox St.

Helen, Thomas & Bridget Meehan & decd. Curries & Dolores King, Ballaghaderreen

Brian & Mary Hunt, Derrynacong & decd. of the Hunt & Kenny families

Thomas, Delia, Jack & Bill Walsh & decd. of the Walsh & Cunnane families

Margaret & Michael Boyle, Clagnagh

Michael & Delia Regan, Lecarrow & their son Don, USA

Mary & John Kedian, Lecarrow

Decd. members of the Murphy family, Lurgan

William & Bridget Curran, Doctor's Road

Austin Grogan, Doctor's Road

Corporal Patrick Gallagher, Derrintogher

Margaret & John Walsh, USA

Mary & Martin McHale & Mary Finnegan

John Clarke, Hazelhill

Decd. members of the O'Brien family, Holywell

James & Mary Plunkett, Forthill & decd. of the Grogan family, Aghamore

Noel Sloyan, Tully & decd. of the Sloyan family, Brackloon

Edward & Nora Mulkeen, Claremorris & Fr. Bart Delaney

Tom & Delia Cregg & decd. members of the Cregg family, Ballinlough

Bertie Mulligan, Hazelhill

Seamus & Maureen Clarke, their grandson Mark & decd. of the

Clarke & Doherty families

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH:

MONTH'S MIND

Bernard Lyons, Annagh

Tom Regan, Killinaugher

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Seamus Walsh, Johnstown

23rd-29th MARCH	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 10am	Liam Devaney	Marion Regan, Marie Brennan
Tuesday 10am	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Frances Mulhern
Wednesday 10am	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Byrne, Mary Freeley
Friday 10am	Paula Donnellan	Willie Broderick, Irene Healy
Saturday 7.30pm	Grow In Love parent	Lorraine Waldron, Justina Lyons, Paul Sykes, Fionnuala Nolan
Palm Sunday 10am	Norma Jean Folliard, Tommy Caulfield	Marie Brennan, Dymrna Greally, Helena Byrne, Deirdre Browne

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers:

John Regan, Devlis;

Bernice Grogan O'Neill, Long Island, New York & formerly Hazelhill;

Milena Vuckovic, Croatia- mother of Kristina Vuckovic, Hazelhill Downs

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

GROW IN LOVE: The programme for children preparing for their First Holy Communion continues at the 7.30pm Mass next Saturday evening 28th March. Our focus this month is on the way in which our parish family celebrates Easter. For those who believe in the Resurrection, there is always hope. We can all play our part in bringing that hope to our homes, to our parish, to our country and to the world. The First Holy Communion ceremony will take place on Saturday 16th May at 11am.

PPC MEETING: The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting takes place on Monday evening 23rd March at 8.30pm in the Community Hall.

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.

CONFESSIONS in Ballyhaunis Community School on Monday 23rd March from 9am to 1pm.

"WHISPER OF GOD": A one-day silent retreat takes place in Knock Prayer Centre next 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

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

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL: Monthly meeting takes place next Wednesday 25th March at 7.30pm in the Community Hall. New members welcome.

YOUTH 2000: A Youth 2000 Day Retreat takes place on Sat. 25th April at Knock Shrine. This is an opportunity for young people (16-35) to develop their relationship with God, learn more about the Catholic faith and meet other young people through a retreat programme including talks, testimonies & games. Donations only. Visit Youth2000.ie to register, or email connaught@youth2000.ie for more information

SAFETALK TRAINING: Free Suicide Alertness for Everyone (safeTALK) training takes place next 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

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER CEREMONIES:

Palm Sunday: 29th March. Palms are blessed at weekend Masses. Service of Reconciliation & Confessions next Sunday evening 29th March at 6pm.

Holy Thursday: 2nd April. Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8pm.

Good Friday: 3rd April. Stations of the Cross at 3pm. Good Friday Liturgy at 8pm.

Holy Saturday: 4th April. Easter Vigil at 9pm.

Easter Sunday: 5th April. Masses at 10am & 12 noon.

The Holy Week & Easter ceremonies will be broadcast live on Midwest Radio on 96.1FM and on the parish webcam.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: The Tuam & Killala Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Archbishop Francis Duffy, takes place from 28th August to 3rd Sept. 6 nights with direct flights from Knock to Lourdes, full-board hotel accommodation, airport transfers & assistance and a full religious programme. For details, contact Joe Walsh Tours at 01 2410800 or email info@joewalshstours.ie

LIGHT THE FIRE: The "Light the Fire" prayer meeting will take place this Tuesday 24th March at 7pm in St. Joseph's Chapel at the HUB, Knock Shrine. Everyone welcome.

Offertory Collection

15th March 2026

€1,595

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.

IRISH CATHOLIC: Copies are available in the church porch at a cost of €3. Please place money in candelabra coinbox.

BALLYHAUNIS TRANSPORT STUDY: Mayo County Council is preparing a Transport Study for the town of Ballyhaunis. The Transport Study will address the mobility needs of people and businesses in and around Ballyhaunis, making it a more vibrant, accessible, healthier and sustainable town for everyone. The Study will propose measures relating to how people move around the town, to street design, public transport and safer walking and cycling infrastructure. Your comments are now being sought in relation to these measures, and everyone is encouraged to get involved and have their say. The Transport Study for Ballyhaunis town, the plans and particulars of the Study are on public display until Wed. 1st April at Ballyhaunis Library, (Tuesday & Wednesday: 11:30am to 2:00pm & 2:30pm to 7:00pm; Thursday & Saturday: 11:00am to 4:00pm) OR <https://www.mayo.ie/roads/activetravel>
An in-person public event on the proposed Transport Study will be held on Tuesday, 24th March from 4pm to 7pm in the Ballyhaunis Community Hall, F35 Y337.

MUSIC PLAYTIME & OPEN MIC: Music workshop, band jam and more for youth on Saturday next 28th March from 4pm to 6pm in Ballyhaunis Community Hall. Try out an instrument or two, share your musical talent -the stage is yours! Admission is free, refreshments provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Contact ballyhauniscommunitycouncil@gmail.com for further details.

CLASS OF 1986 REUNION: 40th reunion for the Class of '86 in Ballyhaunis Community School will take place on Saturday 4th April in McSiurtáns, Ballyhaunis at 9pm. For more details, contact Deirdre on 086 3821432.