



# Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

15th December 2024  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Gaudete Sunday



## WHAT MUST I DO?

On this Gaudete Sunday, we're invited to pause amid the Christmas preparations and reflect on what truly matters. The Gospel shows people asking John the Baptist, "What must we do before the Lord comes?" It's a good question for us too, and the answer is not about what we need to buy or organise.

This Sunday reminds us that Christmas isn't just about external preparations, but about welcoming Christ into our lives. John the Baptist's message is simple yet profound: be generous, be honest, and be compassionate where you are. God doesn't want dutiful servants, but loving children who rejoice in his presence. This week, take time to listen, to hope, and to embrace the true spirit of Advent. Christ is coming - not to judge, but to save and fill our hearts with joy.

## THIS WEEK

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

<b>SATURDAY 14th</b>	5.30-5.50pm Confessions 6pm Vigil Mass
<b>SUNDAY 15th</b>	9.30am Mass 4.30-4.50pm Confessions 5pm Mass
<b>MONDAY 16th</b>	10am Mass
<b>TUESDAY 17th</b>	7pm Advent Holy Hour
<b>WEDNESDAY 18th</b>	10am Mass
<b>FRIDAY 20th</b>	6-6.50pm Confessions 7pm Mass

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

## 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

### Recently Deceased

Mag Rooney, Co. Kildare  
Josie Kelly, Dunloy

### Anniversaries

Teresa Cuddy, Kathleen Donaghy, Joe Graham, Roy Graham, Sam Graham, P.J. McKenna, John McKeever, John McKendry, Mick McKeown, John Watt

## REQUIESCAT IN PACE

## PARISH FINANCES

Our parish accounts for 2023 are now available and can be found at the back of the church. 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.**

## DO THIS IN MEMORY

We welcome the First Communion children and their families to our **9.30am** Mass on **Sunday**. After Mass we invite all the primary school aged children and their parents to join us for arts and crafts in the parish hall.

## ADVENT HOLY HOUR

There will be a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament on **Tuesday** from **7-8pm** ending with Benediction at 7.50pm. Fr Damian will be available for confession during the hour.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to contribute to decorating the church for Christmas, why not buy a **poinsettia** (red or white) and leave it in the church over the next couple of weeks?

## LORETO COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE

Loreto College Coleraine warmly invites you to their Christmas Carol Service on **Tuesday 17th December** at **7pm**. Tickets available from Ticket Source (use this QR code). Admission is free.



## OLD & NEW@No.5

This week we were delighted to receive a cheque for **£10,000** for parish funds from the team at Old&New@No.5. This brings the total they have raised for the parish over the last few years to **£100,000**. This is a fantastic achievement and we owe a huge thank you to all the volunteers who run the shop and the customers who support it.

Our Parish Shop is open **Wednesday to Saturday 10am-4.30pm** at 5 Gate End Ballymoney. you can keep in touch with us by following our Facebook page @oldandnewatno5.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

You can still donate to our appeal in several ways:



- Via the **Red Box** collection after weekend masses.
- By **telephone** on **028 9075 0161**: (please specify that your donation is for Ballymoney, Co. Antrim).

- **Online** at <http://svp.ie/ballymoneysvpappeal24> via the "Donate Now" link.

- Or scan this QR code to go on to the SVP Ballymoney web site.



If you are in need of our help, please call us confidentially on **07860455549**.

## ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DRAW

The Annual PTA Christmas Draw tickets are now on sale. As usual there are some great prizes on offer. Tickets are priced at **£1** each or a book of 6 for **£5**. If you want any tickets please contact the school on **028 27662664** or call in to the office. The draw will take place on **Wednesday 18th December**.

## CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Friday 20th	6 - 6.50pm
Saturday 21st	5 - 5.50pm
Sunday 22nd	4 - 4.50pm
Christmas Eve	11am - 12noon

## PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor  
Causeway Family of Parishes

### Contact Details

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Facebook: @ballymoneycatholic  
Youtube: Ballymoney Parish



## Christmas Week

<b>SUNDAY 22nd</b>	<b>7pm Parish Carol Service</b>
<b>TUESDAY 24th</b> Christmas Eve	<b>11am-12noon Confessions</b> <b>6pm VIGIL MASS of CHRISTMAS</b> <b>12 MIDNIGHT MASS</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 25th</b> Christmas Day	<b>9.30am DAWN MASS of CHRISTMAS</b>
<b>FRIDAY 27th</b> St John's Day	<b>9.30am Mass in Dervock</b> <i>for the feast of St John the Evangelist</i>
<b>SATURDAY 28th</b>	<b>2pm Dementia Friendly Mass</b>

## HOLY YEAR 2025

On Christmas Eve Pope Francis will open the Holy Door in St Peter's in Rome to begin the Jubilee Holy Year of 2025. A jubilee is traditionally celebrated by the Church every twenty five years. It is a year set aside for us to repent of our sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew a focus on our spiritual life.

In the Diocese the celebration of the Holy Year will begin the following Sunday on the Feast of the Holy Family. All parishioners are warmly invited to join Bishop Alan McGuckian at the Solemn Opening Mass on Sunday 29th December at 3pm in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast. The Mass can also be followed on the Cathedral's webcam: [www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral](http://www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral)

In Ballymoney we will mark the beginning of the Holy Year and our own Parish Bicentenary year with **Mass and Benediction at 10am on New Year's Day**.

## HYMNS FOR MASS

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*R. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

\* \* \*

O come thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in her ways to go. R.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory over the grave. R.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see. R.

*R. Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church  
gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice. R.