



PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace
for which we sometimes seek so desperately
and which You alone can give to us.
Help us to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.
Reveal to us also your beauty, holiness, and purity.
Awaken in our hearts
love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.
Join us all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace.

Amen.

St Pope John XIII



**Today a Saviour has
been born to us,
He is Christ the Lord**
Luke 2:11

For those Parishioners who wish to talk or consult. I will always be available a half hour before and after Mass in any of our Churches.

In the case of an emergency clergy can be contacted at the following numbers:

Fr O'Neill (Brackaville): 02887740221	Canon Fee (Clonoe): 02887749184
Fr McCallion (Brocagh): 02887738381	Fr Tremer (Moortown): 02886737236
Dean Donaghy (Dungannon): 02887722775	Fr McCamley (Dungannon): 02887722631

Parish Office is closed for the Holiday fortnight but will reopen on Tuesday 7th January at 10.00am. Bookings can still be made by email during the Christmas period.

Telephone: 02887740221 **email:** coalislandparish@yahoo.co.uk
Parish Website: www.ballyclogdonaghenny.org

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all our Sponsors
throughout 2024.
Your support
makes a huge
difference to us.
Happy Christmas**



Ballyclog & Donaghenny Parish Bulletin

Fourth Sunday in Advent 22nd December 2024
Feast of the Holy family 29th December 2024

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the Angels bring", so say the words of the Sussex Carol, and how true those words are, because over the next week we will all, hopefully, set aside the worries of life for a little while to celebrate and thank God for our blessings in life. And it's a good thing to do. In the darkness of winter, Christmas comes to bring light and life, warmth and goodness and so it is in life too. While so much of the world might be filled with gloom and sorrow, in the little spark of Christmas, that turns us all into a child again for a few minutes, a little bit of hope comes alive, reminding us that the light of God has given us so much and will someday make everything perfect – and Christmas is a tiny snapshot of what that will be like. We've all exhausted ourselves these last few days getting ready for the big day, and we wouldn't have it any other way. But now the rush must end and all we can do is enjoy. This Christmas try to really enjoy the blessings you have – savour the time with those you love, enjoy the rewards of your work and your ways, smile at every chance life gives you. The essence of Christmas is the goodness that lives in the world for a day – and you are God's goodness to somebody this year. On Christmas Day try to let the goodness of God shine out through you – be at peace with everyone, do only what is kind, thank those you love, remember proudly those you love in heaven, help your neighbour, spend a minute with your God and if you can make people feel the joy of Christmas by your love and God's love then take the risk and just do it – it could be the best present you ever give and the best Christmas you ever have.

Christmas is a time to give thanks, and I would like to thank all of you for your kindness and support over the past year for all we do in the Parish. A special word of thanks to Deacon Malachy, not only for his friendship and enthusiasm, but for his constant willingness to help us all in any way. Thanks to our sacristans for always being there with everything ready, even down to the coffee brewed and tobacco ready. Thanks to our choir and organist, altar servers, readers, Eucharistic ministers in both Church and community, to our prayer leaders, collectors, counters, cleaners and groundsmen, Each and everyone make such a difference in making our Parish a true community that worships together and helps each other do that too. Thanks to the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee for their guidance, wisdom and encouragement. Thanks also to Liam our secretary for keeping the engine of the Parish oiled and running, and to everyone who volunteers and helps in any way. But thanks most of all to all of you for the friendliness you always show, the warmth and happiness that comes to all chats, for the time you give to stop or wave or just say hello. Your warmth is what makes the true difference in life and what leaves the Parish a truly happy place for both Deacon Malachy and I. We can never thank you enough for that and we both pray and hope that it always marks this Parish as a special place. Whatever you are doing for Christmas may it be a wonderfully happy time for you all and may the New Year bring every good fortune and joy that you wish for.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year - Fr O'Neill

ROSARY: at Our Lady's Grotto every evening at 8.00pm.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: Wednesday - 3 pm & Friday - 10.30am.

BAPTISMS: Baptisms normally take place on Saturdays at 4.00pm in Holy Family Church and after 11am Mass on Sundays in St Mary's. The next available dates for Baptisms are Saturday 11th and Saturday 25th January in Holy Family Church, Coalisland and Sunday 12th January in St Mary's Church, Stewartstown. To book please email the parish office at: coalislandparish@yahoo.co.uk or telephone the Parish Office on Tuesday/ Wednesday mornings.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, COALISLAND

WEEKEND MASS: Vigil Mass - 6.00pm; Sunday Mass - 9.30am
MONTH'S MIND: Saturday 28th December - 6.00pm - Mary Duffy
WEEKDAY MASS: Friday 3rd January - 10.00am
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: Fridays - 10.30am

ST MARY & ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BRACKAVILLE

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Monday evenings at 7.30pm
WEEKDAY MASS: Tuesday 24th, 31st & Thursday 2nd - 10.00am
NEW YEAR'S DAY: Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God: Mass - 11.00am
MONTH'S MIND: Monday 23rd December - 7.30pm - Sheila Ferguson
MONTH'S MIND: Friday 3rd January - 7.30pm - Malachy Hampsey
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Wednesday 1st January - 11.30am - 6.30pm
ROSARY: Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am, Wednesday - 6.00pm

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STEWARTSTOWN

WEEKEND MASS: Sunday - 11.00am
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Monday 10.00am - 4.00pm
CLEANING FOR DECEMBER: Clare McLernan & Dolores Murphy
SUNDAY READER: 29TH DECEMBER: Kieva Daly

“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart.”

St. Howard Thurman

COLLECTION: Sunday 15th December: £4397.00

Many thanks for your generosity. If anyone would like to make a donation by cheque please make cheques payable to “Coalisland Catholic Church”. For those who would like to set up a Standing Order, forms can be downloaded from the Parish website.

LATELY DECEASED: Please pray for those who have died recently: Sheila Ferguson; James Jackson; Kathleen Boyle; Mary Duffy; Dominic Forbes; Malachy Hampsey; Paul McBride; Patsy Hughes; Colette Hogge; Sally Gervin; Martin Kerr

WEDDINGS 2025: All couples who plan to marry in **2025** are asked to contact the Parish Office **by email** at coalislandparish@yahoo.co.uk to arrange for the completion of all necessary Church and State paperwork. Meetings to complete paperwork will take place on Monday evenings in January at 5pm / 5.45pm and should last no more than 30 minutes. **The completion of the necessary paperwork is a legal requirement and without completion the wedding cannot take place.** The requirements are:

- 1) Arrange for your Pre- Marriage Course – see accord.ni for details
- 2) Contact your local Council Offices for Notification of Marriage Forms
- 3) Complete Pre-Nuptial Enquiry forms with the Priest of the Parish you live in.

If anyone you know is hoping to marry in 2025 please bring this to their notice. Many thanks.

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Vigil Mass	6.00pm	St Mary's Church, Stewartstown
Christmas Vigil Mass	8.00pm	Holy Family Church, Coalisland
Christmas Dawn Mass	7.30am	St Mary & St Joseph's Church, Brackaville
Christmas Day Mass	9.00am	Holy Family Church, Coalisland
Christmas Day Mass	10.30am	St Mary's Church, Stewartstown

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL: continues during Advent to help their work in our own community. Many thanks for your kindness.

PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS: are still available from the Church Sacristies. All donations go towards the Sick and Retired Priests Fund in the Diocese and all Christmas Masses will be offered for the intentions requested.

HOLY YEAR 2025: will begin in Dioceses around the world on **Sunday 29th December**, with the theme of “Pilgrims of Hope”. In our own Diocese, Mass will be celebrated by the Archbishop and the Papal Nuncio in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh at 11.00am to which everyone is welcome.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR: anyone who would like to, is invited to join with the Choir for the Christmas Vigil in Holy Family Church this year. A practice for Carols will take place on Sunday 22nd December at 11.00am in Holy Family Church.

CHRISTMAS WEEK: please note there will be no weekday Masses on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th December, apart from funeral Masses. All anniversaries of these days will be remembered at the Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day Masses. Many thanks for your understanding.

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS: will be celebrated in St Mary & St Joseph's Church at the slightly later time of **11.00am** to allow everyone to recover from the revelries of the night before.

STEWARTSTOWN HARPS GAC: invite you to walk a mile and donate for the charity GOAL an Irish humanitarian response agency who work all over the world to help those less fortunate. The event takes place at the Harps Grounds on Saturday the 28th of December 11am- 1pm. Refreshments served

DATES FOR 2025:

Confirmation: Holy Family Church: Thursday 3rd April - 5.00pm

First Holy Communion: St Mary's Church, Stewartstown: 10th May - 11.00am

First Holy Communion: Holy Family Church, Coalisland: 17th May - 11.00am

Blessing of Graves: St Mary & St Joseph's Cemetery: Friday 13th June - 7.00pm

Blessing of Graves: St Mary's Cemetery: Sunday 15th June after 11.00am Mass