



Parish of Ballymoney & Derrykeighan

22nd December 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent



THE LIGHT GROWS STRONGER

This weekend marks the shortest day of the year. While there are still many cold, dark days ahead, from now on the days will slowly grow longer. This mirrors our celebration of Christmas, as we welcome Jesus, the Light of the World, in our darkest times.

In today's Gospel, we see a private moment of joy as Mary visits Elizabeth. John the Baptist leaps in his mother's womb, recognising Christ's presence even before his birth. While the rest of the world was unaware, God's promise was already being fulfilled. Today too, even when we struggle to see Christ's presence in our troubled world, his kingdom is growing. Like Mary and Elizabeth, we can rejoice that God is with us, bringing light into darkness.



WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Recently Deceased

Noel O'Connor
Margaret McCloskey, Coleraine

Month's Mind

Maura Gillan

Anniversaries

Fr Christopher Gray, Mary Carlin, Michael Carlin,
Catherine (Cassie) Hendrie, Tony McCaughan,
John McClements, Roy McClintock, Dennis McKeever,
William Neill, Wilma Neill, Cissie Quigg, Gretta Turner

CONGRATULATIONS

to the families of **Luca Foster**
and **Freya Hegarty**
who were baptised this week.



PARISH CAROL SERVICE

Please join us for our Parish Carol Service on **Sunday** at **7pm**. Our parish choir, children from our schools and other local musicians will be taking part. All welcome!

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

SVP would like to express their sincere gratitude for your tremendous support in this year's Annual Appeal, which amounted to **£4,032**. Thank you for your ongoing support and we wish you a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

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**.

ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

If you have a child starting school in September 2025 or know someone who is, please contact St Brigid's Primary School to register your interest. The application process is online this year and opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon and closes on 24 January 2025 at 12noon. All the information and guidance will be on the Education Authority website www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions.

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

CHRISTMAS MASSES IN THE CAUSEWAY FAMILY OF PARISHES

Christmas Eve

6pm - Portstewart
6pm - St Malachy's, Coleraine

9pm - Portstewart
9pm - St Malachy's, Coleraine
9pm - Portrush

Christmas Day

8am - Bushmills
10am - Portstewart
11am - St Malachy's, Coleraine
11am - Portrush



CHRISTMAS ON TV AND RADIO

There are a number of Christmas carol services and ceremonies on TV. **RTE 1** has Mass on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Pope's blessing at 11am on Christmas morning. **BBC Radio 4** will broadcast Midnight Mass. The Catholic channel **EWTN** (Sky 586) has regular Masses and devotions each day.

HOLY YEAR 2025

On Christmas Eve Pope Francis will open the Holy Door in St Peter's in Rome to begin the Jubilee Holy Year of 2025. A jubilee is traditionally celebrated by the Church every twenty five years. It is a year set aside for us to repent of our sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew a focus on our spiritual life.

In the Diocese the celebration of the Holy Year will begin the following Sunday on the Feast of the Holy Family. All parishioners are warmly invited to join Bishop Alan McGuckian at the Solemn Opening Mass on **Sunday 29th December** at **3pm** in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast. The Mass can also be followed on the Cathedral's webcam: www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral

In Ballymoney we will mark the beginning of the Holy Year and our own Parish Bicentenary year with **Mass and Benediction** at **10am** on **New Year's Day**.

NEW YEAR ALPHA COURSE

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 Drumcroom Rd, Coleraine. Further information: Alphanorthcoast@gmail.com or telephone: **077 6064 7665**

PARISH OF BALLYMONEY & DERRYKEIGHAN

Diocese of Down & Connor
Causeway Family of Parishes

Contact Details

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Youtube: Ballymoney Parish

HYMNS FOR MASS

O come, O come, Emmanuel
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*R. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

* * *

O come thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go. R.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave. R.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see. R.

*R. Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church
gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. R.

Christmas Week

SATURDAY 21st 5-5.50pm Confessions
6pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 22nd 9.30am Mass
4-4.50pm Confessions
5pm Mass
7pm Parish Carol Service

MONDAY 23rd 10am Mass

TUESDAY 24th 11am-12noon Confessions
Christmas Eve

6pm VIGIL MASS of CHRISTMAS

12 MIDNIGHT MASS

WEDNESDAY 25th 9.30am DAWN MASS of CHRISTMAS
Christmas Day

FRIDAY 27th 9.30am Mass in Dervock
St John's Day *for the feast of St John the Evangelist*

SATURDAY 28th 2pm Dementia Friendly Mass
5.30-5.50pm Confessions
6pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 29th 9.30am Mass
Feast of the Holy Family
4.30-4.50pm Confessions
5pm Mass