



The feast of the Holy Family comes right after Christmas, when most of us have spent extra time with our families. The Church reminds us how important families are to God – he chose to enter the world through a family. But today's Gospel shows us the Holy Family weren't perfectly happy. They had to flee as refugees to Egypt, live in exile, face danger and uncertainty. They're holy not because life was easy, but because they were faithful to God and to each other.

## WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Willie Moore  
Ruth Black, Inverness

Mary Jane Connolly, Victor Durkan, Sarah-Jane & Andy Hegarty,  
John McErlain, Sarah McGreevy, John McKeever,  
Sarah McSheffrey, Vera McSheffrey, Lilian & Jim Norton,  
Molly Young

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:

If you want to give by cheque please make payable to:  
**Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan.**

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**.

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.

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

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)

Would you like to find out more about what we Catholics believe? Join us for **Discovery**, a six-week faith study course exploring the Gospel message and its meaning for our lives today. Starting **Sunday 11th January at 6pm**, we'll meet weekly for one hour in small groups to reflect on our Christian faith.

All are welcome, whether you're deepening your faith or exploring Christianity anew.

For more information ask Danny (07749042878), Michael (07547073239), or speak to Fr Damian after Mass.

Diocese of Down & Connor  
Causeway Family of Parishes

Very Rev. Damian McCaughan PP VF

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Facebook: @ballymoneycatholic  
Youtube: Ballymoney Parish

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God,  
in the highest.  
*O come, let us adore Him...*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

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**

Christmas reminds us that we have a dignity and value that comes from being created in the image and likeness of God. In a world where this dignity is often threatened, we are called to be guardians of the inherent dignity of every individual. It is the child born at Christmas who grounds and inspires our conviction of the dignity of every child of God. I pay tribute to parents and teachers who pass on the faith to new generations guiding them with the Truth of Christian values and virtues like the wise men who were guided by the Christmas star.

May God bestow his blessing upon all of you this Christmas and into the new year, as you continue to contemplate the face of the Christ-child, the herald of Peace, Joy and Hope. Nollaig Shona daoibh uilig.

Most Rev. ALAN McGUICKIAN SJ  
Bishop of Down & Connor

**Tuesday 6th January** is the feast of the **Epiphany** when we celebrate the visit of the Wise Men to the child Jesus. It's a holy day of obligation and Mass in Ballymoney will be at **10am and 7pm**. The children from St Brigid's Primary School will join us for the 10am Mass.

to everyone who made our Christmas celebrations so beautiful. May God bless our parish and our family of parishes in the year ahead. Fr Damian would also like to thank all those who sent him a card or gift and he will be offering Mass for your intentions.