

7th September 2025

Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time



COUNTING THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the example of a man who begins building a tower but can't finish it to teach us about discipleship. He's spelling out to us that there is a cost to being his disciple, and we need to face up to it if we're going to follow him. If we don't understand what lies ahead of us then we might not make it.

The Lord also calls us to carry our crosses — not seeking suffering for its own sake, but accepting the daily challenges of Christian living: standing up for what's right, forgiving deeply, choosing patience, and putting others first. This path isn't easy, but remember that Jesus walks every step with us, promising that our sacrifices will lead to eternal joy. Count the cost, Christ is telling us, but also count the blessing of being his disciple.

THIS WEEK

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

SATURDAY 6th 5.30pm Confessions

6pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 7th 9.30am Mass

MONDAY 8th 10am Mass

WEDNESDAY 10th 10am Mass

7pm Rosary

FRIDAY 12th no Mass or confessions today

Our Lady & St Patrick's church is open every day for private prayer - usually from 10am to 7pm.

Other Sunday Masses in the Causeway Family of Parishes

Saturday 4.30pm - Portstewart Sunday 10am - Portstewart

Sunday 11.30am - St Malachy's, Coleraine

Sunday 12noon - Portrush

Sunday 5pm - St Malachy's, Coleraine

WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Recently Deceased

Fr Gordon McKinstry, Randalstown Deacon Mark Lenaghan, Castlewellan Peg Kelly, Castledermot

Anniversaries

Danny Coyles, James Douglas, Archie Elliott, Kevin Laverty, Walter Litvensky, Catherine McCollam, Annie & Roger McConnell, Anthony McGreevy

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

CONGRATULATIONS

to the family of **Mary Rose Parker-Taggart** who was baptised here this 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 purple 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

Our parish SVP conference is here to support our local community, and we do this in the strictest confidence. If you are in need and would like our help please do not hesitate to get in touch on **07860 455 549**.

OLD & NEW@No.5

There are lots of new things in the window and shop to hopefully attract you this week! Open **Wednesday to Saturday 10-4.30pm** at 5 Gate End Ballymoney. You can also see pictures of our stock on our Facebook page.

PARISH CHOIR

We welcome back our parish choir at 9.30am Mass on Sunday after their summer break. If you would like to join them speak to one of the choir members after Mass.

SVP ANNUAL OUTING

The Society of St Vincent de Paul, Ballymoney, are hosting their annual outing for senior citizens and those living alone on **Sunday 21st September 2025**.

This year's event will offer a shopping trip followed by an evening meal. Further details to follow. Transport is being organised for those wishing to attend with number limited to 48. Anyone with mobility issues please speak to a member of SVP prior to the event.

If you are interested please phone the SVP answerphone **07860455549** and leave your name and contact number, or speak to an SVP representative. Final numbers required by **Sunday 14th September**.

SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The Northern Trust are running a monthly bereavement support group for those affected by suicide in the coming months at the Joey Dunlop centre. The first meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd September from 7-9pm. For more information please telephone 028 9441 3544 or email BBSService@northerntrust.hscni.net

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 (20th September 18th October and 15th November) Booking essential. To find out more, contact Pauline 07519289185 or Marie 07896119669 or email belfastbe@yahoo.com

NI AIR AMBULANCE

Our parishioner Sean Kerr will be participating in charity abseil at O'Cahan's Rock, Roe Valley Country Park on 20th September to raise funds for the Northern Ireland Air Ambulance. To contribute to this worthy cause, please visit www.justgiving.com/page/sean-kerr-1

IUBILEE FÊTE

Our parish jubilee fête takes place on **Saturday 20th September** from **12noon-5pm**.

- 1. **Raffle** Ticket returns for the Parish Raffle can be left in the box at the back of the Church. If you've forgotten to bring them back, there's still time to do so next weekend. If you still need to get tickets, there are a few available at the back of the Church. The draw will take place at 4.30pm on the day of the fete.
- 2. Thanks to all those who have left donations for the **bottle stall** and **tombola**. If you can help with donations of drinks, toiletries, etc for the bottle stall or new gifts for the tombola stall, please bring these to Mass during the week or next weekend and leave them in the boxes provided at each door.
- 3. **Poster competition** The children in St. Brigid's Primary School will be taking part in a poster competition themed around the Parish Fete. There are two categories, a colouring competition for P1-P3 and a poster design competition for P4-P7. Winners will be announced on the afternoon of the Parish Fete and all artwork will be displayed in the Parochial Hall.
- 4. Please help **spread the word** to your family and friends. It promises to be an exciting day with amusements, vintage cars and tractors, petting farm, stalls, bingo, live entertainment, a barbecue, free teas and coffees, etc.

TOMMY FLEMING CONCERT

We're delighted to say that tickets for the Tommy Fleming concert on Friday 7th November are now sold out and we look forward to a great evening.

SEASON OF CREATION

September is the Church's Season of Creation when we give thanks to God for the gifts he gives us in the natural world and reflect on our responsibility to care for the environment.

PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor Causeway Family of Parishes

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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.

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.

O Lord, my God, when I, in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art