

PARISH OF BANAGHER

2nd Sunday of Advent – 10th 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: 7:30pm
 Thursday: St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10am
 Friday: Grotto Chapel, Fincairn: 9.30am

Weekend Mass Times for next weekend: 16th & 17th December

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Vigil 7.00pm; 9.15am
 St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.30am

Weekend Mass times in Neighbouring Parishes:

St Patrick's Church, Dungiven: Vigil 6.00pm; Sunday 9.00am & 11.30am
 St Matthew's Church, Drumsurn: Sunday 10.15am
 Immaculate Conception, Gortnahey: Vigil 4.30pm
 St Joseph's Church, Craighbane: 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 Altinure Thursday :10:30am – 11:30am

Christmas Mass Times

Sunday 24 December: Christmas Eve

St Mary's 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: 12noon

Advent Devotions continue in the Grotto Chapel at 6pm. Devotions will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and Evening Prayer. All welcome.

Visitation of the Sick and Housebound will take place on Monday & Tuesday of this week. Monday morning – Feeny, Monday afternoon- Foreglen, Monday evening - Carnabane Tuesday morning- Park. If you have a relative or neighbour that would like a visit, please let Fr. Micheal know.

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.

Final Night of Parish Draw

Friday 15th December - Fincairn Hall
 Final night of the Parish Draw with music, entertainment, bar and supper.

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.

December	St Joseph's Church, Fincairn		St Mary's Church, Altinure
	7.00pm	9.15am	10.30am
Readers	Brenda Duddy	Jack McColgan	Patrick Conway
Eucharistic Ministers	Bernie Lynch	Geraldine McCloskey	Sally O'Kane
Flowers	Pauline McGrellis		Sheila Byrne
Cleaning	Lucy McLaughlin, Jean O'Neill		Roisin McInroy, Sheila Byrne
Counters	Ann Hasson, Marian & Anthony O'Neill Patricia McCloskey		Anna Smyth, Anna Gormley
Collectors	Paul Campbell Pat McCullagh	Liam Campbell Sean Roe McCloskey	Gerald, Conor, Sean & Shane Kerlin

Trócaire Christmas Gifts of Change will be on sale at weekend Masses on the 16th & 17th in St Joseph's Fincairn and 10th & 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. At all parish Masses on the 10th December further details will be given of how you can donate to the Appeal so that life might be a little easier for the many that find themselves less fortunate.

Prayer for Vocations We pray for our diocesan seminarians and for those currently discerning their vocation to the priesthood that, like John the Baptist, they will prepare God's people for the coming of Jesus at the end of time and as He comes to us every day.

Radio Maria Ireland Christmas Fundraiser is on Thursday 14th December in The Drummond Hotel, Limavady, Derry. Doors open that evening at 6pm followed by a four course meal, live music by Louise Irvine & Kathy O'Hara, meet some new friends and learn more about Radio Maria. Come along and enjoy a great night and help a Catholic charity and bring some friends. To book a ticket (€70/£65 per person) you can contact the station on +(00) 353 1 4 123 456. To listen to Radio Maria: 1. Digital TV: Freeview, 2. Free App: "Radio Maria Ireland" 3. Website: www.radiomaria.ie, 4. Facebook: 'Listen Live Radio' & 5. Phone: +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply).

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

2nd & 3rd December 2023

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £775.00 St Mary's Church, Altinure: £565.00

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.

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:

Monday 11th: St Damasus, born around 304 in Spain and died on this day in 384, elected pope in 366 during calamitous. He insisted on the apostolic foundations of the Roman See, was active in opposing fourth-century heresies and promoted the cult of the martyrs. He commissioned St Jerome to prepare the Vulgate version of the Bible.

Tuesday 12th: St Finnian of Clonard (470 – 549) studied in Idrone (Co. Carlow) and later in Wales and upon his return, settled in Clonard, Co. Meath around 520, where he established a famous school. The Twelve Apostles of Ireland, amongst them Canice, Colmcille and Brenda, who were the initiators of the great monastic expansion in Ireland. He died in 549 and is remembered as the tutor of the saints of Ireland.

Thursday 14th: St John of the Cross was born in Fontiveros, in Spain, in about 1542. He spent some time as a Carmelite friar before, in 1568, Saint Teresa of Ávila persuaded him to pioneer the reform of the Carmelite order. This was a difficult task and a dangerous one: he suffered imprisonment and severe punishment at the hands of the Church authorities. He died at the monastery of Ubuda in Andalusia on 14 December 1591: the monks there had initially treated him as the worst of sinners, but by the time he died they had recognised his sanctity and his funeral was the occasion of a great outburst of enthusiasm. His works include two major mystical poems – he is considered one of the great poets of the Spanish language – and detailed commentaries on them and the spiritual truths they convey. He was canonized in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.

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 are covered by CCTV.

COMMUNITY NEWS

'Let's Change Tomorrow' The total raised for our 'Gaza Appeal' is **£10,094.40**. After researching we've decided to send this collection to the 'Red Cross' who have been working tirelessly since the war began. 'Red Cross' have been working side-by-side with 'Red Crescent' to provide medical care, shelter and essentials. 'Red Cross' in Dublin have told us that money from this collection will be used ONLY to help with aid for victims of Gaza war. 'Tuesday's Child' a Belfast charity, who have been working with children in Gaza since 2007 will also receive a donation from this collection. A special thankyou to Glenshane House, Dungiven and Eurospar, Dungiven for permitting us to use their premises for our collection. Finally, a very big thankyou to everyone who donated to this appeal. We are overwhelmed by the response. We look forward to your continued support.

St Mary's GAC, Banagher: Lotto numbers for 5/12/2023 were, 6,7,12,18 Winning £20 each was Josephine O'Reilly, Thomas O'Neill, Stephen McBreaty, Ann Bradley & Brian Conway. Next week's Jackpot is £2700. Drive-in Bingo Sunday 4pm.

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 - Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm.

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

SVP Confidential Helpline: 07593954973