



Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

17th SEPTEMBER 2023
Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time



THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Today's Gospel parable calls us to forgiveness. A king forgives his servant's large debt when the servant begs for mercy. But the servant then refuses to forgive a much smaller debt owed to him. Jesus wants us to see ourselves in both these roles - we have been forgiven much by God, but we often refuse to forgive others over smaller offences.

Forgiveness is difficult as it requires letting go of anger. We struggle to forgive those who've deeply hurt us. But holding onto bitterness harms our souls and distances us from God who freely forgives our sins. We're called to show compassion and reconcile, not retaliate. The parable reminds us that we all rely completely on God's mercy, so must extend mercy to others. This coming week may our hearts be open to forgive, showing patience and kindness to those who wrong us. Choosing forgiveness frees us and builds God's kingdom of love and peace.

THIS WEEK

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

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|-----------------------|--|
| SATURDAY 16th | 5.30-5.50pm Confessions 6pm Vigil Mass |
| SUNDAY 17th | 9.30am Mass 4.30-4.50pm Confessions 5pm Mass |
| MONDAY 18th | 10am Mass |
| WEDNESDAY 20th | 10am Mass |
| FRIDAY 22nd | 6-6.40pm Confessions 7pm Mass |

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

Other Sunday Masses in this area:

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|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 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

Recently Deceased

Herbert Kerr

Anniversaries

Thomas Graham, John & Mary McCann, Kevin McCann, Catherine McCollam, Joseph McCollam, Annie McConnell, Mick McKay, George McMillan, Hugh O'Boyle, Joe O'Boyle, Mary O'Boyle

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

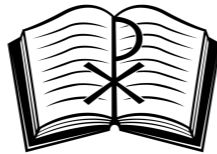
Account No: 10020192.

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

PARISH SCRIPTURE COURSE

During September we are running a course on the Bible looking at the books of Genesis, Samuel, Matthew and Acts of the Apostles. It continues on **Thursday evenings** in the parish hall from 7-8pm.

For more details contact Danny Carroll 07749042878.



OLD & NEW@No.5

Well done to the team at our parish shop at the end of another successful sale. Keep an eye out this week for new stock and old favourites in store!

Our parish shop is open **Wednesday- Saturday 10.00am-4.30pm** at 5 Gate End, Ballymoney. Check us out on Facebook too @oldandnewatno5

FOSTER CARE AWARD

Congratulations to our parishioners **Seamus McAteer** and **Joanne Donnelly McAteer** on receiving an award for excellence at the **Northern Ireland Foster Care Awards** this week. May God bless them and the great work they do to help young people in need.

SEASON OF CREATION - SEPTEMBER 2023

Bulb Planting Morning

To celebrate the **Season of Creation** in our parish this year we will be having a Bulb Planting Morning after **9.30am Mass on Sunday 24th September**. We would like to invite as many people as possible to stay behind and help plant crocus bulbs on the front lawn and the Garden of the Good Shepherd.



Coffee and refreshments will be served in the parish hall at this time. Please bring your own gloves and tools. We would especially love to see families and children taking part in this event which will make our Church grounds even more beautiful next spring and for many years to come!

Season of Creation Prayer

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea, and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for your gracious providing may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LOUGH DERG ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE

The Living Church Office are organising a one day pilgrimage to Lough Derg on **Saturday 23rd September**. As this is a one day retreat, fasting and walking barefooted are not required. It will cost **£55** and includes luxury coach transfers, tea, coffee & scones on arrival, retreat day, light lunch, concluding with Mass. The coach will depart **7am** from **St Patrick's Church, Donegall Street, Belfast**. Places are limited so early booking is recommended. Contact Claire tel: 02890 690920 email: livingchurch@downandconnor.org

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

The annual Legion of Mary Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine will take place on **Sunday 24th September**. A coach will leave from the Castle St carpark opposite our church at **7.15am**; cost **£43**, including meal on return journey. To book please call or text **07471537051**.

PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor
North Connor Pastoral Community

Contact Details

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Youtube: Ballymoney Parish

HYMNS FOR MASS

R. *All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The lord God made them all*

Each little flower that opens
Each little bird that sings
He made their glowing colours
He made their tiny wings. R.

The purple headed mountain
The river running by
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky. R.

All creatures of our God and king
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
O praise him, O praise him
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Thou flowing water pure and clear
Make music for thy Lord to hear
Alleluia, alleluia
Thou fire so masterful and bright
That givest us both warmth and light
O praise him, O praise him
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

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.



SVP OUTING

Best wishes to everyone heading off on the St Vincent de Paul outing today! The bus will be leaving the car park in Castle St opposite the church at **12.30pm sharp on Sunday**. The cost is a minimum donation of **£5**, payable on the bus. A huge thank you to our SVP conference members for organising the trip.

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP)

CAP is a UK wide Christian charity offering help with managing debt, setting up repayment plans and budgeting. Their Ballymoney branch is based at St Patrick's Church of Ireland. To make an appointment with one of the local debt coaches phone free **0800 328 0006** Monday -Thursday 9.30am-5pm; Fridays 9.30am - 3.30pm. Website **www.capuk.org**

A JOURNEY INTO FREEDOM

You are invited to join **A Journey into Freedom**, a faith development programme which intends to lead us into a more personal relationship with Christ and deepen friendships among those who participate.

St Malachy's parish centre in Coleraine will be the venue for this programme. It will begin this **Wednesday (20th September)** and will run for **six weeks** (finishing on Wednesday 25th October). Each evening will commence at 7pm and conclude at 8.30pm. Refreshments will also be served when there will be time for a chat with new (and old) friends. All are welcome.