

PARISH OF BANAGHER

3rd Sunday of Advent – 17th December 2023

Mass Times

Weekday Mass Times:

Monday: Grotto Chapel, Fincairn: 9.30am
Tuesday: St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.00am
Wednesday: St Peter & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: 7:00pm
Thursday: St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.00am
Friday: Grotto Chapel, Fincairn: 9.30am

Weekend Mass Times for next weekend: 23rd & 24th December

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Vigil 7.00pm
St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.30am
St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: 12 Noon

Weekend Mass times in Neighbouring Parishes:

St Patrick's Church, Dungiven: Vigil 6.00pm; Sunday 9.00am & 11.30am
St Matthew's Church, Drumsum: Sunday 10.15am
Immaculate Conception, Gortnahey: Vigil 4.30pm
St Joseph's Church, Craigbane: Sunday 10.00am
St Patrick's Church, Claudy: Vigil 6.30pm; Sunday 11.30am

Confessions

Grotto Chapel Friday: 10:00am
St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Saturday: 6.30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Chaplet

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Friday 10.00am – 11.00am
St Mary's Church, Altinure: Thursday 10:30am – 11:30am

Christmas Mass Times

Sunday 24 December: Christmas Eve

St Mary's Church, Altinure: 5:30pm
St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: 7:00pm

Monday 25 December – Christmas Day

St Joseph's Church Fincairn: 9:15am
St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10:30am
St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: 12 Noon

RIP: We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of James Aloysius (Wishie) Feeney RIP, Kilcreen and Philomena (Phyllis) Reilly RIP, Altinure Cottages, who were buried this past week.

Baptisms: We welcome into the family of God baby Cillian Bernard Duffy and baby Conan James Gormley.

Canticle at Christmas

Join Canticle, the Sacred Music Society from Queen's University Belfast on Sunday 17th December at 6pm in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn for an evening of music, song and readings. Admission free with retiring collection. All welcome.

December Do This in Memory Mass – Foreglen Sunday the 10th of December is the second week of Advent and the last Do This in Memory Mass of 2023 for the Primary 4 children in Foreglen, as part of their Sacramental preparation. This month the children have been learning about Advent and the importance of this special season, as a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. For their parish gift this month, the children will be receiving a Christmas treat for all their hard work and dedication that they have shown towards their First Holy Communion preparation so far.

Banagher Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima 2024: 17-24 May. Only a few seats remain on the Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima. For those who have reserved a place, please arrange to pay the £200 deposit as soon as possible so that your place can be secured. If you want to pay directly into the Parish Bank Account, the details are printed in this bulletin under the Offertory Collection. Thank you.

Trócaire Christmas Gifts of Change will be on sale this weekend 16th & 17th in St Joseph's Fincairn and 17th December in St Mary's, Altinure. In this Trócaire's 50th anniversary year, the organisation is marking '50 Years of Giving' by the Irish public, helping the poorest people in the world to work their way out of poverty. With 22 gifts to choose from, ranging from £5 to £1,400, each Trócaire gift will support critical work e.g. the horrific situation in Gaza, two gifts that will help families caught up in conflict this year: The Gift of Family Essentials (£30) will bring vital comfort to children and families caught up in conflict in countries like Gaza, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Ukraine. This gift will provide families with survival kits, emergency dignity kits and food baskets and The Mental Health Lifeline Gift (£40) also provides women and children in Gaza access to vital mental health care. Meanwhile, your friend or family member will receive a lovely Gift card telling them you have bought this Gift of Change on their behalf. All the gifts are real items, sourced in-country which go to families in need of our support. For further information go to <https://www.trocaire.org/gifts>.

SVP 'Wonder of Christmas' Appeal will run over next weeks leading up to Christmas. There are a number of ways to donate i.e. Vouchers, Cash donation, Blue envelope available in Church. Please consider donating to the Appeal so that life might be a little easier for the many that find themselves less fortunate.

Prayer for Vocations Our prayer this weekend for the seminarians of the diocese of Derry and for those discerning their vocation is taken from the words of St Paul in our second reading: "May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body.... God has called you and he will not fail you."

Ballinsacreen Parish Live Crib featuring real animals and people at St Eugene's Church Moneyneena on Saturday 30 December. Following the 10.00 am Mass, at which Bishop McKeown will be chief celebrant, the Live Crib will be operational all day until candlelit Mass at 6,00 pm. Refreshments served throughout the day. Everyone is welcome to come and discover the true meaning of Christmas.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

9th & 10th December 2023

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £625 St Mary's Church, Altinure: £860
St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: £590

Please consider online contributions and Gift Aid. Online Contributions to:
Parish of Banagher Sort Code: 950306 A/c 51052659

Please note that the above figures do not include donations made online directly to the parish bank account. This total figure will be published at the beginning of each month.

Prayer by Telephone The Sisters of Mercy "Bethany" 34 Point Road, Dundalk welcome any person who may wish to request prayer, especially during these difficult times. All requests are confidential. 9am - 9pm. Telephone: 042 9331602 ROI or 00353 42 931602 NI

Mary's Meals – Double the Love Mary's Meals is keeping the promise of a daily school meal to over 2.4 million children in 18 countries. Our Double the Love Campaign has launched, and all donations made to Mary's Meals until 22nd January 2024 will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1million. Amongst the many challenges we see in today's world, from conflict to the cost-of-living crisis, your little acts of love can go further thanks to Double the Love, bringing hope to desperately hungry children and their families. Please pray that we can reach even more children around the world with our life-changing school meals this Christmas. Find out more and browse our Christmas gift cards at marysmeals.org.uk or freephone 0800 698 1212.

ACCORD Derry Marriage Preparation Courses January 2024 to March 2024 - January 19th/20th 2024; February 23rd/24th 2024 & March 22nd/23rd 2024. Venue: Everglades Hotel, Prehen Road Derry. Please note that these courses are NOT Virtual and are in person.

ACCORD NI & Marriage Care UK are seeking to recruit Marriage & Relationship Counsellors. A fully funded training course is provided. No academic qualifications or previous counselling experience is necessary. The 2 year training program begins in April 2024 and applications close on 20th December 2023 with selection in March 2024. For more information call 02890233002 or email info@accordni.com

Feast Days this Coming Week:

Tuesday 19th: St Irenaeus (130 - 202) Irenaeus was born in Smyrna, in Asia Minor (now Izmir in Turkey) and emigrated to Lyons, in France, where he eventually became the bishop. Whenever we take up a Bible we touch Irenaeus's work, for he played a decisive role in fixing the canon of the New Testament. It is easy for people nowadays to think of Scripture – and the New Testament in particular – as the basis of the Church, but harder to remember that it was the Church itself that had to agree, early on, about what was scriptural and what was not. Before Irenaeus, there was vague general agreement on what scripture was, but a system based on this kind of common consent was too weak. As dissensions and heresies arose, reference to scripture was the obvious way of trying to settle what the truth really was, but in the absence of an agreed canon of scripture it was all too easy to attack one's opponent's arguments by saying that his texts were corrupt or unscriptural; and easy, too, to do a little fine-tuning of texts on one's own behalf. Irenaeus not only established a canon which is almost identical to our present one, but also gave reasoned arguments for each inclusion and exclusion. Irenaeus also wrote a major work, Against the Heresies, which in the course of denying what the Christian faith is not, effectively asserts what it is. The majority of this work was lost for many centuries and only rediscovered in a monastery on Mount Athos in 1842. Many passages from it are used in the Office of Readings.

Wednesday 20th: Blessed Scubillon (1797 - 1867) Born in France in 1797, Jean-Bernard Rousseau felt the call to share his faith and his knowledge with others. He joined the Brothers of the Christian Schools (the de la Salle Brothers) and was given the name Scubillon. In 1833 he was sent to the Isle of Réunion, where he remained until his death in 1867. In Réunion he was named "the catechist of the slaves" on account of his ministry among them. His memorial is celebrated today, the anniversary of the abolition of slavery on the island.

Saturday 24th December: St Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430) was born in Thagaste in Africa of a Berber family. He was brought up a Christian but left the Church early and spent a great deal of time seriously seeking the truth, first in the Manichaean heresy, which he abandoned on seeing how nonsensical it was, and then in Neoplatonism, until at length, through the prayers of his mother and the teaching of St Ambrose of Milan, he was converted back to Christianity and baptized in 387, shortly before his mother's death. Augustine had a brilliant legal and academic career, but after his conversion he returned home to Africa and led an ascetic life. He was elected Bishop of Hippo and spent 34 years looking after his flock, teaching them, strengthening them in the faith and protecting them strenuously against the errors of the time. He wrote an enormous amount and left a permanent mark on both philosophy and theology. His Confessions, as dazzling in style as they are deep in content, are a landmark of world literature. The Second Readings in the Office of Readings contain extracts from many of his sermons and commentaries and also from the Confessions.

Safeguarding Notice: If you have any concerns with regard to Safeguarding children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at 07596 500 793 or at the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ or PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Duty Social Worker, Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090

Privacy Notice: The Diocese of Derry complies with GDPR regulations. A privacy notice is available on the Parish Website or by contacting the Parish Office. Live stream and recordings of Mass and Services in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn and St Mary's Church, Altinure are available online. Parishioners should note that the first three rows of seats are visible online in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn and the first six rows of seats in St Mary's Church, Altinure. Please also note that the outside areas and the interiors of St Joseph's Church, Fincairn and St Mary's Church, Altinure and covered by CCTV.

COMMUNITY NEWS

St Mary's GAC, Banagher: Lotto numbers for 11/12/2023 were 5, 14, 16, 18. Winning £35 each were Patricia Reilly, Margaret Rose Gormley, Alicia O'Kane. Next week's Jackpot is £2800.

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Micheál McGavigan Adm. JV

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CONTACT US

To arrange a Baptism, Wedding or Anniversary Mass, please call Fr Micheál or the secretaries on

028 7778 1223 or email banagherparish@derrydiocese.org.

Parish Office opening hours next week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Mass is Live on the Webcam at www.banagherparish.com

SVP Confidential Helpline: 07593954973