

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

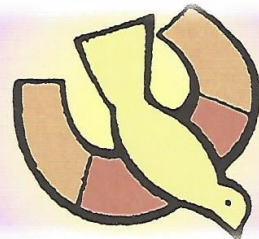
May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 35: 1 - 6.10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.'

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.145:6 -10

R. Come, Lord, and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. [R]
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. [R]
3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. [R]

SECOND READING James 5: 7 - 10

A reading from the letter of St. James
Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 11: 2 -11
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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.

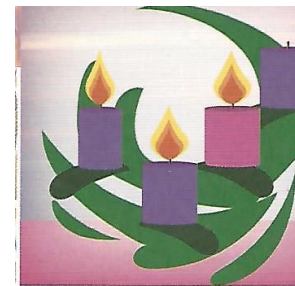
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

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.



focus on sunday

The coming of Christ is a message of joy: a joy founded and rooted in God's love and care for his people, and his promise of an eternal companionship.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. 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.
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. 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 Joy of Love



One of the most poignant conversations in the gospel takes place between John the Baptist and some of his companions who visit him in prison after his arrest by Herod. John must know, I think, that his prospects are not good and somewhere between hope and desperation he asks his companions to go to Jesus and put

the question, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' It is such a loaded question, so full of expectation but tinged with fear of disappointment.

People all around us are wondering the same. They wonder and hope...and pray that someone will help them in whatever difficulty confronts them. They are also afraid that no-one will. Coming up to Christmas these feelings are especially strong.

John got his answer – the Messiah had come! It was a time to rejoice; the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are healed. As Christians, we get to share that joy but also to accept the challenge that comes with it. To love and care for each other just as Jesus loves and cares for us.

You don't have to belong to a charitable organisation to do something. Members of the Society of St Vincent De Paul, for example, will do their utmost to meet some of the needs of people who come to them. You can help them in their commitment. You can be part of the effort to answer the question, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?'

Fr. Paschal Scallion CM, Spiritual Director, Society of St Vincent de Paul

Jesus' Story *Fr. Liam Hickey*

John the Baptist was very surprised when he heard that Jesus was friends with sinners, and even had meals with them. Jesus said "Where there is love, and new life, and people are healed and loved and cared for, there God Our Father is present. We pray "Lord,help us to see you in everyone we meet."

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 11th DECEMBER 2022

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

Email: ballyhaunisparish@gmail.com Parish Office: 094-9630006

PARISH WEBSITE: <http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie>

PARISH RADIO: 105.2FM Newsletter on line: Parish website & www.mcnmedia.tv

Web-cam: <http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie> or www.mcnmedia.tv

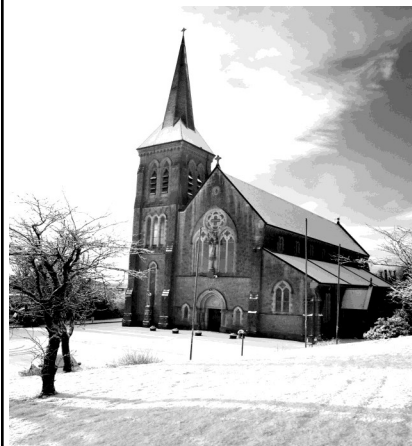
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)

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

Friday: 10.30am. - 7.00pm.

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 12TH-18TH DECEMBER 2022

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

Kitty & Jack Grealley & decd. Drimbane

Mary Kelly, Lecarrow

Thomas & Emily Kelly, Cortoon

Sr. Enda, Sr. Assumpta, Sr. Mechtild & decd. members of the teaching staff of

Ballyhaunis Community School

Mary Fahey, Lecarrow & decd. of the Fahey & Armstrong families

John & Catherine Cunnane & decd; Carrowkeel

Jim & Mary Hopkins & decd; Larganboy

Gertie, James & Michael Loftus, Lavallyroe & decd. of the Loftus family

Pat & Margaret Byrne, Knox St.

Agnes & John Freyne & decd; Clare St.

Nora & Edward Mulkeen, Claremorris

Joe Cleary, Gurrane

Clarence, Delia & Joe Grogan, Conor Dempsey & decd. of

the Grogan family, Hazelhill

Howard Morley, Derrymore

John Jarlath Mullarkey & decd; Tullaghane

Paddy & Josie Ryan, Hazelhill

Mona Molloy, Gurrane

John & Margaret Lyons, Redford

Sunday 18th December - Month's Mind

Bridget Egan, Abbeyquarter

Anne Flanagan, Brackloon & Clare Court

12th-18th Dec.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Jarlath Fahey	Marion Regan, Fionnuala Nolan
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Lorraine Waldron, Breege Halpin
Wednesday	Mary Donnelly	Mary Sykes, Willie Broderick
Friday	Christina Concannon	Kay Curley, Marie Brennan
Saturday 7.30pm	Norrie Dillon	Breda Davis, Mary T. Griffin, Jacinta Flynn, Jenny Glynn
Sunday 10.00am	Mary Finan	Daniela Balbino Romao, Bernie Quinn, Patricia Plunkett, Mary Murphy

All weekday and weekend Masses, and the daily Rosary at 9.00pm continue to be broadcast on parish radio 105.2FM and streamed on the parish webcam: <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-patricks-church-ballyhaunis> or on the website: www.ballyhaunisparish.ie.

Sunday Mass will be broadcast live on Midwest Radio on the 11th & 18th December and on Christmas Day at 10am.

GROW IN LOVE: First Holy Communion preparation programme continues at 7.30 Mass this Sat. evening 10th Dec.

Offertory Collection

4th December 2022

€1,885

"I wish to avail of this space to acknowledge the prayers, condolences, and messages of support that I, and our family, have received since the recent untimely death of my sister Marie. So many people attended her funeral, sent Mass cards and messages of prayerful support. The kindness, prayers and support of so many people have carried us a family since her tragic accident. We ask that you continue to pray for her husband Tom, daughter Sarah, sons Gearóid and Mark. Míle buíochas. Fr Stephen."

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2022:

Christmas Eve—Saturday 24th December:

6pm: Special Family Mass. We invite families to bring along the Baby Jesus from your crib at home to have blessed at this Mass.

9pm: Christmas Vigil Mass.

Christmas Day—Sunday 25th December:

Masses at 10am and 12 noon. The 10am Mass will be broadcast live on Midwest Radio.

St. Stephen's Day—Monday 26th December:

Mass at 12 noon. (No 10am Mass on St. Stephen's Day).

CONFESSIONS: A Service of Reconciliation will be held on Sunday 18th December at 6pm.

FESTIVE FAVOURITES AT THE FRIARY: A Christmas Carol service will take place in the historic Friary next Sunday 18th Dec. at 6.30pm, featuring The Abbey Male Choir, Parish Choir, Scoil Íosa Children's Choir and the Ballyhaunis Folk Group. Donations to the local St Vincent de Paul. Come along and enjoy an evening of festive music & song.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ENVELOPES & WEEKLY BOXES FOR 2023 : Some boxes are still in the sacristy, and we would be very grateful if the distributors could collect them after Masses this weekend.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: A new Adoration schedule is now in place, with Adoration taking place in the Blessed Sacrament chapel every day, Monday to Sunday, at allocated hours between 9am and 7pm. Thanks to all who responded to the recent invitation for adorers.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: Sincere thanks to all who have returned collection envelopes for the local branch of St. Vincent de Paul. These are still available in the Church porch and in local outlets and can be returned to the parish office. Donations may also be made on-line to: Account No: 5585 5348 BIC:BOFIE2D IBAN: IE96 BOFI 903728 5585 5348

If you are in need of help from St Vincent de Paul this Christmas, please outline your specific needs in writing and send to Ballyhaunis SVP, The Friary House, Ballyhaunis.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: Carol Service in Knock Basilica on Sun 18th Dec. at 8pm. Featuring Schola Cantorum Basilicae, together with ConTempo String Quartet and organist Mark Keane. All welcome. The service is free of charge and can also be viewed online on www.knockshrine.ie

SCHOOL REUNION: Students who graduated from Ballyhaunis Community School in 1992 are invited to a reunion on Friday 30th December, starting with a Prayer Service in the school at 7pm, followed by refreshments in The Clock Bar. More details on Facebook Class of '92.

MAYO CANCER SUPPORT Men's Support Group will meet at Rock Rose House, 32 St. Patrick's Avenue, Castlebar (opposite Mayo University Hospital) this Thursday 15th Dec. at 7pm. Participants will gain insight, support and understanding from other men who have gone through a similar cancer journey, either personally or with a loved one. All are welcome to come along on the night or call 094 9038407 for more details.

MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL is currently inviting applications for the second annual Cathaoirleach's Awards. The awards will recognise the unsung heroes that exist in every local community and who represent the best of Mayo; the individuals and groups that work quietly behind the scenes to make our communities stronger, more vibrant, and caring. The awards will recognise 12 winners across eight different categories from a broad spectrum of individuals and organisations from across the county. Closing date for nominations is Friday 13th January 2023. For more details, visit: www.mayo.ie/cathaoirleachsawards2022."

Last year, the Annagh Magazine was the winner of the inaugural Mayo Publication Award. This year's edition of the popular magazine now on sale in local outlets.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS @THE PLAZA IN KNOCK:

The two-day Christmas Market takes place this Sat. & Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Kick off your Christmas shopping with a wide range of handmade gifts from local crafters, and Santa Claus will make a special visit at 2pm on Sunday 11th.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS are available in the sacristy this weekend, €6 for a pack of 10 cards.

2023 PILGRIMAGES to Fatima on 11th May for 7 nights, and to Medjugorje & Cavtat for 7 nights (4+3) from 28th June 2023, in Association with Joe Walsh Tours. Direct flights from Dublin, with full religious programme. For more information, contact John McLoughlin on 087 7627910.

"AN IRISH PILGRIMAGE GUIDE TO THE HOLY LAND"

is a new book by Michael Kelly, editor of the Irish Catholic, which explores the places associated with the life of Christ. Michael, who has led many pilgrimages to the Holy Land, says he hopes the book can also act as an "armchair retreat" for people who cannot travel to the Holy Land, bringing the Gospel to life for them. Available now in all good bookshops and online at www.columbabooks.com

GAA DINNER DANCE: Tickets for the Ballyhaunis GAA/LGFA dinner dance on Thursday 29th Dec. in the McWilliam Park Hotel are now on sale from Stella O'Neill, Ann Lyons, Ann Phillips & Ciara Buckley.

Advent Prayer by Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.

We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

