

PARISH OF BANAGHER

1st Sunday of Lent – 22nd February 2026

Mass Times:

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

Monday: St. Peter's & St. Paul's Church, Foreglen: 11.00am

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: 11.00am

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

Weekend Mass Times for Sunday 1st March 2026

St. Joseph's Church, Fincairn: 7.00pm Vigil

St. Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.30am

St. Peter's & St. Paul's Church, Foreglen: 12.00pm 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

Lenten Devotions today, Sunday, at 6pm in St. Mary's Church, Altinure.

February's Do This in Memory Mass (Feeny & Altinure) Sunday 22nd February will be the Do This in Memory Mass for the Primary 4 children in Feeny and Altinure, as part of their Sacramental preparation. The theme for the month is the 'Importance of Baptism for First Holy Communion'. 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 bottle of Holy water, to remind the children of their baptism, and why it is important to them as they prepare for their First Holy Communion. We as a parish pray that Jesus will guide the children throughout their lives and especially during their Sacramental preparation.

The Lourdes Hospitalité Collection, which helps those who wish to go to Lourdes and need nursing care and assistance, will also be taken up at **next weekend's Masses** on **28th February & 1st March**. You can use the 'Special' envelope at the back of your box of collection envelopes and mark it '**Lourdes**' or you can use an ordinary envelope marked 'Lourdes' and put it into next Sunday's collection, or you can drop your Lourdes donation through the letterbox of the Parochial House at any time next weekend. We appreciate your kind generosity towards this worthwhile cause as we support the opportunity for pilgrims who need assistance to travel to Our Lady's Shrine.

Confirmation 2026

Confirmation in Banagher Parish will be held next weekend.

The Primary 7 children of **St. Mary's P.S., Altinure** will be on Saturday 28th February at **11.00am** in St. Mary's Church, Altinure.

The Primary 7 children of **St. Canice's P.S., Feeny** and **St. Peter's and St. Paul's P.S., Foreglen** will be on Saturday 28th February at **2.00pm** in St. Joseph's Church, Fincairn.

Please continue to keep the Confirmation children, their sponsors and their families in your prayers this week as they prepare for their special day.

Baptisms We welcome into God's family Cameron Irwin.

Banagher St. Vincent de Paul Thank You most sincerely for all your contributions and donations to the Christmas Appeal. We are very grateful to our local GAC and to the schools in the parish for their fundraising. Please be assured the money will be used to provide support to those in need in our community.

Children in Crossfire is deeply grateful for all the kind support for their 2025 Advent Appeal. Banagher Parish contributed £1,060 which is greatly appreciated. Funds raised will help make life better for children and families in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, providing access to education, healthcare, nutrition and family support.

Dungiven Parish Retreat opens on Sunday 1st March at 6pm and will close at the 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 7th March, celebrated by Bishop Donal. The retreat will be led by former BBC political correspondent, Martina Purdy, and Elaine Kelly, a former leading barrister. Martina and Elaine's story is fascinating - their calling from God, the obstacles on their journey, and how St. Patrick has guided them to where they are now. This retreat will bring 'All Kinds of Everything' when on the last two days we will be welcoming Dana 'The Original Derry Girl'. Dana's Catholic faith is deeply rooted in her life to the extent that she was conferred a Papal honour in recognition of her services to the Catholic Church. Martina, Elaine and Dana will help light the flame of faith, hope and love in our hearts, inspired by our very own St. Patrick. This retreat will be the perfect opportunity during Lent to bring our focus to God. 'Whether our faith is still taking root, or already fruitful, it always needs renewed and replenished' – Fr. Gerry Sweeney.

Monday – Friday: **Masses at 7am and 10am.**

Monday – Friday: **7pm - Evening service of prayer and devotion.**

Omagh Charismatic Prayer Group invite you to **Life in the Spirit Seminars 2026** in the Sacred Heart Church, Omagh, Co. Tyrone at the Thursday 7.30pm Mass. Grace filled Lenten Journey:

26 th February	Salvation	Fr. Eamonn Kelly
5 th March	New Life	Fr. Barney McAleer
12 th March	Receiving God's Gifts	Fr. Peter McAnenly
19 th March	Baptism in the Spirit	Fr. Joseph Mary Deane CFR Derry
26 th March	Growth and Transformation	Fr. Owen Gorman

Accessible online at www.drumraghparish.com.

'Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary use words.' St. Francis of Assisi

**Offertory Collection
14th & 15th February 2026**

St. Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £520 St. Mary's Church, Altinure: £710
St. Peter's & St. Paul's Church, Foreglen: £485

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.

Mary's Meals 'A Fundamental Solution' Thanks to the overwhelming support for our Crisis in Ethiopia appeal, as schools reopened after the war, we were able to expand our school feeding programme and bring food and hope to hundreds of thousands more children and their families. Today, with our partner The Daughters of Charity, we serve nutritious daily meals to more than 245,000 children in over 475 schools across the region. Head of School Feeding, Abraha Bahlbi, tells us: 'The community is experiencing severe hunger and health problems. [But] despite these immense challenges, Mary's Meals is becoming a fundamental solution to the problems of many children.' If you can, please donate today to help us keep our promise of life-changing school meals to the three million children across the globe for whom Mary's Meals means food, friendship and hope. Please visit us for more info on <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/?pl=GB>

DIVINE invitation to come on St. Patrick's Way Pilgrim Walk in Downpatrick with guides Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly on Saturday 14th March in honour of Ireland's patron saint and the 25th Anniversary of The Saint Patrick Centre. Includes the 180° IMAX film of St. Patrick, with internal bus transfers, pilgrimage lunch, an authentic Camino passport and a 6 mile pilgrimage walk finishing at St. Patrick's grave. A special 25% discount price is on offer of £40 (normally £55). To book, ring 028 4461 9000 or visit www.saintpatrickcentre.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Learmount Community Development Group: Timetable for the week commencing 23rd February 2026: **Monday 23rd:** Time for Me Ladies (10.30 am - 12.30 pm); Dementia Social Group (11 am - 1 pm) **Tuesday 24th:** Men's Hobby Work Shed (10.30 - 12.30 pm); Craft & Crochet Club (10.30 am - 12.30 pm); Advice NW (2 - 4 pm); Couch 2 5K Week 6: Session 11 (7 pm) at Craigbane Walkway; **Thursday 26th:** Post Office Outreach service (9 am - 12 pm); Painting for Pleasure: (10.30 am - 12.30 pm); Park 60+ Group (12 - 4 pm); Couch 2 5K Week 6: Session 12 (7 pm) at Craigbane Walkway; CITB NI Heritage local history workshop: (2 - 4 pm); Ladies Social evening: Flower arranging demonstration: (7 pm); **Friday 27th:** Learmount Walking Group: Meet at 10.30 am at the Community Centre; History Group with Graham Mawhinney of Ballinascreen Historical Society (7.30 pm); **Saturday 28th:** Mini Pac (10 - 11 am); PAC Club (11.30 am - 1 pm).

Thursday 7th March: March through Park Village to raise awareness of the End Violence Against Women and Girls campaign (Everyone has their part to play!) from 12 pm at Learmount Community Centre. Everyone welcome - Men, women and children. Refreshments afterwards. For further information or to book any of our classes, Tel. 028 7778 1881 or DM/email: admin@learmountgroup.org.

'Time for Dementia' is now at the University of Ulster and the Alzheimer's Society is actively looking for families to take part. 'Time for Dementia' is an innovative award-winning training programme, designed to educate undergraduate healthcare students to improve their knowledge, attitude, and empathy towards people with dementia and their carers. The student nurses will be paired up with a family affected by dementia and will arrange to visit them at home three times a year. This is a unique learning opportunity for the students but also a great chance for a family affected by dementia to share their experiences of living with the condition and help nurses of tomorrow learn about Dementia to improve the future of healthcare for people with dementia. If you would like to find out more information, please contact Anouska Noble on 078 6033 1648 or anouska.noble@alzheimers.org.uk.

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, St. Mary's Church, Altinure and St. Peter's & St. Paul's Church, Foreglen are available online. Please note that the first three rows of seats are visible online in St. Joseph's Church, Fincairn and St. Peter's & St. Paul's Church, Foreglen, 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 P.P.

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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.

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: 075 9395 4973