

PARISH OF BANAGHER

4th Sunday of Advent – 22nd December 2024

Mass Times this Week

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

Tuesday: St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.00am

Thursday: St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.00am

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

Weekend Mass Times for Sunday 29th December 2024 -

Feast of the Holy Family

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

St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.30am

Confessions

St Mary's Church, Altinure: Thursday 10.30am

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

St Mary's Church, Altinure: **6.00pm**

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: **7.00pm**

St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: **8.00pm**

Wednesday 25th 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**

The Priests of the Parish would like to take this opportunity to wish all parishioners a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

May the Christmas Season bring many Blessings to you, your families and our Parish.

Prayer for Vocations We pray for our seminarians and for those considering a vocation to serve as priests in this diocese that, like Mary and Elizabeth, they will be attentive to the power and movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Children in Crossfire would like to thank everyone for supporting their Advent Appeal this year, which will help children in inner-city Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. If you wish to donate, please remember to bring your box/envelope back to the chapel sacristy from the weekend of 4th & 5th January onwards. Any support you can give is greatly appreciated.

Invitation to 33 Days of Family Prayer: Bishop McKeown will lead the diocese in 33 days of Family Prayer towards Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary, as part of a diocesan programme for the Jubilee Year of 2025, Pilgrims of Hope. It will be delivered online on the Diocese of Derry Facebook, each evening at 7.00pm, starting on Thursday 9 January 2025 and concluding on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Tuesday 11 February 2025. Bishop McKeown explains, "It is a journey I set out to make to entrust myself and my priesthood to Christ through the Mother of God. I extend an invitation to you and your families from the parishes of the diocese to join me". Details & times of the prayer programme with a video message from Bishop McKeown can be viewed at derrydiocese.org/consecration

January	St Joseph's Church, Fincairn		St Mary's Church, Altinure
	7.00pm	9.15am	10.30am
Readers	Pauline McGrellis	Liam Campbell	Noeleen McGlinchey
Eucharistic Ministers	Bernie Lynch	Briege O'Neill	Seamus McCaul
Flowers	Pauline McGrellis		Sinead Wilson & Miriam Lockhart
Cleaning	Bernie Lynch, Kathleen Lynch & Carol Anne McGinty		Marie Conway
Counters	Siobhan Campbell & Liam Campbell, Pat McCullagh, Bernie McCullagh, Vincent McCloskey, Geraldine McCloskey, Pauline MCGrellis		Philomena Conway, Sean Conway, Karen Feeney
Collectors	Dermot Lynch, Sean Roe, McCloskey	Anthony O'Neill, Patrick McGrellis	Eamon Feeney, Patrick Conway

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025 led by Bishop Donal McKeown, Monday 30 June - Friday 4 July, leaving from City of Derry Airport. Price £849 plus insurance (single supp. if required). The Pilgrimage Office at 164 Bishop Street, Derry will be open for booking on Saturday 1 February 2025, 11.00am - 1.00pm (and Saturdays & Thursdays after 1st Feb). Gift Vouchers are now available from the Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. Also, enquiries can be made by email to derrypilgrim@outlook.com.

Aid to the Church in Need ACN is making an urgent appeal for prayer and support for the Christian community and all residents of Aleppo, Syria, who are facing a worsening humanitarian crisis. How you can help: Pray: Ask your parish, community and family to pray for Aleppo, and for peace in Syria. Donate: Your contributions will provide vital resources for food, shelter & medical care. Please visit www.acnireland.org/syria-emergency-appeal.

Feast Days in the Coming Weeks

Thursday 26th December: St Stephen, the first Martyr. He was one of the deacons appointed by the Apostles to organise the distribution of food to the poor. He performed many miracles and confounded the Jews in his arguments. They fabricated false charges against him. At his trial he preached the risen Christ to them, so they stoned him to death. He prayed for his persecutors as he was dying. One of them, Saul of Tarsus, who was looking after the cloaks of the stone-throwers, was later converted and became the great missionary St Paul.

Friday 27th December: St John the Evangelist James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were nicknamed by Jesus "the sons of thunder." John is involved in many of the central events of Jesus' life, including the Transfiguration, the Crucifixion, and the discovery of the Resurrection. He is "the disciple whom Jesus loved" and the one to whom he confided the care of his mother Mary. He is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles; later he was exiled to the island of Patmos. He is said to have died at Ephesus. He wrote a Gospel, three Epistles, and the Apocalypse.

Saturday 28th December: The Holy Innocents are the children who were slaughtered at the orders of King Herod, in the hope that by killing every boy born in Bethlehem at the same time as Jesus, he would succeed in killing the new-born King of the Jews. Their feast day reminds us that in God's eyes (that is, according to the true value of things), no-one is unimportant, no-one is unnecessary; however meaningless their lives and deaths may seem to us, they shine glorious in heaven and the honour given to the Holy Innocents reminds us that if we suffer or even die for God's sake, it has value even if we have little or no say in it ourselves. Honouring them effectively honours also the martyrdom of the people these children could have become, and their children's children as well; and at the same time we can remember those who die before birth at the hand of others.

Sunday 29th December: The Holy Family is seen as the model for the human family; the religious community and the Church itself. In the Holy Family we see the ordinariness of the life of Jesus; the simple acceptance by Mary and Joseph of the marvels of God. In the daily life of family and community we can touch the divine, we can come close to God. We must learn to live life centred on God, with respect and love for each other.

Wednesday 1st January: Mary, the Holy Mother of God At the message of the angel, the Virgin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body and gave Life to the world. Hence she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

14th & 15th December 2024

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £2055 St Mary's Church, Altinure: £460

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

Thank you for your continued generosity.

COMMUNITY NEWS

St Mary's GAC, Banagher: Lotto numbers for 17.12.2024 were 2, 8, 26, & 28. Winning £50 each was Sean McCullagh & Katina McGillion. Thanks to everyone who continues to support our club Lotto. Next week's Jackpot is £1300.

Banagher GAC Christmas Bingo on Sunday 29th December at 4pm in Sports Hall. Last house £1,000. Christmas prizes. Raffle in aid of St Vincent de Paul.

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. Please 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.

The Parish Webcams are now available to view on the Firestick. If you search for the iTech Media App and download it to your Firestick, you can then search for the Church.

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Dermot McGirr PP

42 Glenedra Road, Feeny, BT47 4TW

Tel: 028 7778 1223 Email: banagherparish@derrydiocese.org

CONTACT US

To arrange a Baptism, Wedding or Anniversary Mass, please call Fr Dermot or the secretaries on 028 7778 1223 or email banagherparish@derrydiocese.org.

The Parish Office is now closed and will reopen in the New Year.

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

SVP Confidential Helpline: 07593954973