

THE POWER OF PARABLES

Jesus loved telling parables — simple stories with deep meaning, meant to be remembered and pondered long after they were first heard. This week's Gospel gives us the parable of the wheat and the darnel: a farmer sows good seed, but an enemy secretly sows weeds among it. Rather than uproot everything straight away, the farmer waits for harvest, so the good wheat isn't lost by mistake. Jesus is teaching us that God permits evil without ever choosing it, because he wants us free, not enslaved by fear.

Like any loving Father, God waits patiently for us to turn back to him, right up until the very end. But there will be a reckoning: good rewarded, sin faced honestly. God won't force anyone into heaven — yet heaven is exactly what he longs for us to choose.



THIS WEEK

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

SUNDAY 19th	9.30am Mass
MONDAY 20th	10am Mass
WEDNESDAY 22nd	10am Mass 7pm Rosary
FRIDAY 24th	6pm Adoration & Confessions 7pm Mass
SATURDAY 25th	5.30-5.50pm Confessions 6pm Vigil Mass

Our Lady & St Patrick's church is open every day
for private prayer - usually from 10am to 7pm.

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

Robert Szutkowski

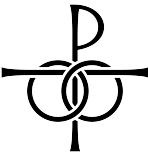
Anniversaries

Annie Douglas, Patrick Connolly, Willie McConville,
John McLaughlin, Gretta McMillan, Desmond Roche

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

CONGRATULATIONS

to **Bronagh Reid** and **Joe McEvoy**
who celebrated their marriage in
Our Lady & St Patrick's this week.



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.

BISHOP OF DERRY

We keep in our prayers Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry whose retirement was announced this week. Pope Leo has appointed Bishop Michael Router, currently the auxiliary bishop of Armagh, to be the new bishop of Derry. May God bless him as he prepares for his new responsibilities.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Our parish SVP conference is here to support our local community, and we do this in the strictest confidence. If you are in need and would like our help please do not hesitate to get in touch on **07860 455 549**.



OLD & NEW@No.5

It's been a busy week for our parish shop with lots of visitors about. And there's plenty to see! Check out our circular planters, metal tractor seat stool and our wide range of Royal Doultons.

Visit us at 5 Gate End, Ballymoney, open **Wednesday to Saturday, 10am - 4.30pm**. To keep in touch with our offers and to see pictures of our stock don't forget our Facebook page **@oldandnewatno5**

MEN'S RETREAT

Standing in the Breach: Freedom in Christ, will take place in **Portglenone Monastery on Saturday 25th July from 9am-1pm**. The keynote speaker will be Dr Robert McNamara, and the morning will be an opportunity for men to come together for prayer, encouragement, fellowship and renewal in the Catholic faith. All men are warmly invited to attend. For further information or to book a place, please contact **Thomas Carey** on **07967 620435** or email **Sean** at **sean@catholicminute.co.uk**

OLD SCHOOL BUILDING

As you will have noticed we have begun a project to renovate the old school building which stands across from the main doors of Our Lady & St Patrick's church. The first parish school on the site was built in the 1870s at the same time as the church and the original parochial house. That school house was destroyed by fire in 1924 and the current building opened in 1926. Many of our parishioners will have gone to school there over the years.

We are now renovating the school building for use as parish function rooms and we hope it will be ready in the next 12-18 months. Your support for this project (particularly through the monthly Building Fund collection) would be much appreciated.

PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor
Causeway Family of Parishes

Contact Details

Very Rev. Damian McCaughan PP VF

81 Castle Street
BALLYMONEY
Co. Antrim
BT53 6JT

Tel: 028 2766 2003
Email: ballymoney@downandconnor.org

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

HYMNS FOR MASS

Come and take the flesh of Christ
Which he gave to be our bread.
Drink the chalice of his blood
Which upon the cross he shed.

We who are redeemed and saved,
By his body and his blood,
Hail the saving sacred Host
Which he gave to be our food.

Giver of salvation, Lord
Christ, the Son of God most high,
Sacrificed to save the world,
Raised with him, we will not die.

O praise ye the Lord!
Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word,
ye angels of light;
ye heavens adore him
by whom ye were made,
and worship before him,
in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord!
Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured
all ages along:
for love in creation,
for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation,
O praise ye the Lord!

GRANDPARENTS' PILGRIMAGE

Next Sunday (26th) is the Church's annual day of prayer for grandparents and the elderly. A national grandparents' pilgrimage to Knock shrine in Co. Mayo will take place next Sunday. Devotions include the **anointing of the sick** at **2.30pm** and **Mass** at **3pm** celebrated by Archbishop Eamon Martin, the Primate of All-Ireland. After Mass there will be a rosary procession around the shrine. If you can't be there in person you are welcome to join the celebration online at **www.knockshrine.ie/watch**

LOUGH DERG

St Patrick's Purgatory at Lough Derg in County Donegal is one of Ireland's holiest places. Each summer thousand of pilgrims come out to Station Island for three days of prayer and penance. The **Three Day Pilgrimage** season is underway right now and ends on **15th August** (13th August is the final day for pilgrims to begin the Three Day Pilgrimage). Pre-booking for the pilgrimage is advised - you can book online or find out more information on **loughderg.org**

DOWNPATRICK PILGRIM WALK

Walk in Downpatrick with Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly on **Saturday 8th August**. The walk begins at the Saint Patrick's Centre. The price includes entrance fees, internal bus transfers, pilgrimage lunch at Saul Barn, and a 6 mile pilgrimage walk finishing at St Patrick's grave. (Duration 9am-approx 3pm, all for just £55) To book ring **028 44619000** or **www.saintpatrickcentre.com**