

CELEBRATING THE WORD OF GOD

Back in 2020 the late Pope Francis established this Sunday as the **Sunday of the Word of God**. He wanted it to be a day for special reflection on the Bible. This Third Sunday of Ordinary Time marks when the Church begins reading through a particular Gospel in sequence at Mass. This year, we'll journey through Matthew's Gospel, starting with Jesus calling his disciples.

Catholics sometimes take the Word of God for granted. Yet Scripture is God's living word to all of us. As St Jerome said, "ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ." We cannot truly know or follow God without understanding what he says and reveals about himself in the Bible. Everything essential to our faith—from the Our Father to the Mass itself—flows from Scripture. And God has so much to say to us!

THIS WEEK

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

SATURDAY 24th	5-5.50pm Confessions 6pm Vigil Mass
SUNDAY 25th	9.30am Mass
MONDAY 26th	10am Mass
WEDNESDAY 28th	10am Mass 7pm Rosary
FRIDAY 30th	10am School Mass
SATURDAY 31st	2pm Dementia Friendly Mass

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

Other Sunday Masses in the Causeway Family of Parishes

Saturday 4.30pm	-	Portstewart
Sunday 10am	-	Portstewart
Sunday 11.30am	-	St Malachy's, Coleraine
Sunday 12noon	-	Portrush
Sunday 5pm	-	St Malachy's, Coleraine

WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Recently Deceased
Fr Brendan Convery, CSSR, Belfast
Kathleen O'Neill, Dunloy

Month's Mind
William Moore

Anniversaries
May Hanna, Maureen McAleese, PG McQuaid,
Evelyn McVicker, Oliver Muldoon

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

25th January 2026
Third Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday of the Word of God



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.

DO THIS IN MEMORY

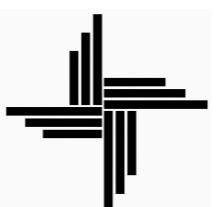
This month's *Do This In Memory* Mass for children and families preparing for First Holy Communion takes place on **Sunday at the 9.30am Mass**. After Mass we invite all primary school age children and their families over to the parish hall for arts and crafts (plus some refreshments).

ST BRIGID'S SCHOOL MASS

Please note that Mass on **Friday** will be at the earlier time of **10am**. We will be joined by St Brigid's Primary School who will be having an early celebration of St Brigid's Day (which falls next Sunday).

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY MASS

This month's Mass for the sick and housebound takes place on **Saturday (31st) at 2pm**. There is a special invitation to people with dementia and their families and carers to come and join us for a shorter Mass with familiar prayers and hymns.



DEMENTIA INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Alzheimer's Society is providing online information sessions for anyone caring for or supporting someone with diagnosis of dementia or anyone interested in dementia. The sessions last approximately one hour. They take place on Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th February at 10.30am. For more information scan this QR code or email eastantrim@alzheimers.org.uk



OLD & NEW@No.5

Following another busy week in our parish shop, we have filled the spaces with a lot of new stock and a few nice pieces of furniture. Check out our nice shaped small desk, our nice inlaid upholstered chair, a selection of vintage tea sets, a range of pictures, lots of jigsaws, crystal, and a few remaining pieces of Royal Worcester.

Call with us at 5 Gate End, Ballymoney, open **Wednesday to Saturday, 10am - 4.30pm**. You can also see photos of our current stock on our Facebook page **@oldandnewatno5**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

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**.

DIVINE MERCY PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND

Dunloy & Cloughmills Parish invite you to join a group who will visit the Divine Mercy Sanctuary in Poland for Divine Mercy Sunday. It's part of a pilgrimage running from **9th April to 14th April**. The cost is **£1,045** (with an extra supplement for a single room). **£300 deposit**. Fr Tony Devlin will be spiritual director for the pilgrimage. To book a place or get further information contact Dunloy and Cloughmills parish office on **028 27657223** (weekdays 9am-1pm).

PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor
Causeway Family of Parishes

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Youtube: Ballymoney Parish

HYMNS FOR MASS

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quench'd, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION

Each month, the Holy Father asks for Catholics around the world to pray for a specific intention. This January Pope Leo asks us to pray "that the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church."

HOW TO PRAY WITH THE BIBLE

Lectio Divina is the name for a way of praying with the bible. It consists of four simple steps that anyone can learn. You only need to take a couple of minutes for each step. Begin by taking a short bible passage (like today's Gospel).

1. Lectio (Reading): Slowly read the scripture passage (perhaps two or three times), paying attention to the words that seem to catch your attention.

2. Meditatio (Meditation): Reflect deeply on the text. What is God saying to you specifically through these words? Don't worry about understanding everything perfectly - just be present and attentive.

3. Oratio (Prayer): Respond to God's word. Share your heart with him. What feelings, desires, or struggles arise as you hear his message? Tell him how you feel.

4. Contemplatio (Contemplation): Rest in God's presence. Sometimes prayer is less about speaking and more about listening, about being still and knowing that he is God.

CANDLEMAS

The feast of the Presentation of the Lord is also known as Candlemas because it is the day when candles are blessed in the church. It takes place on **Monday 2nd February** and there will be Mass here at **10am**. Parishioners are welcome to bring candles to be blessed and hand-candles will be available to all who attend that Mass.

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation,
By water and the word;
From heaven he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the Earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.