



Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

25th DECEMBER 2022
Christmas Day



A HAPPY & PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS

At last the great feast has come and together we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Christmas Masses tell us how Jesus came to be born of Mary in the stable in Bethlehem. Joseph watched over them, shepherds came to visit from nearby fields, and angels sang "glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will".



God's Christmas gift of peace is much needed in our world today. Peace is needed in Ukraine and Russia, Yemen, Ethiopia and many other regions. And in our own lives there is a need for peace as well - to overcome the fears, disappointments and conflicts around us. Jesus not only brings peace - he *is* peace! If we want peace in our lives then we need to come close to him and remain with him. May the Lord send us his peace today and always, and may God bless us all with a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

THIS WEEK

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

SATURDAY 24th 11am-1pm Confessions
Christmas Eve
6pm Vigil Mass of Christmas
12 Midnight Mass of Christmas

SUNDAY 25th 10am Dawn Mass of Christmas
Christmas Day
no evening Mass today

MONDAY 26th 10am Mass

TUESDAY 27th 10am Mass in Dervock

FRIDAY 30th 6-6.40pm Confessions
7pm Mass

SATURDAY 31st 5.30-5.50pm Confessions
6pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 1st 10am Mass
4.30pm Confessions
5pm Mass

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

WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Recently Deceased
Fr James Boyle MHM, Donegal

Anniversaries
Ellen Blaney, Mary Carlin, Cassie Hendrie, Mary Gallagher, Tony McCaughan, Roy McClintock, Jack McCormick, Sarah McGreevy, Dennis McKeever, John McKillop, Margaret McLaughlin, Rose McLaughlin, Neal John Osborne, Cissie Quigg, Rose Quinn, Gretta Turner

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

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 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.**

FEAST OF ST JOHN IN DERVOCK

Tuesday 27th December is the feast of St John the Evangelist, patron of the church of Our Lady & St John the Evangelist in Dervock. There will be Mass in Dervock on that day at 10am.

NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY INDULGENCES

The Church offers an indulgence on New Year's Eve when the *Te Deum* hymn is sung publicly in thanksgiving to God for all the blessings we have received in the last year. A similar indulgence is granted on New Year's Day when the *Veni Creator Spiritus* is chanted to ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in the year ahead. We will have the *Te Deum* at the end of Mass on Saturday night and the *Veni Creator Spiritus* at Masses next Sunday morning.

ST BRIGID'S PS REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 2023

If you have a child starting school in September or know someone who is, please contact the school to register your interest. There is a special section on the school website, Starting our School, with a virtual tour of the school. It's well worth a watch for everyone. The application process is online this year and open from the 9th to the 27th of January 2023. Please contact the school to if you require any assistance in completing the online application, have any questions about the school or would like a tour. Tel: 028 27662664

NEW ALPHA COURSE

This New Year, all are welcome to join us as we start a new Alpha course, designed to explore the basics of the Christian faith & its meaning in our lives today. It will be run in the Anchorage Complex, Portstewart: 7-9 pm Mondays 16th January to 3rd April. Feel free to come along to the first taster evening (16th January) to see what you think. Each evening will begin with a light meal followed by a short film on life, faith & meaning, and end with an opportunity for discussion. There is no charge. Contact a team member to sign up or if you have any questions: Ernestine 077 6064 7665; Bernadette 079 4173 3502 or portstewartalpha@gmail.com

PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor
North Connor Pastoral Community

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A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary...

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord,
Be it done unto me according to Thy word."
Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh
And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
that we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Let us pray
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord,
Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to
whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy
Son, was made known by the message
of an angel, may by His Passion and
Cross be brought to the glory of His
Resurrection, through the same Christ
Our Lord.
Amen.

May the Divine Assistance remain always
with us.
And may the souls of the faithful
departed rest in peace. Amen.

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 2022.

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.**

