

# PARISH OF BANAGHER

## The Baptism of the Lord – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Mass Times

#### Weekday Mass Times:

Monday: Grotto Chapel, Fincairn: 9.30am  
Tuesday: St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.00am  
Wednesday: St Peter's & 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: 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> January

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, Craighane: 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

**Rest in Peace** We offer our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of George (Geordie) McCullagh, Ashford Park, who was buried recently.

**A Month's Mind Mass** for the happy repose of the soul of James Aloysius (Whishie) Feeney RIP, will be celebrated on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January in St Mary's Church, Altinure at 5.30pm.

**A First Anniversary Mass** for the happy repose of the soul of Anna Farrell RIP will be celebrated on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at in St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen at 7.00pm.

**A First Anniversary Mass** for the happy repose of the soul of Dan Lynch RIP will be celebrated on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at in St Mary's Church, Altinure at 10.30am

**Acknowledgement** Fr Micheál would like to acknowledge the generous donation of £200 from the Cartin family for the use of the hall after the funeral of Michelle Cartin RIP.

**Prayer for Vocations** We pray for those called to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry. That, like John the Baptist, they will help prepare God's people, through Baptism and the other sacraments, to welcome Jesus into their lives. We pray for our seminarians, especially for Oran Gartland of Holy Family parish, Derry, who has just begun his propaedeutic year of studies in Salamanca. Anyone interested in diocesan priesthood is invited to contact their local priest or to speak with Fr Pat O'Hagan, the Diocesan Vocations Director, at (028) 7938 6259.

**Banagher Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima 2024: 17-24 May** is now fully subscribed. Full payment is due by 11th March 2024. If not already submitted, please send a copy of your passport.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £780 St Mary's Church, Altinure: £405  
St Peter's & St Paul's, Foreglen: £270

#### 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £835 St Mary's Church, Altinure: £527.30  
St Peter's & St Paul's, Foreglen: £178.50

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 Extended** 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 the end of 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](http://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.

### Feast Days this Coming Week:

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>: 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. It is not known for certain whether he was martyred or died a natural death. 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, whilst denying what the Christian faith is not, effectively asserts what it is. Much 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.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>: St Athanasius (295 - 373)** was born in Alexandria. He assisted Bishop Alexander at the Council of Nicaea, and later succeeded him as bishop. He fought hard against Arianism all his life, undergoing many sufferings and spending a total of 17 years in exile. He wrote outstanding works to explain and defend orthodoxy. The matters in dispute with the Arians were vital to the very nature of Christianity; and, as Cardinal Newman put it, the trouble was that at that time the laity tended to be champions of orthodoxy while their bishops (seduced by closeness to imperial power) tended not to be. The further trouble (adds Henry Chadwick) is that the whole thing became tangled up with matters of power, organization and authority, and with cultural differences between East and West. Athanasius was accused of treason and murder, embezzlement and sacrilege. In the fight against him, any weapon would do. Arianism taught that the Son was created by the Father and in no way equal to him. This was in many ways a "purer" and more "spiritual" approach to religion, since it did not force God to undergo the undignified experience of being made of meat. Islam is essentially Arian. But Arianism leaves an infinite gap between God and man, and ultimately destroys the Gospel, leaving it either as a fake or as a cruel parody. Only by being orthodox and insisting on the identity of the natures of the Father and the Son and the Spirit can we truly understand the goodness of creation and the love of God, and live according to them. For this reason many extracts from the works of St Athanasius have been adopted as Second Readings in the Office of Readings.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>: St Benet (Benedict)** Biscop (c. 628–690) was born of a noble Northumbrian family and was for a time a thegn (aristocrat with lands granted by the king) of King Oswiu. While returning from a journey to Rome, he visited Lérins, a monastic island off the Mediterranean coast of Provence, and stayed there for two years, from 665 to 667, during which he took monastic vows and the name of "Benedict". Ecgfrith of Northumbria granted Benedict land in 674 for the purpose of building a monastery. He went to the Continent to bring back masons who could build a monastery in the Romanesque style, and St Peter's, at Jarrow, was the first ecclesiastical building in England to be built in stone. Its library became world-famous and it was here that Benedict's student Bede wrote his famous works. For the last three years of his life Benedict was bed-ridden. He suffered his affliction with great patience and faith. He died on 12 January 690.

**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

**Fostering in NI** The HSC NI Foster Team is urgently seeking more people to think seriously about fostering. Foster carers are ordinary people who make an extraordinary difference to the lives of those children and young people who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to live with their birth families. There are many challenges and reasons leading to children and young people requiring foster care: sometimes material poverty and hardship; sometimes parental struggles due to relationship difficulties or addictions. With the Feast of the Holy Family in our minds, do you think you can make that extraordinary difference to a child's life? There are times when there are no available spaces for foster care placements. If you think you can help or if you have any questions at all in relation to fostering, please make contact with the Team: Tel 0800 0720 137 or email [info@fostering.hscni.net](mailto:info@fostering.hscni.net)

**St Mary's GAC, Banagher:** Lotto numbers for 2/1/2024 were 3,16,21,22. Winning £25 each were Peter Duggan, Orla Brolly, Terry O'Neill & Vincent Feeney. Next week's Jackpot is £3,100.

### PARISH CLERGY

**Fr Micheál McGavigan Adm. JV**

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Tel: 028 7778 1223 Email: [mcgavigan@derrydiocese.org](mailto:mcgavigan@derrydiocese.org)

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.banagherparish.com)**

**SVP Confidential Helpline: 07593954973**