

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. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, 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 Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem; Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you,

he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Isaiah 12:2-6

R. Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. [R]

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. [R]

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. [R]

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-7
A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

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 Luke 3:10-18

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown

among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

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,

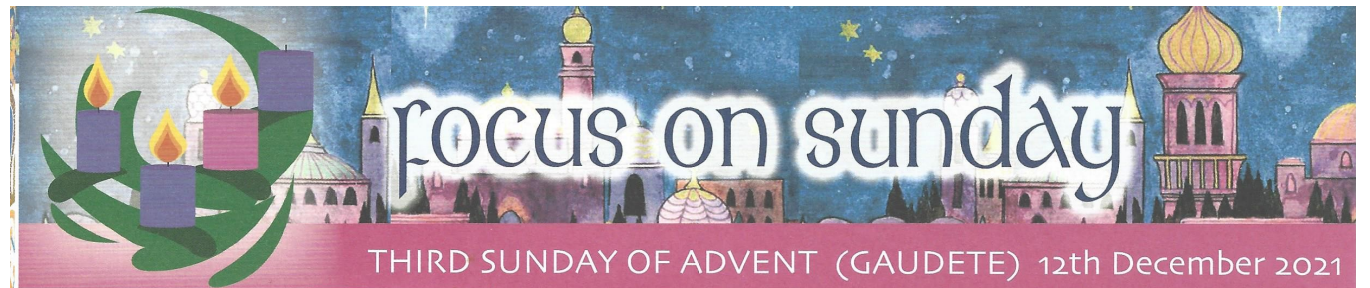
All bow for following three lines:

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.



The coming of Jesus is joyful news for all his people. Our hope at Christmas is to be bearers of his joy.

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

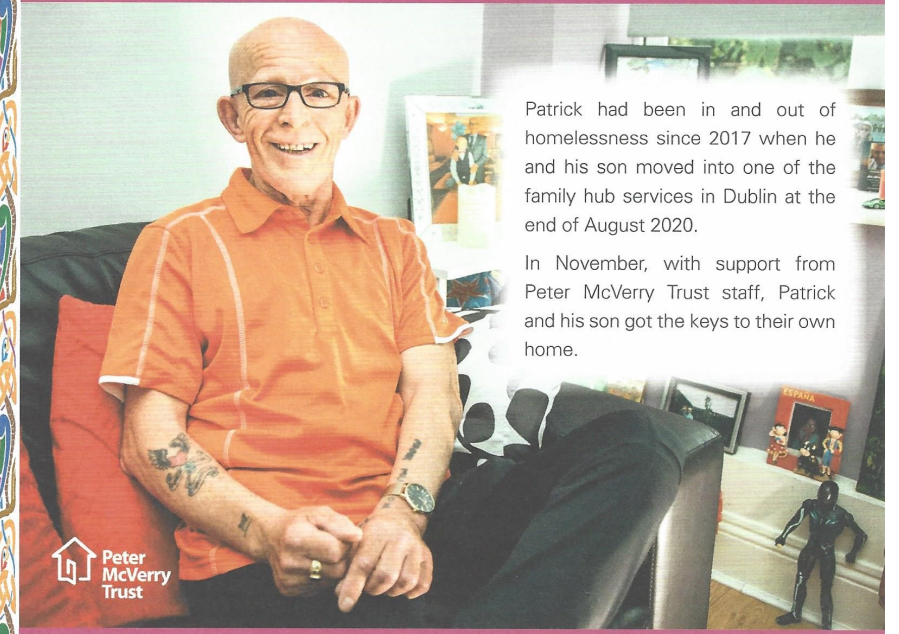
We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord.

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.



Patrick had been in and out of homelessness since 2017 when he and his son moved into one of the family hub services in Dublin at the end of August 2020.

In November, with support from Peter McVerry Trust staff, Patrick and his son got the keys to their own home.



Today's gospel is just as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago.

Today, millions live in poverty, die of hunger and have no place to call home, while some of us have more than we could ever need.

"What I have belongs to me and I can do what I like with it" is a widely accepted attitude.

But the fundamental value of the gospel is solidarity. Solidarity is a radical concept: it means doing whatever we can to lift the burdens from the shoulders of those less fortunate than ourselves, at whatever cost to ourselves. It calls us to love, not just those in our family, our friends or those who are "like us," but to have a special love for the poor and "the other."

Love for them is expressed in caring and sharing what we have. It calls us to recognise that what I have does not, in fact, belong to me; everything is a gift, and I am only a steward of the gifts, called to use them responsibly in the light of the needs of others. WE can experience the joy at the re-birth of Jesus in our lives at Christmas in the joy of giving. Perhaps today Jesus would say: "Live simply and share generously."

Fr. Peter McVerry SJ, Peter McVerry Trust.

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey



Jesus was always saying that people don't realise how good they are, getting up everyday for work for family, walking the floor at night minding children, having to watch what others want on TV, paying money for accommodation, clothes, food and books instead of buying fancy extras for themselves. All this is unselfishness. That is what Jesus noticed and praised in people. Lord, bless our preparations for Christmas. Help us to make home happy by working for each other.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 12th DECEMBER 2021

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, Began: 094-9313937

ANNIVERSARY MASSES 13th - 19th DECEMBER 2021

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

Mary Kelly, Lecarrow

Joan Flynn, Abbeyquarter

Kitty & Jack Grealley, Drimbane

Tom Mitchell, Manchester & Irishtown, his parents Tom & Delia & his brother John

John & Catherine Cunnane & decd. Carrowkeel

Mike Mulrennan, Bracklaghboy, & decd. of the Mulrennan family, Gurteen

Decd. Members of Annagh Magazine Society

Agnes & John Freyne, Clare St. & decd. of the Freyne & Dyer families, & Jim Mulligan, Devlis

Paddy & Josie Ryan, Hazelhill

Mary & Patrick Gildea, Johnstown

Michael & Katie Conroy, Claremorris

Phil, Peter & Stephen Keogh, Dublin

Jim & Mary Hopkins, Larganboy

Fr. Joe Cooney, Ballyhaunis

Michael Murray & decd. Doctor's Road

Anthony Coyne & decd. Leenane

Freddie O'Brien & decd.

Clarence, Delia & Joe Grogan, Clare St., Conor Dempsey, & decd. of the Grogan Family,

Hazelhill

Decd. of the Lyons family, Skeghard, the Waldron family, Main St. & Máisín Meath, Clare St.

Gertie Loftus, & decd.

Decd. of the Finley, Nicholson & Durkan families

John Mullarkey & decd. Tullaghaune

Padraic, Agnes & Angela Heaney, Bargarriff

Sunday 19th Dec. 10.00 First Anniversary: Thomas Kelly, Cortoon

(also remembering his wife Emily)

13th - 19th Dec.	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Jarlath Fahey	Marion Regan, Joe Byrne
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Lorraine Waldron, Breege Halpin
Wednesday	Martin Fitzmaurice	Mary Sykes, Eileen Lynch
Friday	Mary Donnelly	Eileen Jordan, Willie Broderick
Saturday 7.30pm.	Pat Curley	Laura Brogan, Clare Higgins, Margaret Byrne
Sunday 10.00am.	Orla Phillips	Aileen Burke, Geraldine Murphy, Mary Murphy
Sunday 12.00	Paula Donnellan	Eileen Donnellan, Wiktor Siemionkowski, Helena Byrne

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers

Richard Waldron, Derrymore & formerly Carrowkeel

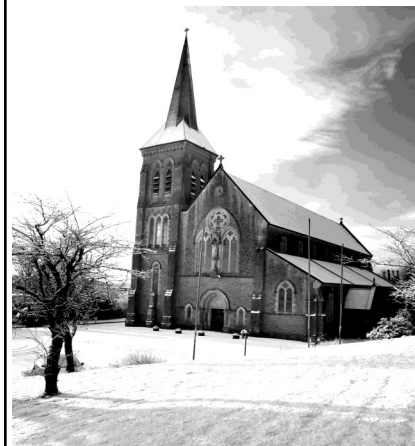
Katie Hopkins, Carrick & formerly Island

Tommy Byrne, New Jersey, USA & formerly Derrymore

Offertory Collection

5th December 2021

€1,550



MASSES:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00am.

Saturday Evening Vigil: 7.30pm

Sunday: 10.00am. 12.00 noon

CONFESSIONS:

Before Saturday Vigil Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday: 10.30am. - 1.00pm.

BAPTISMS

Saturdays & Sundays 11.00am.

Minimum of two weeks' notice required. Contact the parish office, 094-9630006, for updates due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.



CHRISTMAS MASSES 2021

Christmas Eve - Friday 24th December; Mass at 10.00am.

Special Family Mass at 6.00pm. At this Mass we invite families to bring along the Baby Jesus from your crib at home to have it blessed.

Christmas Vigil Mass at 9.00pm.

Christmas Day - Saturday 25th; Masses at 10.00am. & 12 noon

St. Stephen's Day - Sunday 26th; Masses at 10.00am. & 12 noon

The 10.00am. Mass on Christmas Day will be broadcast on Mid West Radio.

CONFESSIONS: A Service of Reconciliation will be held on Sunday 19th December at 6.00pm.

Confessions will also be available from 3.00 - 4.00pm. on Christmas Eve.

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>

The 10 o'clock Mass will be broadcast on Mid West Radio on Sunday 12th & 19th December and on Christmas Day.

PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING MASS:

For clarity following recent updated Covid guidance, Religious Services in Places of Worship are unchanged regarding capacity, with all other protective measures in place to ensure safety of the congregation, i.e. wearing of masks and hand sanitising - even if we have received the vaccine.

Likewise, there are no changes to attendance at funeral services however any post funeral service gatherings must comply with hospitality rules including no multiple table bookings.

With regard to wakes in private homes general advice on household mixing is 3 other households (4 in total) applies.

Please use the lighters for lighting candles as the hand sanitiser is highly flammable.

While the church building and ancillary buildings (toilets and sacristy) are sanitised before and after each Mass or ceremony, we want to stress that if you manifest any of the symptoms of Covid-19, if you have any underlying health issues, or feel that you might be endangering your health by entering a church building, then we encourage you to continue to join us on parish radio 105.2FM or on the parish webcam: www.ballyhaunisparish.ie/webcam

In our Gospel today the people ask John the Baptist "What must we do?" Perhaps you are seeking advice on what God is asking of you too. Why not speak to your Diocesan Vocations Director or contact the National Vocations Office, email: info@vocations.ie

WEEKLY ENVELOPES: Sincere thanks to all who are returning their weekly contributions either by envelope or by direct debit. Envelopes can be returned at any of the daily Masses or otherwise can be dropped in the letter box of the Parochial House. If you wish to set up a direct debit, the account details are as follows: Ballyhaunis Parish Church. BIC: ULSB IE 2D IBAN: IE69 ULSB 9852 7005 5200 31

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ENVELOPES & WEEKLY BOXES FOR 2022: A few boxes remain for collection - we would be very grateful if the distributors of envelopes would collect them after any of the Masses this weekend.

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

BALLYHAUNIS ST. VINCENT DEPAUL: Sincere thanks to all who have returned donation envelopes; these can still be placed in the church collection box at Masses during the coming week or dropped in at the parish office. SVP Volunteers will also gratefully accept donations or you may donate on-line to:

Account No: 55 855348 BIC: BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE96 BOFI 9037 2855 8553 48

If you are in need of our help please write to us outlining your specific needs at this time. While funds are limited we do have a plentiful supply of food, which can be collected by appointment. Your correspondence should be addressed to **Ballyhaunis SVP, The Friary House, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo F35 PF66**

CRAFT STALL: A Sister from St. Elisabeth Convent, Belarus, will create a small stall of their crafts in our church on Friday 17th December at 10.00am. The Sisters provide care for 200 orphanage children as well as rehab shelters and workshops for homeless men and women, female ex-prisoners and mentally challenged women. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Copies of the Irish Catholic newspaper are available at the back of the church. Cost €2.50, please place money in the candelabra.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets every Wednesday at 11.00am. at the Family Centre, Knock. All are welcome. Further information from Monica Morley on 094-9375320.

MAYNOOTH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: This year three Maynooth College and University choirs will gather for the annual carol service: the College Chapel Choir, directed by Dr John O'Keeffe; the Schola Gregoriana, led by Dr Darina McCarthy; and Maynooth University Chamber Choir, under the direction of Dr Michael Dawson. The carol service will be livestreamed on <https://maynoothcollege.ie> on Wednesday 15th December at 7:30pm. The service will be led by the President of St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Rev Prof Michael Mullaney.

NBSCCCI Review of Safeguarding Practice in the Archdiocese of Tuam: The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) has conducted a review of safeguarding practice in the Archdiocese of Tuam, and its final Report was received on last week. Archbishop Michael Neary has welcomed the findings of the Report and its positive assessment of the application of the seven safeguarding standards right across the Archdiocese.

To coincide with publishing the Report on the diocesan website, Archbishop Neary wishes to thank and congratulate all those who have worked tirelessly to bring safeguarding practice in the diocese to this high standard. He thanks everybody who has been involved in any way, especially the priests and Local Safeguarding Representatives, volunteers and youth workers, parish and diocesan personnel, the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee, the Diocesan Case Management Committee, the Designated Liaison Persons and those who deliver the safeguarding training. This, Archbishop Neary believes, has been a truly synodal exercise, and it has been most affirming to see the good work at every level being recognised and acknowledged by independent external reviewers.

The Report is available on the diocesan website <https://www.tuamarchdiocese.org/2021/12/nbsccc-safeguarding-review-2021/>