



# Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

CAUSEWAY FAMILY OF PARISHES

21st December 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



## O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

In today's Gospel, Joseph faces an impossible situation. But the answer comes when he stops and listens to God in silence. As he dreams, the angel tells Joseph that Mary's child will be the long awaited messiah, the *Emmanuel* – the one who is "God with us." Joseph listened, and he acted in faith.

For us this is the busiest week of the year - there are presents to wrap, people to see, sprouts to boil. We run the risk of celebrating "God with us" while being too busy to be with God! That's why our Advent challenge is to spend ten minutes in silence with Jesus each day. Not praying a list, not thinking of something else, just being present. *Emmanuel* means God wants to be with you – right now, in the chaos. Let's be with him too.

## WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

### Anniversaries

Mary Carlin, Michael Carlin, Fr Peter Forde, John Larkin, Tony McCaughan, John McClements, Roy McClintock, Jackie McCormick, Dennis McKeever, P.J. McKenna, John McKillop, Margaret McLaughlin, Rose McLaughlin, William Neill, Wilma Neill, Cissie Quigg, Gretta Turner

## 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 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.**

### CHRISTMAS EVE CONFESSIONS

On **Christmas Eve** there will be confessions from **10am to 11am** in **St Malachy's, Coleraine**. Later there will be a last chance to go before Christmas here in **Ballymoney** at **4pm**.

### ST STEPHEN'S DAY & ST JOHN

There will be Mass on **St Stephen's Day** (Boxing Day, Friday) at **10am** in **St Malachy's, Coleraine**.

On **Saturday** we celebrate the feast of St John the Evangelist, patron saint of our church in Dervock. There will be Mass in **Dervock** that morning at **10am**.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Thank you for your ongoing support and we wish you a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

We would like to remind you that SVP continue to support our local community, and we do this in the strictest confidence. Therefore, if you are in need and would like our help please do not hesitate to get in touch on **07860455549**.

### ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

A word of thanks to all the parishioners and local businesses that supported our Christmas fundraising activities. Thanks to everyone who was involved we raised a massive **£3313**. This has, in part, helped us to fund 20 more iPads and 15 more laptops to support the children with their learning.

If you have a child starting school in **September 2026** please contact St Brigid's PS to register your interest. The application process is **online** this year and opens on **7th January** at **12 noon** and closes on **21st January** at **12 noon**. All the information and guidance will be on the Education Authority website **www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions**.

If you require any assistance in completing the online application or have any questions about our school, contact us on **028 27662664**.

### OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL OPEN NIGHT

We welcome all P6 & P7 pupils to come and tour our school on **Wednesday 14th January 2026**. The Principal's address will begin at 7pm. We look forward to welcoming you all.

### LORETO COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Loreto College invites prospective Year 8 pupils and their parents to attend our Open Day on **Saturday 10th January**. The Principal's address is at **11am** for families living east of the River Bann. Year 12 students hoping to apply for Post-16 studies are also welcome to attend. For more details our the website: [www.loretocollege.org.uk](http://www.loretocollege.org.uk)

### PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor  
Causeway Family of Parishes

#### Contact Details

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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, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. R.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer,  
Our Spirits by Thine Advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.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.

### CHRISTMAS ON TV AND RADIO

There are a number of Christmas carol services and ceremonies on TV this year. **BBC 1** will broadcast Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. **RTE 1** has Mass on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Pope's blessing at 11am on Christmas morning. **BBC Radio 4** will have Mass on Christmas morning. The Catholic channel **EWTN** (Sky 586) has regular Masses and devotions each day.

### NEW YEAR ALPHA COURSE

Alpha is a course on the basics of Christianity for adults who are new to faith or those who want to learn more. This January an Alpha course will be running in this area. You are warmly invited to presentations & group conversations exploring the meaning of life & faith in a friendly inter-denominational setting.  
When: **Tuesdays 7-9pm** from **14th Jan** to **8th April 2025**.  
Venue: **Bushtown Hotel**, 283 Drumcroon Rd, Coleraine  
Further information: [Alphanorthcoast@gmail.com](mailto:Alphanorthcoast@gmail.com) or telephone: **077 6064 7665**

### OTHER CHRISTMAS MASSES IN THE CAUSEWAY FAMILY OF PARISHES

#### Christmas Eve

4pm - St Malachy's, Coleraine

6pm - Portstewart

9pm - Portstewart

9pm - St Malachy's, Coleraine

9pm - Portrush

#### Christmas Day

8am - Bushmills

10am - Portstewart

11am - Portrush

11.30am St Malachy's, Coleraine





## Christmas Week

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

<b>SATURDAY 20th</b>	5-5.50pm Confessions 6pm Vigil Mass <i>followed by</i> Confessions
<b>SUNDAY 21st</b>	9.30am Mass <i>followed by</i> Confessions
<b>MONDAY 22nd</b>	10am Mass
<b>TUESDAY 23rd</b>	7pm Advent Holy Hour <i>with</i> Confessions <i>and</i> Benediction
<b>WEDNESDAY 24th</b> Christmas Eve	4pm Confessions <b>6pm Vigil Mass of Christmas</b>
	<b>12 Midnight Mass</b>
<b>THURSDAY 25th</b> Christmas Day	<b>9.30am Dawn Mass of Christmas</b>
<b>FRIDAY 26th</b>	<i>no Mass or confessions today</i>
<b>SATURDAY 27th</b> St John's Day	10am Mass <i>in Dervock</i> 5.30pm Confessions 6pm Vigil Mass
<b>SUNDAY 28th</b>	9.30am Mass

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