

PARISH OF BANAGHER

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

29th December 2024

Mass Times this Week

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 Sunday 5th January 2025 -

Feast of the Holy Family

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: 7.00pm Vigil

St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.30am

St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: 12pm Noon

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.

THE HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

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, inspired by the Holy Family of Nazareth, their personal discernment will be supported by their home and local community.

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 Week

Tuesday 31st December: St Sylvester was the first Pope of Rome to reign entirely in a Church under its own liberty, guaranteed by the Edict of Milan in 313. Sylvester was elected to the See of Peter in the year 314, two years after Constantine became Emperor of Rome and ruled that Christianity could be practiced in freedom and in public. During Sylvester's reign, the city began its transition into its Christian era, with the construction of the great Constantinian basilicas - including the first Basilica of St. Peter on the Vatican Hill to mark the burial place of the first Bishop of Rome. St Sylvester and Emperor Constantine also collaborated on the Lateran Basilica, the (Roman) Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. St Sylvester was Pope for twenty-four years and eleven months and died in the year 335.

Wednesday 1st January: Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The title 'Mother of God' goes back to the third or fourth century, but the Greek term *Theotokos* ('The God-bearer') was officially consecrated as Catholic doctrine at the Council of Ephesus in the year 431, thus becoming the first Marian dogma. At the end of that Council, crowds of people marched through the streets shouting: 'Praised be the Theotokos!' This Catholic doctrine is based on the doctrine of the Incarnation, as expressed by St. Paul: 'God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law' (Galatians 4:4). In its chapter on Mary's role in the Church, Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution '*Lumen Gentium*' ('Light of the People') calls Mary 'Mother of God' 12 times. On 1st January the Church also celebrates World Day of Peace, a tradition established by Pope Paul VI and confirmed by Pope St John Paul II.

Thursday 2nd January: St. Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen Basil and Gregory were both from Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) and both from devout Christian families (multiple saints are found among their parents and siblings). They first met when they were studying together in Athens and became fast friends, building that friendship on a common dedication to the cause of Christ. **Basil** pursued a monastic way of life and developed his own monastic rule, which remains the norm for Eastern monasticism. Soon the heresy Arianism, that denied the divinity of Christ, was shaking the Church to its foundations, and Basil was called on to defend the true faith in the city of Caesarea as its bishop. Meanwhile, **Gregory** was recruited by his father (bishop of Nazianzus) to help administer his diocese. He too was swept into the furious theological and political strife stirred up by Arianism, and eventually was brought as bishop to the Imperial city of Constantinople, where he courageously defended the true faith in the face of daunting

obstacles, even violent attacks. Basil and Gregory fought their battles from the pulpit with their brilliant and heartfelt sermons, from their desks with eloquent letters, and from their souls with a deep life of prayer. Basil died in the year 370 and Gregory in 389.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

14th & 15th December 2024

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £835 St Mary's Church, Altinure: £510
St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: £493

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

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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: 075 9395 4973