



# Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

21st April 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Vocations Sunday



## THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Several times in the Gospels Jesus describes himself as being like a shepherd - a Good Shepherd - who loves his flock, knows us by name and gives his life for us. Today once again we hear those words and give thanks to God for sending Jesus to us as our shepherd and our Saviour.

But the Lord also promises to send us more shepherds 'after his own heart'. That's why this Good Shepherd Sunday is also *Vocations Sunday*, the day we pray for vocations to the priesthood. And although the number of priests has fallen sharply in Ireland, the recent increase in vocations from this area shows us how the Lord hears our prayers and answers them. With confidence then we pray that God will send us more priests who will be good shepherds after the heart of Jesus.

## THIS WEEK

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

<b>SATURDAY 20th</b>	5.30-5.50pm Confessions 6pm Vigil Mass
<b>SUNDAY 21st</b>	9.30am Mass 4.30-4.50pm Confessions 5pm Mass
<b>MONDAY 22nd</b>	10am Mass
<b>WEDNESDAY 24th</b>	10am Mass
<b>FRIDAY 26th</b>	6-6.40pm Confessions 7pm Mass
<b>SATURDAY 27th</b>	2pm Dementia Friendly Mass

Our Lady & St Patrick's is open every day for private prayer - usually from 10am to 6pm.

## Other Sunday Masses in the Causeway 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

## WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

### Anniversaries

Brigid Baird, Joan Beckett, Leo Coyle, Eileen Doherty, Emma Douglas, Catherine Havlin, Lorna McLaughlin, Eileen Nash, Sarah Quigg

## 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.**

## CONFIRMATION

We keep in our prayers at this time the young people preparing for the sacrament of confirmation. Fr Damian will celebrate confirmation for children from St Brigid's Primary School Ballymoney Model Integrated Primary School and other schools on **Friday (26th) at 10.30am.**

## BROADCAST MASS

BBC Radio Ulster will be broadcasting our Sunday morning Mass next weekend **April 28th**. Please note that Mass will be at the later time of 10am and finishing at 10.45am. Those attending are asked to be in the church for **9.45am**. You can listen to the Mass next Sunday morning on BBC Radio Ulster and online through BBC iPlayer for 28 days.

## DO THIS IN MEMORY

Our next *Do This In Memory* Mass for children preparing for First Holy Communion was scheduled for next Sunday (28th) at 9.30am Mass. However, due to the broadcast Mass we will postpone it for a week until **Sunday 5th May**. This will be the last *Do This In Memory* before First Communion so we hope to see as many young people and their families that day!

## DEMENTIA FRIENDLY MASS

Due to popular demand we are continuing our special dementia friendly Masses on the last Saturday of the month in April, May and June. The April Mass will be this **Saturday (27th) at 2pm.**

## MASS ATTENDANCE CENSUS

Next weekend a count will be taken of Mass attendance across the Diocese of Down & Connor, including at our Masses here. We have already done our own annual count during February which showed a significant increase in attendance of 5% from 2023. Please turn out to Mass here in good numbers next week so that we can demonstrate that growth to the diocesan authorities.

These census results will be used in future planning for the diocese - so it really does make a difference if we can show how well our parish is growing at this time!

## BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. Beginning Experience is offering a programme of bereavement support in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast on three Saturdays (**27th April, 25th May and 29th June**). Booking essential.

To find out more, contact Pauline **07519289185** or Marie **07896119669** or email **belfastbe@yahoo.com**

## LOUGH DERG ONE DAY RETREATS

These guided days of prayer and reflection will take place throughout the month of May. Available dates are Sun 5th, Mon 6th, Sun 12th, Tue 14th, Sat 18th, Sun 25th and Mon 27th. More details can be found at [www.loughderg.ie](http://www.loughderg.ie). €45 per person, booking essential.

The traditional Three Day Pilgrimage begins on Friday May 31st and continues until August 15th.

## PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor  
Causeway Family of Parishes

### Contact Details

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Facebook: [@ballymoneycatholic](https://www.facebook.com/ballymoneycatholic)  
Youtube: Ballymoney Parish

## HYMNS FOR MASS

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

And so through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

Hail Redeemer, King divine!  
Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine;  
King, whose reign shall never cease,  
Prince of everlasting peace.

*Angels, saints and nations sing :*  
*"Praise be Jesus Christ our King;*  
*Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,*  
*King of love on Calvary!"*

Shepherd-king, o'er mountains steep  
homeward bring the wandering sheep;  
shelter in one royal fold  
states and kingdoms, new and old.

## DOWN & CONNOR KNOCK PILGRIMAGE

The Diocesan pilgrimage to Knock takes place on **Sunday 9th June**. The Living Church team are organising a luxury coach from Belfast leaving at 7.30am. The price is £40 per person and refreshments are included. Early booking is advised. To book contact Claire Tel: **028 90690920** Email: [livingchurch@downandconnor.org](mailto:livingchurch@downandconnor.org)

## 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

If you call in to our parish shop this week check out our large pair of table lamp bases, our large jardiniere on stand, our unusual slimline drop leaf table, circular plant stand and our nice drinks set. Our llamas are back this week too and so are our spaniels and folding plant stands, so make an excuse to get to the town this week!

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

## RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

If you feel God may be calling you to priesthood or religious life you are welcome to come and talk with Fr Damian. You can also speak to the Down & Connor Vocations Director, **Fr Conor McGrath** on **(028) 9065 4157** Email: [c.mcgrath@downandconnor.org](mailto:c.mcgrath@downandconnor.org) For more information: [vocations.ie](http://vocations.ie)

## PRAYER TIME

There will be a time of lay-led prayer on **Tuesday** evening at **7pm** in the Canon's House (no.79) based around devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus. All welcome.