



# Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

28th JANUARY 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

## THE GIFT OF CELIBACY

In the second reading we hear St Paul speak about the vocation of celibacy that some Christians are called to. This is not meant to disrespect marriage, which Jesus and Paul both praised highly. But celibacy is also part of God's plan for some people.

Celibacy means more than being single - it's a commitment to live without a spouse because that's what God is asking you to do. We know it's a requirement for priests and religious, but lay people can also have a vocation to celibacy. For celibates, it can take time to accept God's call, but we should see it as positive and life-giving. Following God's plan for our lives will always make us happiest in the long run. And celibate people remind all of us that earthly marriage is only a shadow of the ultimate marriage between Christ and the Church that everyone is invited to. May we appreciate celibacy in the Church for the gift that it is.



## WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

**Recently Deceased**  
Anthony Doherty

**Month's Mind**  
John McClements

**Anniversaries**  
Sr Mark McAfee, Sr Auxilia McKenna, Mary Coyles, Roseanne Doran, Brendan Douglas, Janet Downey, Marie Dunlop, Bernard Greene, Mary McCloskey, Evelyn McVicker, Alex O'Connell, Sarah O'Connor

## REQUIESCAT IN PACE

## PARISH FINANCES

Thank you to everyone who supports the parish through our collections. If you want to request a box of envelopes there is a form at the back of the church. Remember that you can also support the parish through a regular standing order or by making a one off payment through your bank or online. Our account details are:

**Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan**  
**Sort code: 95-06-79**  
**Account No: 10020192.**

If you want to give by cheque please make payable to:  
**Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan.**

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

If you need our help please call us confidentially on **07860455549**. For more information about the work of our conference you can speak to any of our members. Thank you for your ongoing support.

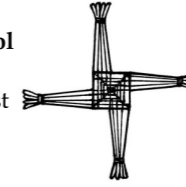
## OLD & NEW@No.5

We are situated at 5 Gate End, Ballymoney and open 10am-4.30pm from Wednesday - Saturday. Take a look at our Facebook page for more information.

There are a number of special feast days this week with various traditions and blessings attached:

## THURSDAY: ST BRIGID'S DAY

Children from St Brigid's Primary School will be joining us for Mass at 10am on Wednesday to celebrate their special feast day. Fr Damian will also bless the St Brigid's crosses that the children have made.



## FRIDAY: FIRST FRIDAY & CANDLEMAS

Our parish novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus continues. **Friday (2nd)** is the first Friday of February so we will have our **Holy Hour** from 6pm with Adoration and Confessions and then Benediction at 6.45pm.



Friday is also the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It is also known as Candlemas because Mass begins with a blessing of candles and a procession to the altar. There will be Mass at 7pm. Blessed hand candles will be available at Mass and you are welcome to bring any candles of your own which you wish to have blessed. The Sacred Heart novena prayers will be prayed at the end of Mass.

## SATURDAY 3rd: FIRST SATURDAY & ST BLAISE

As part of the 2024 Year of Prayer we will be offering the First Saturday devotions to Our Lady beginning this month. Each First Saturday of the month we will have Mass in honour of Our Lady in Dervock at 9.30am.

This Saturday is also the feast of St Blaise who is patron saint of those with throat ailments. The traditional blessing of throats will be offered at the end of the Mass in Dervock and at the Saturday evening vigil Mass in Ballymoney.



## COURSE FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD

The Living Church Office is offering an enrichment programme for Ministers of the Word in our parish and anyone who might be interested in reading at Mass in the future. The first part of the program will take place online via zoom on **Tuesday 27th February 7-8:30pm**.

This will be followed by an in-person enrichment day will on **Saturday 2nd March 10am-3:45pm** at Dunloy Parish Centre, 17 Bridge Road, Dunloy BT44 9AN.

To book your place on the program, please contact the parish office or Aishling Steen or click on the booking link <https://forms.office.com/e/K1kyN1NnUD> e-mail: a.steen@downandconnor.org or telephone **028 90690920**

If you would like to become a Minister of the Word or to find out more about reading at Mass on weekdays or Sundays please speak to Fr Damian.

## ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

If you have a child starting school in September 2024 or know someone who is, please contact St Brigid's Primary School to register your interest.

The application process is online this year and is open until **26th January**. All of the information and guidance will be on the Education Authority website <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Please contact the school to if you require any assistance in completing the online application or have any questions on **028 27662664**.

## ONLINE THEOLOGY COURSES

The Priory Institute in Dublin provides online theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before February 14th. Find out more on our website: [prioryinstitute.com](http://prioryinstitute.com)

THIS WEEK	
<i>Parish webcam can be viewed on our YouTube channel (search for Ballymoney Parish)</i>	
<b>SATURDAY 27th</b>	5.30-5.50pm Confessions 6pm Vigil Mass
<b>SUNDAY 28th</b>	9.30am Mass 4.30-4.50pm Confessions 5pm Mass
<b>MONDAY 29th</b>	10am Mass
<b>WEDNESDAY 31st</b>	no Mass
<b>THURSDAY 1st</b> St Brigid's Day	10am Mass with St Brigid's PS
<b>FRIDAY 2nd</b> Candlemas First Friday	6pm Holy Hour <i>with Adoration and Confessions</i> 7pm Mass <i>with blessing of candles, procession and novena prayers</i>
<b>SATURDAY 3rd</b> First Saturday	9.30am Mass in Dervock <i>with blessing of throats</i>
<i>Our Lady &amp; St Patrick's is open every day for private prayer - usually from 10am to 4.30pm.</i>	
<b>Other Sunday Masses in this Family of Parishes:</b>	
Saturday 5pm - Portstewart	
Saturday 6pm - St Malachy's, Coleraine	
Sunday 10am - Portstewart	
Sunday 11am - St Malachy's, Coleraine	
Sunday 12noon - Portrush	

## PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor  
North Connor Pastoral Community

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Youtube: Ballymoney Parish

## HYMNS FOR MASS

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto Me, and rest;  
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
Thy head upon My breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
Weary, and worn, and sad;  
I found in Him a resting-place,  
And He has made me glad

Holy God, we praise thy Name!  
Lord of all, we bow before thee;  
All on earth thy sceptre claim,  
All in heav'n above adore thee;  
Infinite thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is thy reign.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
The living water: thirsty one,  
Stoop down, and drink, and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
Of that life-giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
And now I live in Him.

Hark! the loud celestial hymn  
Angel choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and Seraphim  
In unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord!