

PARISH OF BANAGHER

St Patrick's Day - 17th March 2024

Mass Times

Weekday Mass Times:

Monday: St Joseph's Church, 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: St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: 9.30am

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

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

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Friday: 10:00am

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Saturday: 6.30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Chaplet

St Mary's Church, Altinure: Thursday 10.30am-11.30am

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Friday 10.00am – 11.00am

Lent 2024: Stations of the Cross will take place in St Mary's Church, Altinure for the Sundays of Lent at 6pm.

Faith Formation Coordinator This week Charlotte, our Faith Formation Coordinator will be going off on maternity leave. We keep Charlotte in our prayers as she embarks on the next stage of her life. Banagher Parish would also like to welcome Aine Patton, who will be taking over Charlotte's role in the schools and parish. We wish Aine all the best as she starts this new role and we welcome her to Banagher parish.

RIP We extend our sympathies to the family of Clare McDermott, Glenbracken Drive, who died recently.

March Do This in Memory Mass (Foreglen) Sunday the 17th March will be the Do This in Memory Mass for the Primary 4 children in Foreglen, as part of their Sacramental preparation. The theme for this month is 'Prayer'. Each month the children will receive a gift at the end of Mass which aims to help them grow in their prayer life. This month's gift is a cross, to remind the children of the great things Jesus has done for us. Also, to remind us of the importance of the cross as a symbol of prayer. We as a parish pray that Jesus will guide the children throughout their lives and especially during their Sacramental preparation.

Call for Parent Volunteers Children's Liturgy Banagher Parish are currently seeking Parent Volunteers for the Children's Liturgy (Primary 1-3) which takes place each Sunday at 10:30am Mass in St Mary's Church, Altinure. Our Children's Liturgy is a fantastic, fun group, in great need of enthusiastic parent volunteers to play a vital role in shaping the faith formation journey of children in our parish. If you are free some Sundays and are interested in joining the team, please contact the School Liaison Coordinator for the Parish, Aine Patton at: aine.patton@derrydiocese.org or on 07856508980.

Prayer for Vocations The gospel for St Patrick's Day challenges the future priests of our diocese to die to themselves and their own desires and ambitions; to give up their "life in this world" for the sake of the Kingdom; to love and follow Jesus; to stay close to the Lord, standing with Him wherever He is, particularly in His closeness to, and love for, the poor, the needy, the oppressed, and the most vulnerable. We pray for those already answering that call, and for those who will serve the people of this diocese as priests for many years to come.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

9th & 10th March 2024

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £650

St Mary's Church, Altinure: £670

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.

ACCORD Derry Marriage Preparation Courses: Will take place on March 22nd & 23rd 2024; April 19th & 20th 2024; May 17th & 18th 2024; June 14th & 15th 2024. Venue: Everglades Hotel, Prehen Road Derry. (Please note that all courses are now in person and NOT virtual). To book, visit our website www.accordni.com

Palm Sunday Retreat: Join with the Columba Community for a Day of Healing Prayer at St Anthony's Retreat Centre, Dundrean, Burnfoot, which will include Scripture meditations, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Teaching and Celebration of Eucharist as we enter Holy Week together. Sunday 24th March, 11am-4pm. Mass celebrated at 3pm. Light lunch included. Suggested donation £20. Email columbacommunity@hotmail.com to book or call 02871262407.

Marriage Encounter Ireland invite married couples to their next Marriage Enrichment Weekend in the Focolare Centre, Prosperous, Co Kildare, Friday 26 – Sunday 28 April. Register online. www.marriageencounter.ie.

Feast Days this Week:

17th March St Patrick (385 – 461)

As a missionary bishop, he endured many hardships and faced opposition even from his friends and fellow Christians. Nevertheless, he worked hard to conciliate, to evangelize, and to educate local chieftains and their families. He is remembered for his simplicity and pastoral care, for his humble trust in God, and for his fearless preaching of the gospel to the very people who had enslaved him in his youth.

Monday 18th: St Cyril (315 - 386) was born in 315 of Christian parents and succeeded Maximus as bishop of Jerusalem in 348. He was active in the Arian controversy and was exiled more than once as a result. His pastoral zeal is especially shown in his Catechises, in which he expounded orthodox doctrine, holy Scripture and the traditions of the faith. They are still read today, and several of the Second Readings of the Office of Readings are taken from them. He died in 386. He is held in high esteem by both the Catholics and the Orthodox, and he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1883.

Tuesday 19th: St Joseph Nothing is known of St Joseph except what is said of him in the Gospels. He was a carpenter; he accepted the will of God; and he supported Mary and brought up Jesus. From the human character of his son we can see that he was a good and responsible father. He is widely venerated as a patron of artisans who honourably do good work with the gifts God has given them, and of workers in general. He is a source of inspiration to those who exercise the role of an adoptive parent, whether formally or informally,; over one child or as the support of a whole family.

Friday 22nd: St Nicholas Owen (c.1550-1606) was born around 1550 into a Catholic family and grew to manhood during the time of the Penal Laws. He became a carpenter, and for thirty years or more built hiding-places for priests in the homes of Catholic families. He frequently travelled from one house to another, under the name of "Little John", accepting only the necessities of life as payment before starting off for a new project. To minimise the likelihood of betrayal he often worked at night, and always alone. The number of hiding-places he constructed will never be known. Early in 1606 he was arrested, giving himself up voluntarily in the hope of distracting attention from some priests who were hiding nearby. Owen was imprisoned in the Tower of London, where he was tortured and executed on 22nd March 1606. It was written of him that "no man can be said to have done more good of all those who laboured in the English vineyard... saving the lives of many hundreds of persons, both ecclesiastical and secular."

Friday 22nd St Deogratias (d. 457) The Christians of the diocese of Carthage, who had remained without a bishop for fourteen years, welcomed the appointment of Deogratias with great joy. An outstanding priest, very much loved and supported by the people because of his charity and preaching. During his ministry as bishop he especially cared for the many captives taken to North Africa by the Vandal king Genseric. He was a pastoral leader, full of love and ready to respond to their practical and spiritual needs.

Gala Concert in St Columb's Hall Sunday 24th March at 7.30pm. The Priests and soprano Margaret Keys will be performing. Tickets cost £30.00. Tickets can be purchased by going onto the Long Tower website www.longtowerchurch.org via the donate button. Alternatively, tickets will be sold after 6.00pm Saturday Vigil & 12 Noon Sunday Masses, at the rear of the Long Tower Church and from the Long Tower Parish Office on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2.30pm-4.00pm. For Further details email darinaghboyle15@gmail.com or longtower@derrydiocese.org.

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

St Mary's GAC, Banagher: Lotto numbers for 12.3.24 were 10,16,17 & 27. Winning £100 was Ann O'Brien. Thanks to everyone who continues to support our club Lotto. It is greatly appreciated. Next week's Jackpot is £4,100.

Learmount Community Development Group: Tuesday 19th March: Bespoke crafts/ Easter decorations: 7pm; **Saturday 23rd March:** Fused Glass Workshop with Natasha Duddy; **Friday 19th April:** Spring Paint and Sip Class; **Thursday 9th May:** Joint CARE outing to Enniskillen. **Tuesday 14th May:** Millenium Forum Tea Dance Park Hall. Booking essential: Tel. 02877781881 / 07592995229.

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Micheál McGavigan Adm. JV

42 Glenedra Road, Feeny, BT47 4TW

Tel: 028 7778 1223 Email: 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.

Parish Office opening hours next week: Tuesday - Friday: 9.30am - 12.30pm.

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

SVP Confidential Helpline: 07593954973