



# Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

25th FEBRUARY 2024  
Second Sunday of Lent



## GOD CARES FOR HIS CHILDREN

The Old Testament account of God asking Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac sounds bizarre, if not offensive to our ears. Would God really go to such lengths to test Abraham's faith? Would Abraham really have gone through with the sacrifice?



If we read the story in more detail we discover that Abraham always trusted that Isaac would live. And God, in fact, does not want Isaac to die but to grow up and be a father himself. It is not Abraham's son who will be sacrificed, but Jesus who is truly the Son of God who sacrifices himself for our sins. God takes our suffering on himself. He does not wish that any child should ever be harmed.

When we think of the situation today in Gaza and Israel or Ukraine, or the child victims of abuse or abortion, may we remember God's love for *all* his children.

## WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

### Recently Deceased

Maureen Magee                      Rita McFall, Ballintoy  
James Shields                      Fr Sean Moore CSsR, Belfast

### Anniversaries

Winifred Connor, Patrick Dunbar, Ann Gilmore, John Kelly,  
Winifred Lagan, Arthur McConville, Brigid & John McErlain,  
Josephine McKenna, Ann Martin, James Mooney

## 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.**

### DEMENTIA FRIENDLY MASSES

Our special Masses continue weekly on Saturdays until 23rd 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.

### 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.

## THIS WEEK

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

<b>SATURDAY 24th</b>	5.30-5.50pm Confessions 6pm Vigil Mass
<b>SUNDAY 25th</b>	9.30am Mass 4.30-4.50pm Confessions 5pm Mass
<b>MONDAY 26th</b>	10am Mass 7pm Lectio Divina
<b>TUESDAY 27th</b>	7pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction
<b>WEDNESDAY 28th</b>	10am Mass
<b>THURSDAY 29th</b>	7pm Lent Reflection
<b>FRIDAY 1st</b> <b>First Friday</b>	6-7pm Holy Hour 7pm Mass with Novena Prayers
<b>SATURDAY 2nd</b> <b>First Saturday</b>	9.30am Mass in Dervock 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 6.30pm - St Malachy's, Coleraine
- Sunday 10am - Portstewart
- Sunday 11am - St Malachy's, Coleraine
- Sunday 12noon - Portrush

## 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.



### LECTIO DIVINA

On Monday evenings during Lent our bible prayer group will meet in the Canon's house at 7pm for a thirty minute time of prayer and meditation on the scriptures. All welcome to join us.

### EARLY MORNING MASS IN COLERAINE

On the **weekdays of Lent** an early morning Mass is 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 Masses on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** this week.

### LENT REFLECTIONS

This Lenten season, join us for *Forty Days and Nights in the Desert*, a special journey of prayer and reflection as we walk with Christ through the desert. Beginning this **Thursday (29th)** we will offer a short period of reflection each week at 7pm in the church. Reflect on Jesus' temptation in the desert and examine our own spiritual lives through scripture song, and meditation. Deepen your relationship with God and Journey with us as we encounter our Lord in the desert places of our hearts. All are welcome!

## PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor  
North Connor Pastoral Community

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## HYMNS FOR MASS

Soul of my saviour sanctify my breast.  
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest.  
Blood of my saviour, bathe me in thy tide.  
Wash me with waters, flowing from his side.

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

Strength and protection may thy passion be.  
Oh blessed Jesus hear and answer me.  
Deep in thy wounds Lord, hide and shelter me  
So shall I never, never part from thee.

*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.*

Guard and defend me from the foe malign.  
In death's dread moments, make me only thine.  
Call me and bid me, come to thee on high.  
Where I may praise thee with thy saints for aye.

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.

## FIRST FRIDAY & SATURDAY MASSES

On Friday evening we have our monthly novena Mass at 7pm which is preceded by the Holy Hour at 6. On Saturday morning we continue our Masses for the First Saturday in honour of Our Lady at Dervock at 9.30am.

## PARISH HALL

We are 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.

## OLD & NEW@No.5

A massive thank you to the volunteers at our parish shop, Old & New@No. 5, who have raised another **£10,000** for parish funds - bringing the total over the last few years to an amazing **£90,000!**

You can find the shop at 5 Gate End, Ballymoney and it's open 10am-4.30pm from Wednesday - Saturday. Take a look at our Facebook page for more information.

## VOCATIONS RETREAT

The annual retreat at Drumalis for men considering priesthood takes place 8th-10th March at Drumalis in Larne. For more information contact thevocatinns director, Fr Conor McGrath, [c.mcgrath@downandconnor.org](mailto:c.mcgrath@downandconnor.org) (or have a word with Fr Damian).

## MASS ATTENDANCE

During February we take a count of Mass attendance each weekend to get a sense of how we're doing as a parish. Last weekend we recorded **450** people at Mass - the highest figure for an ordinary Sunday in several years! Thanks be to God and thank you for your commitment to your faith. Now, let's see if we can encourage more to join us!