



# Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

9th March 2025  
First Sunday of Lent

## STANDING UP TO THE DEVIL

This Sunday as Lent begins we hear of Jesus' forty days in the desert. This was a time of intense prayer and fasting for the Lord as he prepared for his ministry. But Jesus also experienced temptation. The Devil tempted Jesus in three ways: through physical hunger, by challenging him to test God's protection, and by offering him worldly power and popularity. Jesus rejected each temptation through self-control, obedience, and humility.

During these forty days of Lent, we too face temptations. But Jesus shows us how through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we can overcome them. We cannot defeat the Devil by ourselves, but with Jesus as our captain, we will always be on the winning team. May God bless us all this Lenten season.



## WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

### Anniversaries

Fr Daniel McBride PP, Patrick Coyles, Patrick Darragh, Bernie Henry, James Kearney, Gerald Kelly, Grace Kelly, Thomas-John Kelly, Nichola Kontostanos, Sean McCloy, Mary O'Reilly, Archie Osborne, Kathleen Quigg, Ellen (Nellie) Rodgers

### REQUIESCAT IN PACE

### 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.**

### OLD & NEW@No.5

Not only do we have a nice choice of hares in the shop this week but there are lots of other items in this week, from lamps, pictures, figurines and small furnishings including a small couch and button back chair!

Check out our new range of metal ducks and owls our large X and Os sets and our selection of miniature enamel boxes.

Our Parish Shop is open **Wednesday to Saturday 10am-4.30pm** at 5 Gate End Ballymoney. You can also keep in touch with us and see photos of our current stock on our Facebook page **@oldandnewatno5**

## LENT DEVOTIONS

Stations of the Cross and Benediction will be prayed each Tuesday of Lent at 7pm, beginning this **Tuesday**.



On **Wednesday** at 7pm there will be a different style of prayer when we have a time of meditation on the scriptures with reflective hymns from **Taizé**.

## EARLY MORNING MASS IN COLERAINE

Each **weekday** of Lent an early morning Mass is celebrated at **7am** in **St Malachy's** in **Coleraine**. This Mass is being organised jointly by the priests of Coleraine, Ballymoney and Portstewart. Fr Damian will be saying the Mass on Tuesday this week.

## TRÓCAIRE LENT APPEAL

Please pick up a Trócaire pack at Mass. The pack contains a box plus details of how give by cheque, phone or online.

## LENTEN PLEDGE

Many people choose to give up alcohol for Lent. You can offer up this penance as a prayer for those who suffer through alcoholism. If you do, why not make this daily prayer:

*I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to abstain from all alcoholic drink during Lent.*

## DUNLOY MISSION

Dunloy & Cloughmills Parish are hosting a Healing Mission with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal next month. The mission runs **Monday 10th - Thursday 13th March**. Each day there will be Mass at **6.15am** and **10am** with a mission session each evening at **7pm**. All services take place at St Joseph's church in Dunloy.

## PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor  
Causeway Family of Parishes

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## HYMNS FOR MASS

Jesus, remember me,  
when you come into your kingdom.

God of mercy and compassion,  
Look with pity upon me,  
Father let me call Thee Father,  
'Tis thy child returns to Thee. R.

*R. Jesus Lord, I ask for mercy;  
Let me not implore in vain;  
All my sins, I now detest them,  
Never will I sin again.*

See our Saviour, bleeding, dying  
On the cross of Calvary.  
To that cross my sins have nailed him,  
Yet he bleeds and dies for me. R.

## MASS ATTENDANCE CENSUS

For the third year we have run a count of people attending weekend Masses in our parish for four weekends in February/March, finishing last weekend. And the good news is that our parish is continuing to grow back from the low-point of the covid period. The average attendance in **2025** is **447**, an increase of **5%** on last year (425) and **10%** on 2023 (405).

Average attendances at the individual Masses across the month were:

Saturday 6pm 153  
Sunday 9.30am 142  
Sunday 5pm 144

In addition 33 people attended the Dementia Friendly Mass in February. On Ash Wednesday 330 attended Mass here (up 8% on last year).

## ST PATRICK'S DAY

St Patrick's Day is **Monday 17th March** and it the feast day of both our national saint and the patron of our own parish church. We will have a **vigil Mass** on **Sunday 16th March** at **5pm** and Mass on the day itself at **10am** (there is no evening Mass on 17th as it is a public holiday).

## ST PATRICK'S EVE CONCERT

As part of our parish bicentenary celebrations, there will be a St Patrick's concert on **Sunday 16th March** at **7pm** in the parish hall. A wee taste of Irish stew will be served too! Come and join us for an evening of music and celebration for our patron saint!



## TRUTH RECOVERY INDEPENDENT PANEL

If you or a family member have been affected by a Mother and Baby Home Institution, Magdalene Laundry, or Workhouse, the Truth and Recovery programme would like to hear from you. For more information please speak to Fr Damian or check: [www.independentpanel.truthrecoveryni.co.uk](http://www.independentpanel.truthrecoveryni.co.uk)

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Our parish SVP conference continues 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**.

