

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

GREETING

In the name of the FatherAmen.
The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Have mercy on us, O Lord.
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant us your salvation.
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.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the 2nd book of Chronicles.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his

kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

**The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 136:1-6

R. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. (R)
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither (R)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R)



SECOND READING Ephesians 2:4-10

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

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

**The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL John 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted

up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

**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.

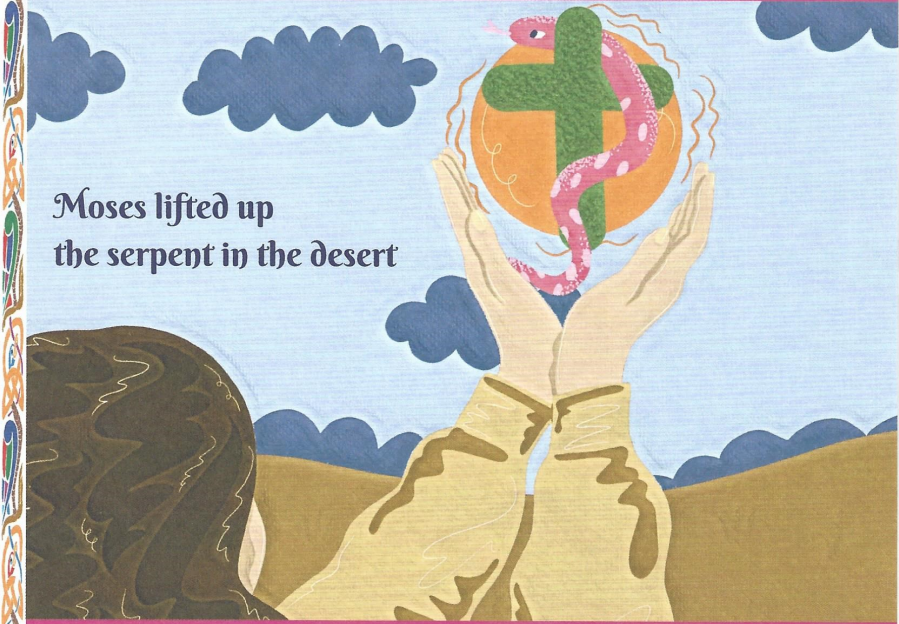


focus on sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 10th March 2024

(Laetare Sunday)

Jesus offers a message of hope and salvation to the whole world.



Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert

Focus A Christian should never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! We traditionally think of Lent as a time of penance, fasting and prayer and can't wait for it to end. We rarely see it as a time of joy. But Lent is based on our belief that we live, every moment of our lives, in the knowledge that we are loved, infinitely and unconditionally, by God. Gratitude is the only foundation on which we can build an authentic relationship with God. And so, like Jesus, who spent forty days in the desert, discerning God's will for him and rejecting the temptations which would divert him from doing God's will, we too, in gratitude for being loved by God, reflect during Lent on God's will for us. Like Jesus, we are all surrounded by many temptations, which can, subtly and unsuspectingly, divert us from doing God's will. "Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades." (The Joy of the Gospel, Ch 1 v 2). Laetare (meaning: rejoice) Sunday is a reminder that our penance, fasting and prayer, in the search for God's will, is always a time of rejoicing, as we allow the Spirit to challenge us and lead us to a closer relationship with God.

Fr. Peter McVerry

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus tells us today that God The Father loves our world with all its beauty, the stars, the sea, the mountains, the rivers and all animals and fish that live there. We, God's Children, are His greatest creation. Sometimes we forget God and we begin to fight with each other and disrespect our world. When we talk to Jesus His Spirit always helps us to notice God's gifts, like family, friends and the people that keep roads and parks tidy and bright.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. 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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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

THE SIGN OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And with your spirit.

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

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. 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.

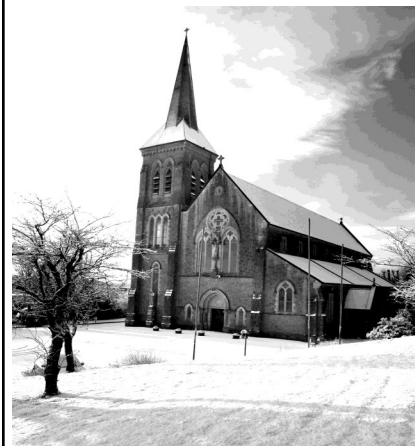
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ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 10th MARCH 2024

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 11th-17th MARCH 2024

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

Sighle & John Forde, Clare St. & The Square
 Frances O'Toole, Doocastle
 Tom, Delia & Marian Glynn, Upper Main St.
 Tommy Jordan & decd. Knox St.
 Elizabeth & Timothy Rabbitte, Derrylea
 Timothy & Nora Rabbitte & decd. of the Sullivan family, Derrylea
 Larry Farrelly & decd. of the Farrelly family

SUNDAY 17th MARCH - MONTH'S MIND

Anne O'Dwyer, Abbey Street

11th-17th March	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Martin Fitzmaurice	Joe Byrne, Anne Carney
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Frances Mulhern, Helen Freeley
Wednesday	Mary Donnelly	Mary Sykes, Irene Healy
Friday	Christina Concannon	Mary Freeley, Willie Broderick
Saturday 7.30pm	Aoife Doherty	Laura Brogan, Eavan Caulfield, Margaret Byrne, Helene McCafferty
Sunday 10am St. Patrick's Day	Murt Hunt	Marie Brennan, Dympna Greally, Helena Byrne, Bernie Quinn

Recently Baptised

We welcome into the Faith Community
 Annie Faye Heaney, Ballyglass

Offertory Collection

Sunday 3rd March 2024
 €2,000

All weekday and weekend Masses, and the daily Rosary at 9pm (when possible) Mondays to Fridays, continue to be broadcast on parish radio 105.2 FM and streamed on the parish webcam: <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-patricks-church-ballyhaunis> or on the website: www.ballyhaunisparish.ie

HOLY WATER BOTTLES: Anyone who has Easter Holy Water bottles from last year is asked to return them to the Church porch, so the bottles can be re-used this Easter.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at 10am Mass next Sunday 17th March. Children from age 4 to 8 (up to 2nd class) are invited to come into the Sacristy during Mass, and will return to their parents after Communion with their art work.

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers:

Sally Lee née Fitzmaurice, Thurles & formerly Lisbane;
 Mark Reynolds, New York- son of Bernie O'Connell late of Gurraune;
 Fr. Michael Spelman, Woodfield, Kilkelly



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 18th May.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY: Next Sunday 17th March is the Feast Day of St. Patrick- Ireland's patron saint. Mass will be celebrated at 10am with music provided by the combined Parish & Abbey Male Choirs.

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK: On Friday next 15th March, Knock Shrine will host a special evening celebrating Irish music, heritage and culture at Knock Basilica, starting at 8pm. Free admission & all welcome. Details on www.knockshrine.ie

IRISH NIGHT: Celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge in Ballyhaunis Community Hall next Saturday 16th March from 6 to 9pm with Irish short films, traditional music & dance, poetry, song, ceol agus craic. Refreshments served. Admission is free and all are welcome. Organised by Ballyhaunis Community Council with sponsorship from Conradh na Gaeilge.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS: This week, Irish Bishops emphatically called for a ceasefire in Gaza, stating "Let us all say enough...Stop the War! In saying this, we join with many in our parishes, together with all people of goodwill, in demanding an immediate end to the daily horror of killing, wounding and desecration of property and infrastructure in the Holy Land". (Read the full statement on www.catholicbishops.ie)

PPC NEWSLETTER: The Parish Pastoral Council Newsletter from July to December 2023 is still available in the Church porch. Please take a copy home. It contains articles and photos of events that took place in the parish in the second half of last year.

FAITH & LIGHT: A church gate collection will be held in Ballyhaunis next weekend 16th/17th March for Faith & Light, which brings together people with a learning disability, their families, carers & friends.

MS IRELAND would like to thank all who supported their recent church gate collection in Ballyhaunis, which raised almost €720. All funds raised go directly to the provision of services to people in the South Mayo area living with MS.

BALLYHAUNIS TIDY TOWNS: Next meeting this Monday evening 11th March at 7.30pm in the Community Hall. New members welcome. The Ballyhaunis Biodiversity Action Plan will be launched on Friday 22nd March from 12 noon to 2 pm in the Community Hall. Visual presentation of the plan, guest speakers, activities for children & refreshments. All welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY CLEAN-UP: The Good Friday clean-up will be held in Ballyhaunis & surrounding areas on Friday 29th March. Clubs, organisations and residents associations are invited to join with Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns in this community event. Register online at www.nationalspringclean.org for a free clean-up kit.

BALLYHAUNIS ACTIVE RETIREMENT: Next meeting on Wed. 13th March at 1.30 in the Communal House, Clare Court.

GRETB DUNMORE are holding an Open Day next Thursday 14th March from 10am to 1pm. Come along and explore further education options on offer in September (full & part-time) & chat with the tutors. Call 093 39778 for more information.

BIKE REPAIR CLINIC in the Community Hall next Saturday 16th March from 10am to 12.30. Details on 087 9777899.

PASTORAL LETTER: As we journey through Lent, it is an opportune time to think about the Synodal Pathway which will feature again in October's second plenary meeting of the Synod of Bishops in Rome. Last week, we published the first half of a Pastoral Letter issued by Archbishop Francis Duffy entitled "**Imagining a new way of being Church in Ireland**"...in which the Archbishop asked "What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time? That is the key question being asked of us in this diocese and in this country as we continue along the synodal pathway".



This is the remaining text from the Pastoral Letter: "Although times are changing, let us not forget what is constant, what we are about as a Church, as a diocesan community of faith. As believers, we are called to proclaim Christ crucified and risen. He was crucified out of love for us, he was raised from the dead out of love for us - God's unfathomable and unending love for us. Our faith in the person and mission of Jesus Christ must remain central to all our deliberations, planning and structures, because without Jesus and without his Gospel - this radical and good news, then we are just looking at change for the sake of change. So, put simply, "*how can we, the Christian Faithful - laity, religious and clergy be co-responsible - i.e. plan, work and cooperate together, supporting each other in our equal but different God-given vocations, in order to spread and keep that good news about Jesus to the forefront of life?*"

How can you do that, or continue to do that in your parishes, in these changing times? Our mission it to spread and put into practice the Good News of Jesus Christ. How can we do it better and how can we do it with an eye on conveying the key message about Christ to as many as possible? Think about it. How is that being carried out in your parish right now? How could it be better? Does it need to be different, given the pace of change all around us? What are your suggestions? Have a meeting at parish pastoral council level. Have a meeting at deanery pastoral council level. Meetings of people already involved as readers, ministers of Holy Communion, finance committees, youth groups. Parishioners, priests and religious, any group that is interested is welcome to meet and discuss and think deeply about the key question. Please email your responses to me, before 15th March, at admin@tuamarchdiocese.org where our synodal committee will collate our diocesan report. This will form part of our national input to the Synod 2024 of next October. Thank you. With every good wish and blessing,
 + **Francis Duffy, Archbishop of Tuam**

MOTHER'S DAY: We wish all the mothers in our parish a very happy Mother's Day, and we remember in prayer our mothers who have gone to their eternal reward.

Mother's Day Prayer

*Thank you, Lord, for all our mothers.
 On this day, let us think of them,
 Whether they are with us or gone to their heavenly home.
 We think of their kindness, their compassion, their care for us
 And above all, their love for us at all times.
 We pray that you will watch over them
 And support them in the joys and struggles of their lives.
 This, we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen.*