



Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

18th FEBRUARY 2024
First Sunday of Lent

WHAT'S LENT ALL ABOUT?

So Lent has begun and we're all (hopefully!) doing something to mark the season. But we also need to think about why we're doing it. It's easy to get caught up in doing Lent for Lent's sake. We set ourselves a task, we promise to go off something or do something extra and to put some money in the Trócaire box. And that's really important, it would be sinful if we didn't do *something* for Lent.



But there's a risk that we can get so caught up in what we're doing that we forget why we're doing it. Lent is not an endurance test to prove how tough we are. It's a preparation, a time to open our hearts to God in a new way. A good Lent stretches our hearts so that we can receive so much more of God's love and mercy at Holy Week and Easter. And then we'll be ready to go out and be the disciples the Lord wants us to be!

THIS WEEK

Parish webcam can be viewed on our YouTube channel (search for Ballymoney Parish)

SATURDAY 17th	5.30-5.50pm Confessions 6pm Vigil Mass
SUNDAY 18th	9.30am Mass 4.30-4.50pm Confessions 5pm Mass
MONDAY 19th	10am Mass
TUESDAY 20th	7pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction
WEDNESDAY 21st	10am Mass
FRIDAY 23rd	6-6.40pm Confessions 7pm Mass
SATURDAY 24th	2pm Dementia Friendly Mass

Our Lady & St Patrick's is open every day for private prayer - usually from 10am to 4.30pm.

Other Sunday Masses in this Family of Parishes:

Saturday 5pm - Portstewart
Saturday 6pm - St Malachy's, Coleraine
Sunday 10am - Portstewart
Sunday 11am - St Malachy's, Coleraine
Sunday 12noon - Portrush

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.



WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Recently Deceased

Chris Millward, Staffordshire

Anniversaries

Fr Daniel McBride PP, Denise Byrne, Joseph Coyles, Dolly Kelly, May Kelly, Charles McAuley, Maura Mearns, Edward O'Neill, Paddy Quigg, James O'Reilly, Mary O'Reilly, Lizzie Scullin

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

CONGRATULATIONS

to the family of **Faye McGuckin** who was baptised during the week.



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.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY MASSES

As part of our celebration of the 2024 Year of Prayer we are offering special Dementia Friendly Masses on the Saturdays of Lent until 23rd March. These Masses take place at 2pm. Carers and families are invited to bring along loved ones with dementia or memory issues for a shorter (30 minute) Mass with familiar prayers and hymns. There will also be a chance to light candles, receive the sacrament of the sick or go to confession. Everyone is welcome.

THE SEASON OF LENT

TRÓCAIRE LENT APPEAL

Please pick up a Trócaire pack at Mass. The pack contains a box plus details of how give by cheque, phone or online.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed in Our Lady & St Patrick's each Tuesday of Lent at 7pm, beginning this Tuesday (20th).

LENTEN PLEDGE

Many people choose to give up alcohol for Lent. You can offer up this sacrifice as a prayer for those who suffer through alcoholism. If you do, why not make this daily prayer:

I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to abstain from all alcoholic drink during Lent.

EARLY MORNING MASS IN COLERAINE

On the **weekdays of Lent** (beginning this Wednesday) an early morning Mass will be celebrated at 7am in **St Malachy's in Coleraine**. This Mass is being organised jointly by the priests of Ballymoney, Portstewart, Portrush and Coleraine. Fr Damian will be celebrating the Mass on Tuesday this week.

PARISH HALL

The manager of our parish hall, **Paddy Reilly**, is stepping down after 24 years of volunteer service. We would like to pay tribute to him for all the good work he has done during that time. We are also looking for new volunteers to help with the management and day to day running of the hall. If you would like to help with this please speak to Fr Damian, Gerard McAfee or Gerry Doran.

PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor
North Connor Pastoral Community

Contact Details

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Youtube: Ballymoney Parish

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. 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**

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.

PERMANENT DEACONS

The Diocese invites expressions of interest from men, (married or single), who feel called to the diaconate. Permanent Deacons are ordained ministers who serve the Church in three specific ways: through the ministry of Charity, the ministry of the Word and the ministry of the Altar with a particular focus on the ministry of charity.

Further relevant information can be found on the Diocesan website <https://www.downandconnor.org/living-church/diaconate/>. Additionally, it is proposed to an information session at **All Saints, Ballymena** on **12th March**. This will provide an opportunity to meet Permanent Deacons and their wives and discover more about this vocation.

It is hoped to commence a propaedeutic year of discernment in September 2024. Expressions of Interest forms will be issued by email to those who have responded to this announcement and the formal application and interview process will commence, with a view to completion in June 2024.

HYMNS FOR MASS

Forty days and forty nights
Thou was fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.

God of mercy and compassion,
Look with pity upon me,
Father let me call Thee Father,
'Tis thy child returns to Thee. R.

Shall not we thy sorrow share
And from earthly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?

*R. Jesus Lord, I ask for mercy;
Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins, I now detest them,
Never will I sin again.*

So shall we have peace divine;
Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to thee

See our Saviour, bleeding, dying
On the cross of Calvary.
To that cross my sins have nailed him,
Yet he bleeds and dies for me. R.

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.