

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
 Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:
 Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
 Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
 May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus. If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 118:1-2.4-5.17-18.33-34

R. They are happy who follow God's law!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
 They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. (R)
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.
 May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. (R)
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
 Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. (R)
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
 Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. (R)

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 2: 6 - 10*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 5: 17 - 37*

*(or *5:20-22.27-28.33-34.37) (Shorter form in italics)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. Jesus said to his disciples: Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in

the kingdom of heaven.
'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

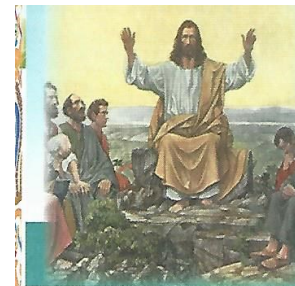
*'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;** if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all,* either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. *All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



focus on sunday

The gospel of Christ will often force difficult decisions in our lives. The gospel offers a fullness of life which in turn offers us joy and a meaning of life which promises a hope and love that is eternal.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, All bow for following two lines: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters, May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

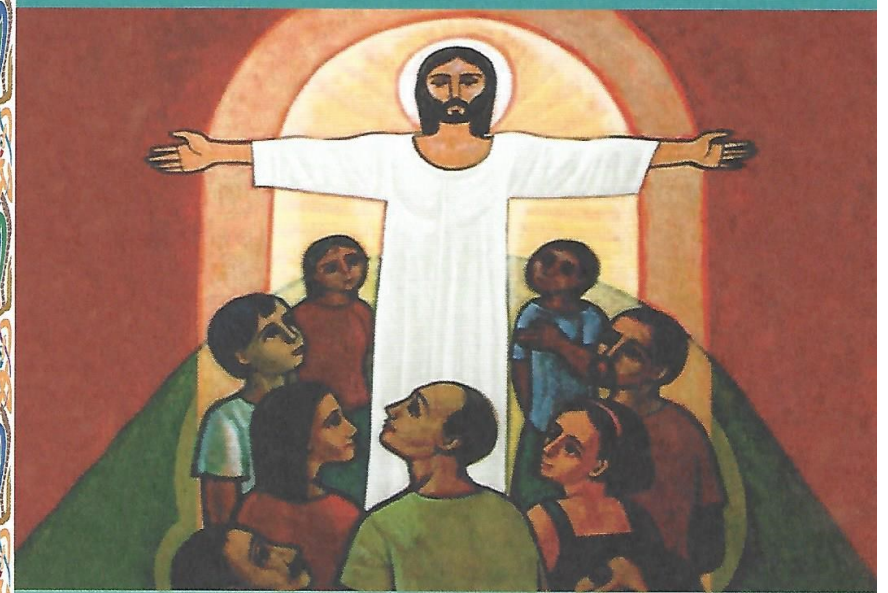
God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for that food by which we truly live. Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. Go in peace, Thanks be to God.



A bit of criticism again from Jesus of the scribes and the Pharisees. Not a judgment about them personally but about their religion not going deep enough, and the fact that they didn't seem to notice that. They seemed happy to keep the law even when it might become a huge burden to others. They never investigated the

reason why people did religious things. There is 'true religion' and 'false religion'. False religion has been used to promote war and violence over the centuries, and in fact still does so in many countries. Religion and Christianity have been used to violate the dignity and rights of many groups of people like the single parent, LGBT men and women and others over the years. True religion is the religion of the heart, rooted in compassion for all God's creation. Any religious practice like living by rules, participating in worship and our relationship with God is to come from the heart and from the desire only to do what God wants and give God first place in our lives.

The 'righteousness' of the people of Jesus's time sometimes came from the desire for power over others. True religion is humble and sees everyone as an equal child of God unlike the false religion, including clericalism, which puts traditionalism and its practices above compassion. This year we should strive to think synodally – to help develop a listening church which is open to the views of others.

As Pope Francis puts it: "Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties.... so often our certainties can make us closed. Let us listen to one another" Lord, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Donal Neary SJ (Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger)

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey



Jesus tells us that the Law of Love, is better than the love of law. Laws are important, but not complete, without the heart of love. I can read books, and know about Love, but loving means kindness, putting others first, caring, saying thanks, offering help. The Holy Spirit helps to make our knowing into loving. No matter how much I think I'm right, it's good to say, but I may be wrong.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 12th FEBRUARY 2023

Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Farragher, 094-9630006 / 087-9210305

Email: ballyhaunisparish@gmail.com Parish Office: 094-9630006

PARISH WEBSITE: <http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie>

PARISH RADIO: 105.2FM Newsletter on line: Parish website & www.mcnmedia.tv

Web-cam: <http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie> or www.mcnmedia.tv

Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)

Emergency numbers:

Knock: 094-9388100

Fr. Feeney, Ballinlough: 094-9640155

Fr. McGuinness, Began: 094-9313937

ANNIVERSARY MASSES 13th – 19th Feb. 2023

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00am. Saturday 7.30pm.

Seamus Cribbin, Drimbane

Tom & John Fitzmaurice, Tullaghane & decd. of the Fitzmaurice family

Tom & Delia Mitchell, Irishtown & their sons Tommy & John

Séan & Maura Griffin, decd. of the Griffin & O'Reilly families & Mike Freeley

Pat O'Connor, Hazelhill

Arthur & Bea Prenty, Knock Road

Lillian Glynn (née Henry), Manchester & Tooreen

Kathleen & John Fleming & their granddaughter Bridann

Sr. Evelyn Fahy and Sr. Maura Cahill, former teachers at Ballyhaunis

Community School

Charlie & Mary Agnes O'Reilly, Holywell

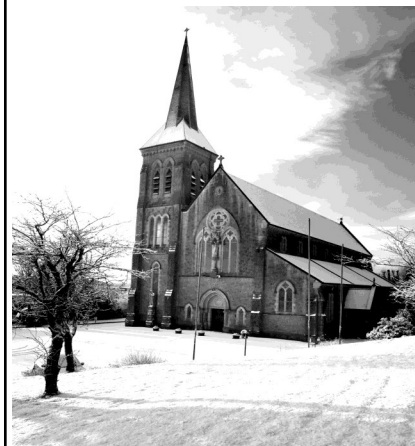
William Kelly & decd. Began

Ellie, John Joe, David & Ann Fitzmaurice, Forthill

Martin & Bridget Moran & their daughter Maria, Bracklaghboy & Manchester

SUNDAY 19TH FEB.—MONTH'S MIND

Pierce Higgins, Esker Pines & formerly Ballinphuill



MASSES:

Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday, Friday 10.00am.

Saturday Evening Vigil:

7.30pm

Sunday: 10.00am.

CONFESSIONS:

Before Saturday Vigil Mass

EUCCHARISTIC

ADORATION

Each day on selected hours

between 9am & 7pm

BAPTISMS

First Saturday & third Sunday

of the month at 11.00am.

Minimum of four weeks'

notice required. Contact the

parish office, 094-9630006.



13th-19th Feb	READERS	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Monday	Martin Fitzmaurice	Marion Regan, Irene Healy
Tuesday	Tommy Caulfield	Lorraine Waldron, Margaret Tarpey
Wednesday	Mary Donnelly	Mary Sykes, Marie Brennan
Friday	Christina Concannon	Kay Curley, Willie Broderick
Saturday 7.30pm	Norrie Dillon	Laura Brogan, Eavan Caulfield, Breda Davis, Helene McCafferty
Sunday 10am	Julia Kelly	Mary T. Griffin, Daniela Balbino Romao, Patricia Plunkett, Mary Murphy

Recently Deceased—We remember in our prayers

Margaret Garner, Devon, UK—sister of Phil Heffernan, Manor Court

All weekday and weekend Masses, and the daily Rosary at 9.00pm continue to be broadcast on parish radio 105.2FM and streamed on the parish webcam: <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-patricks-church-ballyhaunis> or on the website: www.ballyhaunisparish.ie.

The 10am Mass on Sundays 12th & 19th February will be broadcast live on Midwest Radio.

Offertory Collection

5th February 2023
€2,105

CONFIRMATION: Children who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in May will need to attend four preparation meetings over the coming weeks. The first session of “You Shall Be My Witness” takes place this Tuesday 14th February at 8pm in Scoil Íosa for one hour, with the other sessions on 21st & 28th February and Tuesday 14th March. Parents are asked to arrive back at the school at 8.50pm to join in the prayers at the end of each session before collecting their son/ daughter.

NEW PPC: Work is now underway on the formation of a new Parish Pastoral Council to serve from 2023 to 2027, as the current PPC has served its term. We wish to thank the outgoing members for their commitment and support over the past five years, especially for their leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic. Nominations are now being sought for the new PPC, and a brochure will be circulated to homes in the parish this week, with information about a Parish Pastoral Council, and how to go about nominating new members. **Distributors are asked to collect the brochures in the sacristy this weekend, and deliver them in your area as soon as possible.**

The following are unavailable for the new PPC or ineligible, having already served two terms: Laura Brogan, Clare Higgins, Mary Mulrennan, Emer Gallagher, Mike Byrne, Mike Griffin, Willie Ryan, Eileen Lynch, Marion Regan, Mary Waldron & Mary McGuire. Prospective PPC members should have time to give, be able to think in terms of the whole parish, be team people – able to work well with others, be open to new ways of doing things and be able to work by way of meetings: planning, discussing and reviewing. Nomination forms are available at the back of the brochure, and should be returned to the box in the Church porch.

PPC NEWSLETTER: The Parish Pastoral Council Newsletter from July to December 2022 is now available in the Church porch. Please take a copy home. It contains articles and photos of events that took place in the parish in the second half of last year.

APPRECIATION: Following Mary Donnelly's recent retirement, the parish would like to thank Mary for her professionalism and kindness over almost 30 years in the role of Parish Secretary. You can show your appreciation by joining Mary and members of the Parish Pastoral Council for a cup of tea /coffee across in the Community Hall following 10am Mass this Sunday 12th Feb.

CHY3 CERTIFICATES: Any outstanding CHY 3 certificates should be returned as soon as possible to the Parish Office, as a return is currently being prepared for Revenue. This tax rebate scheme is of considerable benefit to the parish. Once completed, the forms are valid for a further 5 years.

FAITH RENEWAL EVENTS AT KNOCK SHRINE:

The Faith Renewal Programme offers a variety of day retreats, seminars & events throughout the year. Spring/ Summer events: **Saturday 25th Feb:** “Following in the footsteps of Jesus to His Passion” - a workshop with Fr. Denis McBride C.Ss.R in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel from 10am to 4pm. Cost: €30

Saturday 1st April: Day Retreat with Deirdre Ní Chinnéide: “The Spiral and the Cross—symbols of hope through challenging times” takes place in the Prayer Centre from 10am to 4pm. Cost: €30. Advance booking is essential for these events. More details on www.knockshrine.ie

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK: The Tuam Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock, led by Archbishop Francis, will take place on Sunday 7th May. Ceremonies will commence at 2.30pm.

KNOCK YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME: The closing date for applications has been extended to 27th April, with the programme due to commence in September. Participants will receive training to become leaders within their parish and work with young people in their area to hand on their faith. Those taking part will learn youth ministry skills and will bring these skills back to their parish to set up child and youth-focused faith activities/ gatherings/ events. Contact the Youth Ministry on 094 9375321 or youthministry@knockshrine.ie for details and applications forms.

Recently Baptised

We welcome into the Faith Community
Amelia Rose Cleary, The Maples;
Ivy-Marie Higgins, Hazelhill Downs

MAYO HOSPICE WALK & TALK group resumes next Wednesday 15th Feb. at 11am at Lough Lannagh, Castlebar, and will continue on the first and third Wednesday of every month. The Walk & Talk group is run by the Mayo Hospice Bereavement Service for people who have experienced a bereavement through the hospice service. Light refreshments afterwards. For details, call Christina at 094 9005100.

MAYO RECOVERY COLLEGE: Spring/ Summer semester begins on Tuesday 14th Feb. from 10am to 1pm at the Atlantic Technological University, Castlebar. Anyone over 18 with an interest in mental health can attend, including people with mental health challenges, family members & friends, mental health staff and members of the community. Students can attend either in person or online. Full timetable on www.recoverycollegewest.ie For more details, contact Karen McHale at 086 0294901.

TIDY TOWNS: The next meeting of Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns takes place on Monday 13th Feb. in the Community Hall at 8pm. New members always welcome.

LOCAL LINK RURAL BUS SERVICE: A meeting to discuss the current status and potential development of Local Link rural bus routes servicing the Ballyhaunis area will be held in the Community Hall this Wed. 15th February at 7.30pm. Organised by Ballyhaunis Community Council, and Local Link Mayo representatives will be present to give an update on services.

IRISH CLASSES: Irish language classes for beginners & Improvers continue every Tuesday evening from 7pm to 8pm in the Community Hall, organised by the Ballyhaunis Language Café. Enquiries to 087 9777899.

BEEKEEPING: For those wishing to get involved in beekeeping, the Ballyhaunis Beekeepers Association is running a beginner's course in Clare Court, Ballyhaunis on Sat & Sun 25th & 26th February. To comply with insurance, you must be a member of the Ballyhaunis Beekeepers Association to attend the course. To register, email ballyhaunisbees@gmail.com or through their Facebook page.

CLAREMORRIS DRAMA & FRINGE FESTIVAL: The 51st festival takes place in the Town Hall, Claremorris from 16th to 25th March. Tickets available from the Town Hall box office on 094 9310999 or on www.townhall.ie

COPIES OF THE IRISH CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER are available at the back of the Church. Cost €2.50.