



## PRAYER FOR LENT

Loving God  
 during the sacred season of Lent  
 bring me closer to You.  
 Prepare a place in my home and heart  
 for silence and solitude  
 so that I may rediscover  
 the grace of a prayerful life.  
 Help me to fast from those things  
 that threaten the well-being of body and soul  
 and remind me of the grace of simplicity.  
 Enlarge my heart so that  
 I may give to those in need and  
 in so-doing may rediscover  
 the grace of gratitude and generosity.  
 May this season be a grace filled time  
 to rekindle my love for and faith in You.  
 Amen.

The Spirit drove Jesus  
 into the wilderness  
 and He was there  
 for forty days

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 open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am until 2pm to arrange for Baptisms, Certificates, Anniversaries and all other Bookings.

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

**Bulletin Sponsored By:**



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# Ballyclog & Donaghenny

## Parish Bulletin

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2nd March 2025

This week sees the beginning of Lent, our annual time of reflection and renewal in our spiritual lives, when we're asked to take stock of our lives as Christians based on the three great Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Each Lent we're all asked to take a little time to reflect on the beauty of the sacrifice of Christ and on the promise of what that sacrifice won – a life given for all our lives, a death suffered to change all our deaths, a resurrection so that we all, and all we love, would rise to Paradise. The story of Lent is really the story of God's love for us all and as we all know, love only makes sense when it works both ways – forward and back - God to us and us to God. How we show our love for God is really through those Lenten practices. Prayer is always key to a good Christian life, because prayer is setting time aside to be with God to talk our woes, to ask our favours, to say our thanks. It's like any relationship - if it stays silent it goes stale. This Lent why not think of making a little extra time for prayer - 5 minutes as a family, a few minutes silent thought through the day, maybe an extra effort to go to daily Mass for the 40 days. No matter how little our prayers or how short our time up to now, Lent gives a chance to start over, and maybe for some it's a good time to think about joining with people for Mass, for community prayer rather than staying at home and away. There's nothing like a little encouragement and a few friendly faces to make it easier. Try. Fasting is part of Lent too, and fasting is making those little sacrifices that remind us of what Christ sacrificed for us and also of what others sacrifice daily around the world. The thought of 40 sugar free days probably fills us all with dread, but if it reminds us of what Christ gave up for us it puts our little sacrifice, our fasting into perspective – it's a minor inconvenience. Of course fasting has a purpose too and that's where almsgiving comes in. Step back in thought a moment to our fasting in Lent, the tears as we shut the biscuit press and lock away the chocolates, we can feel so sorry for ourselves. Think though of those around the world who don't have those things to give up, who maybe don't have a dinner in the evening, a breakfast going to school, milk for the baby or anything for the elderly. Those people would gladly fast and sacrifice to help each other if they had anything to fast from, but they often don't even have that chance. Our fasting can help through almsgiving to our own charity – Trócaire. This Lent if you have a little to spare for that Trócaire Box it will go towards saving lives who otherwise could be lost. No matter how little it still helps, and a lot of little helps add up to a giant force of good. With those three things, prayer, fasting and charity, Lent can make such a difference to us and others. It reminds us of all we have, of all we've been given, of all we need and of all others need. Rather than let it be 40 days of miserable faces why not let it be 40 days of living love for God and each other. 40 days of true faith.

With best wishes for the week - Fr O'Neill

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

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:** 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 8th March and Saturday 22nd March in Holy Family Church, Coalisland and Sunday 9th March 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

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY:** Saturday 8th March - 6.00pm - Eileen Nixon

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Mass with Distribution of Ashes: 7.30am, 10am & 7.30pm

**WEEKDAY MASS:** Wednesday - Friday - 7.30am; Friday - 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, Wednesday & Thursday - 10.00am

**MONTH'S MIND:** Friday 7th March - 7.30pm - Pam O'Neill

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY:** Friday 7th March - 7.30pm - Caolan Devlin

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY:** Friday 7th March - 7.30pm - John Savage

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Wednesdays - 10.30am - 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

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Communion Service & Distribution of Ashes - 7.30pm

**CLEANING FOR MARCH:** Alison Dillon

**SUNDAY READER: 2ND MARCH:** Martin Kennedy

"Give something, however small, to the one in need, for it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God if we have given what we could."

*St. Gregory Nazianzen*

**COLLECTION:** Sunday 23rd February: £4112.00

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: Brigid McDonagh; Edmund Devlin; Martina Devlin; Pam O'Neill; Sheila McAlinney; Noel Coleman; Sean McCaffrey; Monica Sharkey; Seamus Cullen; Tom Mongan; Josephine Murray; Stephen Hughes; Msgr Ray Murray, Ray Ryan (Cork)

**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.**

**ASH WEDNESDAY - 5TH MARCH:** Mass will be celebrated in Holy Family Church at 7.30am, 10.00am and 7.30pm and a Communion Service will be celebrated at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Stewartstown. Ashes will be distributed at all 4 ceremonies. The use of the largest parish Church for Mass gives opportunity for the most people possible to attend on the day.

### **WEEKDAY MASS DURING LENT:**

Monday: 7.30am Holy Family Church & 7.30pm St Mary & St Joseph's Church

Tuesday: 7.30am Holy Family Church & 10.00am St Mary & St Joseph's Church

Wednesday: 7.30am Holy Family Church & 10.00am St Mary & St Joseph's Church

Thursday: 7.30am Holy Family Church & 10.00am St Mary & St Joseph's Church

Friday: 7.30am Holy Family Church & 10.00am Holy Family Church

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** will be celebrated each Sunday at 6.00pm in St Mary & St Joseph's Church and again at 7.00pm on Monday before the Novena Mass.

**CONFESSIONS:** will be available on Wednesdays from 9am until 9.45am (*not Ash Wednesday*) and again from 5.00pm until 5.45pm in St Mary & St Joseph's Church during Lent. Confessions are also available upon request after weekday Mass. Occasionally a funeral may interrupt these plans but I thank you for your understanding.

**TRÓCAIRE BOXES:** are available in all our Church porches as we begin our annual Lenten season and campaign. In tightened times please be assured that even the smallest donation still makes a huge difference.

**PARISH ENVELOPES:** we will soon begin preparation of the new series of Parish envelopes which begin with the new Tax Year on the first Monday of April. If you would like to be added to the list of Envelope contributors please leave your name to the Sacristy at any time or forward to the Parish Office by email and we can easily add you to our list. A sincere word of thanks to all who contribute so generously to the Parish. Your efforts have ensured that the Parish remains free of all debt, which, at the moment, is a wonderful position to be in.

**MARY'S MEALS CHARITY DANCE:** Thursday 6th March, The Ryandale Hotel Moy. Dancing from 8.30pm to 11.30pm. Music by John Molloy. A signed Jersey & football of Co. Armagh Champions will be auctioned on the night.. Admission £10

**IRISH LANGUAGE CHURCH GATE COLLECTION:** will take place at all Masses in the Parish on the weekend of 8th/9th March 2025. All proceeds go towards the promotion and support of the Irish Language locally.

**THE SOUTHERN AREA HOSPICE:** will hold its annual *Big Bucket Collection 2025*, on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March in Dungannon and Coalisland. The goal is to raise £40,000 to support the Hospice's specialist palliative care services and the Hospice is calling on the local community to get involved. If you could collect for 1 – 2 hours, please contact Rosie Teggarty - 028 3026 7711 or email [vs@southernareahospiceservices.org](mailto:vs@southernareahospiceservices.org).