

# PARISH OF BANAGHER

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 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: 10.00am  
Friday: St. Joseph's Church, Fincairn: 9.30am

### Weekend Mass Times for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (Palm Sunday)

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

**Confessions for Easter this Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn at 7.00pm. We will be joined by priests from Claudy and Dungiven.

### 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 6.00pm in St. Mary's Church, Altinure.**

**Fr. Dermot kindly invites** all Sacristans, Assistant Sacristans, Altar Server Leaders, Secretaries, Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors, Readers, Children's Liturgy Facilitators, Pope John Paul II Award Leaders and Parents (who are involved in programmes), Parish Council members, SVDP members, Choir Members, Cleaners, Ground Workers and all those interested in Safeguarding to a Safeguarding Children Information Meeting in the Parish Hall, Feeny this **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm.**

**Do This in Memory Mass (Feeny & Altinure)** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March will be the March Do This in Memory Mass for the Primary 4 children in Feeny and Altinure, 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 prayer card. We as a parish pray that Jesus will guide the children throughout their lives and especially during their Sacramental preparation.

### Derry Diocesan Trust

#### Three Patrons Parish – Parish Catechist

**35 hours per week Permanent – 3 years Fixed Term Contract**

Reporting to the Parish Priest, Three Patrons Parish is recruiting a **Parish Catechist**. For application packs please contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone 028 7126 2302 or email: [recruitment@derrydiocese.org](mailto:recruitment@derrydiocese.org). Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop's House, St. Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to [recruitment@derrydiocese.org](mailto:recruitment@derrydiocese.org) no later than **12 noon on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

*Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.*

**Holy Hours for Vocations** There will be a Holy Hour for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life in St. Mary's Church, Coolcalm, Desertmartin on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** from 7.00pm to 8.15pm, including Mass at 7.30pm. All are welcome to join us.

**The Columba Community** warmly invites you to its Palm Sunday Retreat on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am in St. Anthony's Retreat Centre, Dundrean, Co. Donegal, F93NF76. This special time of retreat offers the opportunity to pause, reflect on the Passion of the Lord, and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. The programme will include teaching, guided meditation, adoration and Eucharist. Please book by telephoning: 00353 74 938 4866.

**Hope Banagher 2026** will run from 6<sup>th</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> July for children who have finished P6 up to those who have finished Year 11. **Registration** will take place on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** and **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** from 6.00pm to 7.00pm in Fincairn Hall. Jersey orders and food orders will be taken and £20 payment per child will be collected. There will be sample jerseys available to try on as MFC are supplying this year's jerseys. Hope Banagher is for children within the parish boundary only. Parents must register their children and bring along proof of address please.

To help with our fundraising, we are asking businesses to donate £100 to our Friends of Hope. Businesses who donate will have their name recognised on our Facebook page and on our Hope 2026 banner. You can PM our Facebook page or contact any member of the committee. Thanks in advance for all your support and for helping us to give the young people of our parish the best week possible. We are looking forward to another fantastic camp this year.

**Derry Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July: Due to the great demand for places, we have secured 50 extra seats ex-Dublin direct to Lourdes and return, with complimentary bus to the Airport. The fare is £895 pps full board. If you wish to book, please contact the pilgrimage office at 164 Bishop St., Derry. Tel. 028 7126 0293, email: [derrypilgrim@outlook.com](mailto:derrypilgrim@outlook.com) as soon as possible.

**Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima** We are inviting young people aged 16+ to join us on pilgrimage to Fatima for 5 nights from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with their peers from around the world in a faith context. Cost is £820 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to book in, please contact [bethany.doherty@derrydiocese.org](mailto:bethany.doherty@derrydiocese.org) or tel. 028 7126 4087.

### Offertory Collection

**14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

St. Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £560 St. Mary's Church, Altinure: £745  
St. Peter's & St. Paul's Church, Foreglen: £590

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.**

**Vocations** We pray for our seminarians and men who are considering service to the Church as diocesan priests, that their interests will be in the things of the Holy Spirit who will have made His home in them (cf. St. Paul's letter to the Romans).

**One Day Retreat – 'In the Stillness: Faith in a Busy World'** In a world that often feels busy and distracted, this retreat offers young adults the opportunity to pause, reflect and reconnect with faith in the peaceful setting of Lough Derg. The day will conclude with the celebration of the Eucharist at 5.00pm, which is open to the public. This retreat is open to young adults aged 18–35 and free to attend, thanks to the support of the Knights of St. Columbanus. It takes place in Lough Derg, Co. Donegal on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Boat departs at 9.30am. Registration is essential: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/young-adult-retreat-day-18-35yrs-tickets-1984550442797?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>. For further information, please contact [info@knightsfstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk](mailto:info@knightsfstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk) or 077 5949 6677.

**Foyle Hospice 'Make a Will Month'** During the month of March local solicitors very kindly agree to waive their usual will-writing fee in return for a suggested £100 donation to the Foyle Hospice. A list of participating solicitors can be found at [foylehospice.com/make-a-will/](http://foylehospice.com/make-a-will/) or by calling Kathleen at the Foyle Hospice on 028 7135 9888. The purpose of Make a Will Month is to encourage people to write their Wills, whilst also raising much-needed funds for Foyle Hospice. Money raised will ensure Foyle Hospice can continue to deliver high quality specialist palliative care and end of life care to those in our community with life-limiting illness.

### Feast Days

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>: Saint Macartan** (- 506) was a convert from paganism and a companion of St. Patrick, who made him bishop of Clogher in 454. He is the patron saint of the diocese.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>: The Annunciation of the Lord** 'Giving her consent to God's word, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus. Espousing the divine will for salvation wholeheartedly, without a single sin to restrain her, she gave herself entirely to the person and to the work of her Son; she did so in order to serve the mystery of redemption with him and dependent on him, by God's grace.' (CCC, 494)

**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.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

**Learmount Community Development Group:** Timetable for the week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026: **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Time for Me Ladies: (10.30 am - 12.30 pm); Dementia Social Group: (11 am - 1 pm); Ladies Yoga (7-7.45 pm); Men's Yoga: (8-8.45 pm); Evening Art Class: 7.30-9.30 pm; **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>:** Craft and Crochet Club: (10.30 am - 12.30 pm); Mens Shed: (10.30 am - 12.30 pm), Advice NW: (2 pm - 4 pm); Couch 2 5K Week 10: Session 19 (7 pm) at Craighane Walkway; **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>:** Post Office Outreach service (9 am - 12 pm); Painting for Pleasure: (10.30 am - 12.30 pm); Park 60+ Group (12 - 4 pm); Couch to 2 5K Week 10: Session 20 (7 pm) at Craighane Walkway; Slow Sewing Class: ( 7 pm- Community Centre); Margaret Kelly: Author & Podcaster: 'Learn to Say No': (7 pm Community Centre); **Friday 27<sup>th</sup>:** Learmount Walking Group: Meet at 10.30 am at the Community Centre; Good Relations History Trip to Donemana: 11am bus from Resource Centre; **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>:** Mini-PAC Club: (10.00 am - 11. 00pm); PAC Club: (11.30 am - 1 pm). For further information or to book any of our classes: Tel. 028 7778 1881 /DM/email: [admin@learmountgroup.org](mailto:admin@learmountgroup.org)

**St. Mary's GAC, Banagher** Lotto numbers for 17.03.26 were 14, 15, 18 & 19. Winning £35 each were Ronan Moore, Breige O'Neill & Colleen Murphy. Thanks to everyone who continues to support our club lotto. It is greatly appreciated. Next week's Jackpot is £7,800.

**Glenshane House, Dungiven** Basic Digital Skills course will take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 10 am to 12 pm. Topics will include Shopping online; ebanking; Price comparison websites and Using calendars & reminders on your phone, ipad, etc. Course is Free. Course delivered by Stephanie McKillop from Supporting Communities. Bring your ipad, smart phone or laptop. Tel. 028 7774 2494 or just come along.

**Epilepsy.ie** In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. For further information, please visit [www.epilepsy.ie](http://www.epilepsy.ie). Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day) will take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**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](mailto: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](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: 075 9395 4973**