



# Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

24th/25th DECEMBER 2023  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
& Christmas Day



## HAIL MARY - FULL OF GRACE!

Life begins at conception, so as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, we naturally look back nine months to the Annunciation when the Lord Jesus was first conceived. God sent the Angel Gabriel to Nazareth to tell her his Divine Plan to save the world and to ask her consent to be the mother of the Lord. The Angel's first words to Mary are "Rejoice, so highly favoured" which is also translated as "Hail, full of grace".

We echo Gabriel whenever we pray "Hail Mary," the words that herald salvation and the coming of Christ. At this time, as Christmas nears, we all have much to pray for. May the Hail Mary come to our lips often so that we can be close to Mary the mother of Christ, who longs to share her Son with us.

### THIS WEEK

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

**SATURDAY 23rd** 5-5.50pm Confessions  
6pm Vigil Mass

**SUNDAY 24th** 9.30am Sunday Mass  
Christmas Eve followed by Confessions until 11.30am



**6PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS**

**12 MIDNIGHT MASS**

**MONDAY 25th** 9.30AM CHRISTMAS DAWN MASS  
Christmas Day

**WEDNESDAY 27th** 9.30am Mass in Dervock  
St John's Day

**FRIDAY 29th** 6-6.40pm Confessions  
7pm Mass

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

### Other Christmas Masses in this Family of Parishes

Sunday 6pm - Portstewart  
Sunday 6pm - St Malachy's, Coleraine  
Sunday 6pm - Portrush  
Sunday 9pm - Portstewart  
Sunday 9pm - St Malachy's, Coleraine

Monday 8am - Bushmills  
Monday 10am - Portstewart  
Monday 11am - St Malachy's, Coleraine  
Monday 11.15am - Causeway Hospital  
Monday 12 noon - Portrush

### WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

#### Recently Deceased

Thomas (Roy) Graham Margaret O'Boyle  
Fr Clement Marshall, Belfast

#### Anniversaries

Fr Christopher Gray, Ellen Blaney, Mary Carlin,  
Tony McCaughan, Dennis McKeever, John McKillop,  
Margaret McLaughlin, Rose McLaughlin, Sarah McSheffrey,  
Vera McSheffrey, Sadie McVicker, William (Tappy) Neill,  
Wilma Neill, Christopher Quigg, 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 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.**

#### MASS IN DERVOCK

Wednesday (27th) is the feast of St John the Evangelist, patron saint of our church in Dervock. We will have Mass there on **Wednesday at 9.30am.**

#### CHRISTMAS MASSES ON TV & RADIO

If you can't make it to our own Christmas Masses, you might be interested to watch Midnight Mass, Christmas morning Mass and the Pope's blessing from Rome on RTE 1 or EWTN (Sky channel 586). There will also be Midnight Mass broadcast on BBC Radio 4.

#### ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

If you have a child starting school in September 2024 or know someone who is, please contact the St Brigid's Primary School to register your interest.

The application process is online this year and is open from the 9th to the 26th of January 2024. All of the information and guidance will be on the Education Authority website <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Please contact the school to if you require any assistance in completing the online application or have any questions about the school. 028 27662664

#### COMING HOME TO THE CHURCH

Christmas is a time which brings many people back to the church or even here for the first time - and we're delighted to have you here with us.

If you are a Catholic who would like to start practicing your faith again regularly come and have a chat with Fr Damian. All you need is to make a good confession (Fr Damian will help you with this) and to start attending Mass each week. If you have any questions about the Catholic faith you can come and talk about them too.

If you're not Catholic but are interested in becoming one Fr Damian can give you more information. The easiest way to speak to Father is to come and say hello to him after Mass any day or at confession time. You can also email or send a message on Facebook if you would like to make an appointment to see him.

#### PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor  
North Connor Pastoral Community

#### Contact Details

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Facebook: [@ballymoneycatholic](https://www.facebook.com/ballymoneycatholic)

Youtube: Ballymoney Parish

#### A WORD OF THANKS

The end of the year is a great time to look back with gratitude for the great generosity shown in our parish over 2023.

Thank you to the volunteers who help to make our Masses and services truly worthy.

Thank you to those who serve the needy in our community in St Vincent de Paul and in other ways.

Thank you to those who contribute to the life of the parish financially through our weekly collections.

Thank you to those who give their time and talents by serving on the Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Committee or who help with administration and governance.

Thank you to those who look after our churches, grounds, hall and cemetery.

Thank you to all involved at Old & New@No.5.

Thank you to those who work or volunteer in our parish schools.

Thank you all for your prayers and encouragement.

**And above all  
thanks be to God for the  
blessings he gives our  
parish community  
every 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.

*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...

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...

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.