



Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

17th DECEMBER 2023
Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday



GRATITUDE & JOY

On this third week of Advent we celebrate *Gaudete* or Rejoicing Sunday. At Mass the liturgical colour is rose pink and we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. The prayers and readings at this Mass speak of joy and happiness - we are called to "rejoice in the Lord always".

Some may find it easy to feel Christmas joy this year, others who are grieving or suffering may find it very hard. True Christian joy is not superficial but comes from knowing paradise awaits despite earthly troubles. The best way to find the joy in our lives is by giving thanks. We should thank God for Jesus our saviour, for forgiveness and eternal life, and for the gift of our Catholic faith. When we are filled with gratitude to the Lord for all we have been given, despite hardships, we can rejoice in the way the saints did. This is the gratitude that enables true joy.



THIS WEEK

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

SATURDAY 16th	5.30-5.50pm Confessions 6pm Vigil Mass
SUNDAY 17th	10am Mass 4.30-4.50pm Confessions 5pm Mass 7pm Parish Carol Service
MONDAY 18th	10am Mass
TUESDAY 19th	7-8.30pm Adoration for Advent with confessions available.
WEDNESDAY 20th	10am Mass
FRIDAY 22nd	6-6.50pm Confessions 7pm Mass
SATURDAY 23rd	7.30am Rorate 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 6pm - St Malachy's, Coleraine
Sunday 10am - Portstewart
Sunday 11am - St Malachy's, Coleraine
Sunday 12noon - Portrush

PARISH CAROL SERVICE

You are warmly invited to our parish carol service at 7pm on **Sunday evening**. Our parish choir will be joined by a number of different singers and musicians from the local area including pupils from Our Lady of Lourdes school.



CONGRATULATIONS

to **Lisa McMurray** and **Tony McGartland** who celebrated their marriage on Friday.

WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Recently Deceased

John Black, Rasharkin

Month's Mind

Vina Young

Anniversaries

Teresa Cuddy, Joe Graham, Sam Graham, Cassie Hendrie, Bobby Kelly, John McKeever, Mike McKeown, John Watt.

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.

RORATE MASS

Next Saturday (23rd) morning at 7.30am we will begin the festive weekend with our annual Rorate Mass. A Rorate Mass is an Advent Mass celebrated in honour of Our Lady's maternity. By tradition it is takes place before sunrise with the church lit only by candlelight. The Mass will include traditional Gregorian chant sung by Dr Cormac McCool, choir master of the Immaculate Heart church in Belfast.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Our conference has been working on a volunteer basis for 114 years, helping those most in need in our local community. We are busier than ever as people turn to us as they struggle to meet their basic needs of food and heating their homes.

New members welcome!

We have 10 active members in our conference and *really need new volunteers* to help us manage the growing demand for our help. If you would like more details on joining please speak to any of our volunteers or call the helpline number for more information.

Our activities this year

- In 2022 our conference provided **Christmas Toy & Gift Vouchers** to 56 children up to 16 years of age.
- Our **annual outing** for Senior Citizens and those living alone in September was to Templepatrick Garden Centre and then to the Hedges Hotel for a carvery meal. A great time was had by all.
- In the last 12 months we made over 200 **home visitations** to over 160 different households, almost half of those we visited had called SVP for the first time reflecting the increased demand for our service.

Income received

Church Door Collections	£19,447
Other Donations/Bequests	£4,619
Conference Other Fundraising	£2,477
Government Grant Aid	£1,800

We wish to thank you all for your continued generosity including a huge 36% increase in our Red Box Collections on last year. We are very grateful to **Alistair Coyles** for his ongoing support from the Black Santa Sit Out, and to **St Brigid's** and **Our Lady of Lourdes** Schools for donations from fundraising activities they completed. We were also grateful to receive a donation from **Ballymoney Rotary Club**.

Summary of support provided

Heating Oil	£11,750
Food & Energy Vouchers	£10,455
Christmas Gift Support	£4,175
Clothing/Furniture	£535
Annual Outing	£939

PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor
North Connor Pastoral Community

Contact Details

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Facebook: @ballymoneycatholic

Youtube: Ballymoney Parish

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, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe. R.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. 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.

*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.

Demand for our help continues to grow with our fuel and food voucher support increasing by over £6,000 on last year. This is additional to the increased referrals to Ballymoney Foodbank who we also work closely with.

We wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

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CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Please make every effort to go to confession before Christmas. This week we will have confessions on:

- Tuesday evening during adoration (7-8.15pm)
- Friday evening before Mass (6-6.50pm)
- Saturday evening before Mass (5-5.50pm)
- Christmas Eve (after morning Mass until 11.30am)

Christmas Masses

Ballymoney

Christmas Eve Vigil at 6pm
Midnight Mass
Christmas Dawn Mass at 9.30am

Causeway Hospital

Christmas Day Mass at 11.15am

St Malachy's, Coleraine

Christmas Eve Vigil at 6pm
Christmas Night Mass at 9pm
Christmas Day Mass at 11am

Portrush

Christmas Eve Vigil at 6pm
Christmas Dawn Mass at 8am (in Bushmills)
Christmas Day Mass at 12noon

Portstewart

Christmas Eve Vigil at 6pm
Christmas Night Mass at 9pm
Christmas Day Mass at 10am

