

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

GREETING

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.** You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** You will come in glory with salvation for your people: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.** May almighty God have mercy on us....

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

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who believe that your Only Begotten Son, our Redeemer, ascended this day to the heavens, may in spirit dwell already in heavenly realms. Who lives and reigns

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 1: 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 46:2-3, 6-9

R. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast or Alleluia!

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **(R)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R)**
3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **(R)**

SECOND READING Ephesians 1: 17 - 23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the nations; I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 28:16-20

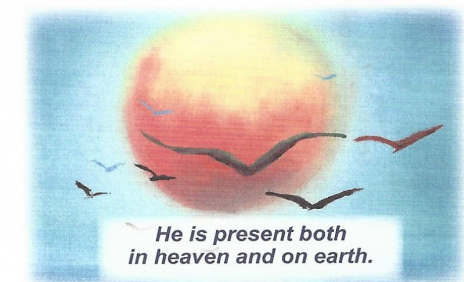
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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

APOSTLES' CREED

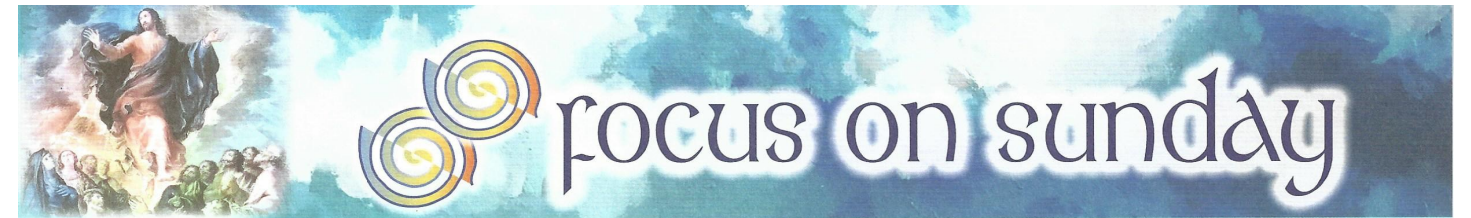
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, All bow for following two lines: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on 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.



He is present both in heaven and on earth.

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 offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. 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. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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

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

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. 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.**



The Lord is absent: that was the first experience of Jesus' followers after his death. But even though he has returned to his Father, he is with us. Today's feast is the celebration that he is present both in heaven and on earth.



As is common in Matthew's Gospel, today we find ourselves with Jesus on a mountain ~ an important setting for moments of divine revelation. The eleven male disciples have been instructed by the female disciples, the two Marys, to go to

Galilee to see the risen Jesus. In Matthew's account, the male disciples have not visited the tomb or seen Jesus up to this point. These women, the first witnesses to the resurrection, pass the message on to the men. This 'passing on' is an important theme as it sets the scene for the 'Great Commission', Jesus handing over his mission to the disciples.

When they see Jesus, the group has a typical mixed response: as always, they are an imperfect bunch. Yet Jesus tasks them to "make disciples of all nations". We remember that early in Matthew's Gospel, Galilee was referred to as "Galilee of the Gentiles" (Mt 4:15), so it is fitting that the inclusive mission to all nations begins here. Matthew often thinks in terms of "delegated powers": Jesus has authority to teach - as noted by the crowds (Mt 7:29) - and this authority is now passed on to the disciples. When he first sent the disciples out, he gave them authority over unclean spirits and illnesses (Mt 10:1). Now, the mission is extended outwards - to all nations.

We are the extension of this commissioning. God's kingdom is not limited to a particular place or set of people. Our communities are called to be alive not inside buildings but on the streets, constantly reaching out. Jesus' mission is all-encompassing, infinitely wide, infinitely open. His final message is a promise to us all: "I am with you always, to the end of the age." We might recall here the promise in Jesus' name Emmanuel, 'God with us' (Mt 1:23). The Risen Jesus has not abandoned the world but is in this world, the divine presence in the community, and his followers are sent to carry this love to the world.

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 17th MAY 2026

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Farragher, 094-9630006 / 087-9210305

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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

ANNIVERSARY MASSES 19th-23rd MAY 2026

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

Fr. Michael Kenny & his parents Michael & Christina Kenny, Skeghard

Teresa Leonard, Knockbrack

John Joe & Ellen Murphy, Killinaugher

Frank Clarke, Colwyn Bay & Hazelhill

Fr. Enda Lyons, Tuam & Knox St.

Val, Pat, Sharon & Anita O'Dowd, Station Rise

James & Delia Ruane, Curries and decd. of the Ruane family, Curries & Swinford

Tom & Agnes Ruane, Bargariff & decd. members of the Murray family

Pat Fleming & Frank McDermott

Pado Moran, Ballindrehid

Michael & Mary Delia Waldron, Ballindrehid

Andrew & Delia Greeley, Ballindrehid

Mamie & Michael Curley & decd. Main Street

Bertie Mulligan, Hazelhill

SUNDAY 24th MAY—MONTH'S MIND:

Gerry Walsh, Tullaghaun

18th-24th MAY	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday 10am	Liam Devaney	Joe Byrne, Marion Regan
Tuesday 10am	Tommy Caulfield	Breege Halpin, Frances Mulhern
Wednesday 10am	Mary Donnelly	Margaret Tarpey, Irene Healy
Friday 10am	Christina Concannon	Willie Broderick, Mary Freeley
Saturday 7.30pm	Katie Conlon	Margaret Byrne, Breda Davis, Eileen Jordan, Mary T. Griffin
Sunday 10am	Sophia Balbino	Mary Sykes, Patricia Plunkett, Daniela Balbino Romao, Aileen Burke

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Congratulations to the 23 children from Scoil Íosa N.S. who receive their First Holy Communion this weekend. May God bless them and their families. Thanks to the teachers who prepared the candidates, the Scoil Íosa choir under the direction of Ms. Carol Freeley, those who decorated the Church and grounds for the occasion, and members of the Parish Pastoral Council who provided refreshments in the Community Hall after the ceremony.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY takes place at the 10am Mass next Sunday 24th May. As May is the month of Our Lady, the focus will be on stories of Mary, along with prayers and songs. All children aged from 4 to 8 are welcome into the Sacristy during Mass, and will return to their families after Communion. The Children's Liturgy Team would also like to congratulate the Scoil Íosa students receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend.



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.



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

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY: Pope Leo XIV has chosen "Preserving human voices and faces" as the theme for the 60th World Day of Communications, taking place this Sunday 17th May, reflecting his concerns about the growing influence of AI. In his message, the Pope highlights the importance of ensuring that technological innovations, particularly artificial intelligence, serve the human person, rather than replacing or diminishing human dignity. The Papal message can be read in full on the Vatican website.

CEMETERY COLLECTION: The annual Cemetery Collection takes place at Masses next weekend 23rd/ 24th May. The envelopes are included in the yearly box of Church envelopes, and spare envelopes will also be available in the church porch. Please return them at weekend Masses or to the parish office. All donations received go directly towards the upkeep and maintenance of the local cemetery, ensuring it is a fitting resting place for all our deceased family members, relatives & friends.

ADORATION: Annual 33 hours of Adoration will take place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Knock commencing with 9am Mass next Friday 22nd May, and concluding with Mass at 5.15pm on Saturday 23rd May. The hour assigned to Ballyhaunis Parish is from 5am on Sat. 23rd.

KNOCK YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME is for adults interested in setting up or developing youth ministry initiatives in their parish. Participants will gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to journey with young people, supporting them as they explore their faith in a safe & welcoming environment. The programme starts in September and will run on Friday evenings & Saturdays. The closing date for applications is 22nd May. For details, call 094 9375321 / email youthministry@knockshrine.ie

SUNFLOWER DAYS: Mayo/ Roscommon Hospice would appreciate your assistance in helping them raise funds on National Sunflower Days for Hospice on Friday & Saturday 12th & 13th June. Sunflowers will be on sale in local stores, and if you can volunteer for a couple of hours, please contact 094 9388666 or email info@hospice.ie

ORGAN DONATION WEEK takes place from 16th-23rd May to highlight the life-saving impact of organ donation. This year's theme is "Don't leave your loved ones in doubt", encouraging families to have a conversation about their views on organ donation. For more information, or to get an organ donor card, visit www.ika.ie

FRIARY CONCERT: Westport-based group CODA are back by popular demand next Saturday 23rd May in the historic Ballyhaunis Friary at 8pm. The Abbey Male Choir will be the support act. Tickets now available on Eventbrite.ie and in The Gem and McHugh's Café.

CAMINO FUNDRAISER: Anne Lyons, Knockbrack wishes to sincerely thank all who supported her recent Camino Walk, which raised €10,769 for Breakthrough Cancer Research. In total, the group of walkers raised over €43,500 which will go towards helping BCR in funding research to improve cancer care and increase survival rates.

ROSARY RALLY: The 41st All Ireland Rosary Rally will take place at Knock Shrine on Saturday 6th June, with a focus on Peace in the World and Renewal of Faith in Ireland. Over 10,000 pilgrims are expected to attend, with a number of speakers led by Archbishop Eamon Martin. See allirelandrosaryrally.com

LOUGH DERG THREE-DAY PILGRIMAGE: From Friday 19th to Sunday 21st June. Bus departing from Renmore Church, Galway at 7am. Other pick-up points can be arranged enroute. For details contact Anne on 086 8381633.

TRIP TO MEDJUGORJE: Fully escorted trip to Medjugorje with Marian Pilgrimages from 14th-21st October. Direct flights from Ireland West Airport Knock to Mostar. Flights, transfers & accommodation. Contact Anne at 086 3766293.

RESIDENTIAL RETREATS: 3-day and 5-day residential retreats at the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Elderfield, Castletown, Co. Laois in July, led by Fr. Prince Clarence SJ. Three-day retreats from 7th to 9th or from 14th-16th July, and a 5-day retreat from 20th-24th July. Booking essential. Register at www.ruachcatholicministry.org or call Oonagh at 086 1736181.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets at 11am every Wednesday morning in the Family Centre, Knock. Call Monica Morley, Knock Shrine for more details on 094 9375320.

Offertory Collection
Sunday 10th May 2026
€1,775

ENERGY MASTER PLAN: The Ballyhaunis Sustainable Energy Community will officially launch its Energy Master Plan on Tuesday 19th May from 6pm to 8pm in the Community Hall. The plan will be launched by Councillor Alma Gallagher, and the event brings together local residents, energy experts and community leaders to outline a roadmap for reducing energy use, cutting carbon emissions and supporting homeowners in improving energy efficiency. Information will be provided on SEAI home energy retrofit grants, and advice on solar options. All welcome to attend.

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL: Monthly meeting takes place on Wednesday 20th May at 8pm in the Community Hall. New members welcome.

BALLYHAUNIS SUMMER FESTIVAL runs over the June Bank Holiday weekend. Starting with Crazy Bingo in the Rugby Club on Wed. 27th May, with Pub Quiz night on Thursday 28th. A Festival Family Night takes place in the Community Hall from 5pm on Friday 29th May. On Saturday 30th, the Mayo Motor Meets Show takes place at Knox St. & Main St. car parks. Kiddies Fun Day is on Sunday 31st May on Main Street from 12.30 to 4pm, followed that evening by the Ballyhaunis Music Festival from 6pm to midnight. A new feature this year is Paint & Sip at Delaney's Pub on Sunday 31st from 7pm to 9pm. Hosted by Rural Irish Artists, this is a beginner-friendly event led by a local artist. Book at ruralirishartists@gmail.com Ahead of the Bank Holiday weekend, the Battle of the Bands Final takes place next Friday 22nd May in the Rugby Club.

GAEILGE FOR BEGINNERS & IMPROVERS: Gaeilge classes continue this Tuesday 19th May from 7pm to 8pm in the Community Hall. Learn or improve your Irish language skills in a relaxed & fun environment with múinteoir Colm. Tea & coffee served, all welcome.