

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

GREETING

In the name of the FatherAmen. The Lord be with you. *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. *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..... Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Exodus 17: 3 - 7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 94:1-2.6-9

R. O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

- Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. *[R]*
- Come in; let us bow and bend low;

let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. *[R]*

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' *[R]*

SECOND READING Romans 5:1-2.5-8
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL John 4: 5-15.19 - 26. 39 - 42
(Shorter Form Only)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans.

Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this

well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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.



focus on sunday

There is a thirst for the love, joy and meaning of the gospel in the hearts of our people today. It is sometimes ignored in the rush of modern consumerism. The readings today invite us to bring that deep thirst for life to Jesus and his gospel.

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

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. 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.*

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

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

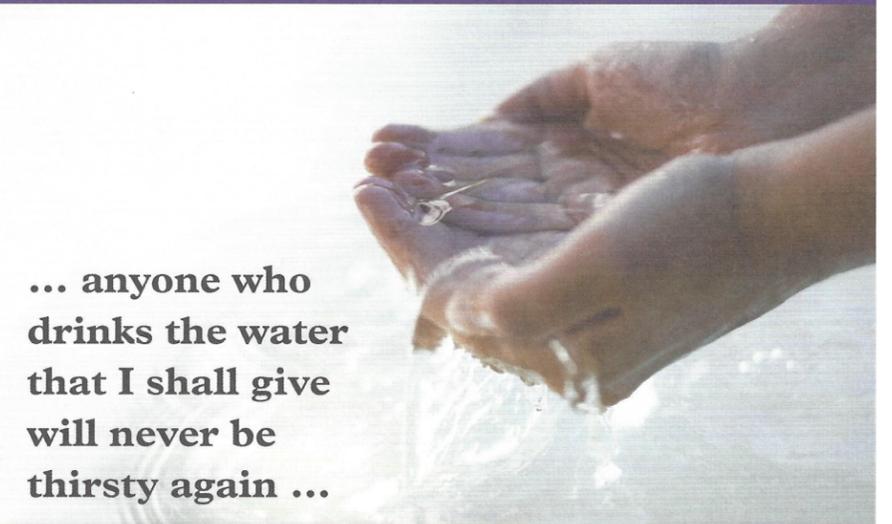
As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful, and in your kindness grant your servants this grace: that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour, they may fulfil the whole of your commands. 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.*



... anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again ...



Partners in mission

The lengthy dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman is one of the most intriguing encounters of the Gospels. They develop a rapport, discussing "living water", the differences between their religious customs, and the promise of the Messiah. Jesus makes a request of her before he offers her anything, implying a level of equality; the woman is an active rather than passive participant in his ministry. Several times in the Gospels, he transcends expectations about traditional women's roles. As they talk, the woman moves from calling Jesus "a Jew", to addressing him as "Sir", then recognising him as a "prophet" and finally announcing him to others as "Messiah". As their connection deepens, she grows in understanding, and her testimony is authentic and convincing. Soon, others are drawn to him. The encounter breaks religious and social taboos, but Jesus casually engages the woman in conversation as if it's the most natural thing in the world. He recognises her as an individual with a life story and a context of her own. There is intimacy in this encounter. She is deeply affected by his openness and his teaching and becomes a crucial witness. Jesus uses the metaphor of the harvest to indicate his mission that includes the Samaritans. The time for the harvest has come, he tells the disciples, and this woman represents that movement outwards. What is beautiful about today's Gospel is the way Jesus goes about winning hearts: meeting this woman where she is, transcending boundaries, listening and allowing space for questions and debate. It's a more gentle model for Lent than we might be used to.

Set aside some time this week to re-read this passage. Try to place yourself in the shoes of the woman as she talks with Jesus. Trace the stages she goes through, from surprise to belief to excitement. Can you identify with these stages in your own faith journey?

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

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, Ballyboggan Rd, Glasnevin, D11 WK38 Phone (01 630 6751).

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 8th 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

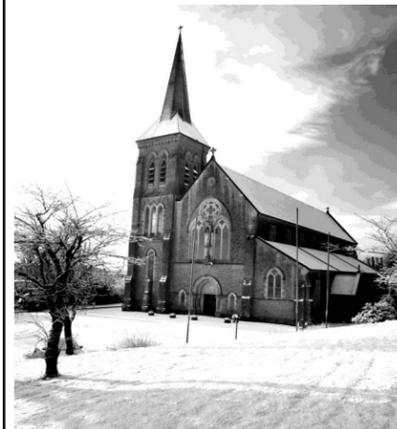
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)

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 10th- 14th MARCH 2026

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

Peter Sloyan, Forthill

Tommy Jordan, Knox St.

Anne Byrne, Main St.

Timothy & Elizabeth (Lily) Rabbitte, Derrylea

Timothy & Nora Rabbitte, Derrylea

Decd. of the Sullivan Family, Derrylea

Larry Farrelly & decd.

Angela Burke & decd. of the Egan & Burke families

Pat O'Brien & decd. Knox St.

Michael & Nora Regan & decd. relatives, Killinaugher

Michael Lyons & decd., Bridge St.

Tony Greene, Knox St. & Pennsylvania

SUNDAY 15th MARCH – MONTH'S MIND

Hélio Francisco de Oliveira, Cloonfad & formerly Brazil

9th-15th MARCH	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 10am	Liam Devaney	Marion Regan, Marie Brennan
Tuesday 10am	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Lorraine Waldron
Wednesday 10am	Mary Donnelly	Mary Sykes, Irene Healy
Friday 10am	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Mary Freeley
Saturday 7.30pm	Joan Flanagan	Laura Brogan, Helene McCafferty, Breda Davis, Eileen Jordan
Sunday 10am	Mike Byrne	Mary Murphy, Willie Broderick, Patricia Plunkett, Daniela Balbino Romao

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will take place next 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 that 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.

'**LIGHT THE FIRE**' prayer meeting will take place this Tuesday, 10th March at 7pm in St. Joseph's Chapel at the HUB, Knock Shrine. Includes Adoration, rosary and a talk. Everyone is welcome.

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers:
Tom Regan, Killinaugher

Offertory Collection
1st March 2026
€2,020

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

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.

FIRST CONFESSIONS: Congratulations to the students of Scoil Íosa who made their First Confessions in St. Patrick's Church last Tuesday evening. They will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 16th May at 11am.

MIGRANT COLLECTION 2026: On St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, 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.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY: Celebrate our Irish culture on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, with music, song and dance in the Community Hall, Ballyhaunis starting immediately after 10am Mass. Refreshments served, all are welcome.

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.

BALLYHAUNIS TIDY TOWNS: A meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th March at 7.30pm. in the Community Hall. New members welcome.

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

MOTHERS PRAYERS in St John's Rest Centre, Knock Shrine, 13th -15th March for mothers who wish to pray together for their children and grandchildren. All women are welcome. Contact Marie 087 6184110

LAETARE VIGIL: Join lay women of all ages, married and single, to unite in a day of prayer with Sisters & Nuns from over a dozen religious orders at the Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary next Saturday 14th March. Spaces limited. Register on Eventbrite.

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER OF ACHILL/ KNOCK: Are you called to join the Third Order of St. Francis, and commit yourself to live the Gospel in the manner of St. Francis? Join us at the Capuchin Friary in Knock, next to Knock House Hotel, on Thursday next 12th March for our first meeting of 2026. Mass at 2pm followed by a short meeting & refreshments. For more information, call Fr. Matthew on 083 3527308.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT in Ballyhaunis Rugby Club this Sunday 8th March at 6pm. Music, disco, Zumba taster, refreshments. Under-18's should be supervised by an adult.

TABLE QUIZ: Anne Lyons will host a Table Quiz in the Rugby Club next Friday 13th March at 8pm, ahead of her fundraising walk of the last 100 km of the Camino French Way in April. All funds raised go to Breakthrough Cancer Research. €40 per table with great prizes and spot prizes on the night. Please support.

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.

DOWN SYNDROME IRELAND fundraising event in the Community Hall, Ballyhaunis on Saturday 21st March from 8.30 to 10.30pm. Featuring David Godfrey & Anne-Marie Foody of Harmony. Social dancing, refreshments & spot prizes. Donations at the door. All welcome.

LANGUAGE CAFÉ: Congratulations to Ballyhaunis Language Café on winning the Cathaoirleach's Award 2025 from Mayo County Council for the "Irish Language Initiative of the Year". Under the auspices of Ballyhaunis Community Council, the Language Café works to promote the Irish language through weekly classes in the Community Hall and a Conversation Corner "as Gaeilge" in the Corner Bar on Sunday nights.

FREE RECYCLING: A free electrical recycling event will take place at Knox St. car park, Ballyhaunis on Saturday 14th March from 10am to 4pm, hosted by WEEE Ireland and supported by Mayo County Council. Any household waste electrical items, large or small, will be accepted for recycling free of charge, as well as all types of batteries and energy-saving lightbulbs.

SPRING STATIONS: Anyone wishing to host a Station Mass in their home before Easter can contact the Parish Office at 094 9630006 to arrange.