

CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

After Weekday Masses in Holy Family Church - Tuesday 10th - Friday 14th December
Tuesday 17th - Friday 21st December
Saturday 21st December - 10am - 12pm
Wednesdays - 6 - 7pm

St Mary's Church, Stewartstown - Sunday 15th December - 6.00pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve - St Mary's Stewartstown - 8.00pm
Holy Family, Coalisland - 9.00pm

Christmas Day - St Mary & St Joseph's, Brackaville - 7.30am
St Mary's, Stewartstown - 10.30am
Holy Family, Coalisland - 11.00am

NO WEEKDAY MASS ON 26TH & 27TH DECEMBER

CONTACT NUMBERS FOR CLERGY

Unfortunately, due to other commitments, it is not always possible for a priest to be in the Parish at all times. In case of an emergency, Clergy can be contacted at any of the numbers below.

Fr O'Neill - Brackaville - 02887740221 Fr Seery - Stewartstown - 02887739133
Canon Fee - Clonoe - 02887749184 Fr McCallion - Brocagh - 02887738381
Fr McGuigan - Moortown - 02886737236 Dean Donaghy - Dungannon - 02887722775

INTERNET BROADCASTING: Mass and other services will be broadcast each day over the internet. The operator of the system is Fr. Eugene O'Neill PP, Parochial House, Coalisland, Tel 8774 0221, to whom queries should be referred.

THE PARISH OFFICE is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am - 4.30pm

Fr Eugene O'Neill: 8774 0221 / Fr Michael Seery: 8773 9133

Bulletin sponsored by:

MICHAEL DORMAN PHARMACY

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Ballyclog & Donagherry

Parish Bulletin | Second Sunday of Advent | 8th December 2019

John the Baptist was a bit of an odd chap based on what the Gospel tells us about him, living in the wilds, wearing rags and eating bugs, and yet when he preached that Christ was on His way, people sat up and listened. John was quite blunt in his message – Christ is on his way, wise up, shape up and make yourself and the world ready to meet Him. Many people did and because of them Christ gathered his first followers. Others learned and listened and because of them we all gather 2000 years later to continue to prepare for the second and final coming of Christ. The big part of our own preparation for that day is tidying up our own souls, making our peace with God and the world, repenting for our failings and trying to turn life around. Its letting go of what's bad and of what we think might make us happy, getting rid of the sins and habits we fall into, all for the hope of one day living a perfect life in the Heaven John tells us about today. Being human though it can be very hard to turn away from our pet sins. If we had any sense we'd all give it a go.

There's a story told of how hunters used to catch monkeys in former times. They would cut a small hole in a coconut, just large enough for the monkey to put its hand in and fill it with a sweet treat, and leave it fixed under a tree. The poor

monkey would smell the treat, squeeze its hand into the coconut, grab the treat in its little paw and find that its fist would not come out through the hole. Since the monkey wouldn't let go of the treat, it held itself as prisoner. While it just sat there desperately grasping its treat, the smart hunter came along and caught it. Silly monkey! All it had to do was to let go of the treat and slip its arm out of the coconut and run for freedom. The monkey seems so foolish and yet a lot of times we're like that ourselves with our wee pet sins. We hold on to things that imprison us. In order to get our hand out of the jar, regardless of what the jar is, we need to change. We need to grow. We would like to think that we are smart enough to let go of something to gain our freedom; however, the truth is that many of us hold on to things so tightly that we imprison ourselves. We refuse to change because we are comfortable with what we have. To move forward in life, sometimes we have to just let go of the past and move ahead with confidence and Faith. During Advent, the Church challenges us all to free themselves from the snares of the devil and really be ready to meet Christ. This Advent, why not try?

With best wishes for the week,

Fr O'Neill

ROSARY at Our Lady's Grotto Sunday at 7 pm and Monday to Friday at 8 pm.

THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET every Wednesday @ 7.00pm in Holy Family Church.

BAPTISMS are held in the Holy Family Church on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at **1 pm** and in St Mary's Church, Stewartstown on the third Sunday of each month **immediately after Mass**. Please give **one month's notice**. Baptisms are to be booked through the parish office, 8774 0221, or email coalislandparish@yahoo.co.uk. **A meeting for parents and godparents** will take place on the **Wednesday evening before** Baptisms in the O'Brien Room, 7.30 pm to help parents and godparents prepare for the Sacrament and to complete all necessary paperwork.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

WEEKDAY MASSES: Tuesday - Friday @10.00am

CONFESSIONS: Wednesday at 6.00pm **every week**, including First Friday week.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY - Philip McNally - Tuesday 10th December - 10.00am

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STEWARTSTOWN

PERPETUAL NOVENA & MASS on Tuesday evening at 7 pm.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday, Wednesday & Friday @10am

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST 15TH DECEMBER: Maura Gallagher (only Minister to the Sick), Tony Donnelly, John Mitchell, Ann Campbell.

ST. MARY & ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

NOVENA & MASS: Every Monday evening at 7.30pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Friday 7.30pm MM and 1st Anniversaries by arrangement.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY - Pam Darragh - Friday 13th December - 7.30pm

COLLECTION: Sunday 1st December: Envelopes: £1627.50 Offertory: £1176.20

Many thanks for your generosity. If anyone would like to make a donation by cheque please make cheques payable to "Coalisland Catholic Church".

If anyone would like to arrange donations to the Parish by Standing Order, please contact the Parish Office for any necessary details. Thank you to those who already contribute in this way.

LATELY DECEASED: Please pray for Seamus McDonald; Elizabeth Quinn; Eithne Devlin; Edward Darragh; Fr Jim McNally; Phyllis Campbell

ST MARY'S PAROCHIAL HALL annual Christmas Bazaar, Sunday 15th December at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

PARISH EMAIL: coalislandparish@yahoo.co.uk **PARISH WEBSITE:** www.ballyclogdonaghenny.org

NOTICES FOR BULLETIN: please forward to the Parish office by Wednesday morning.

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICES: a brief period of prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament will continue in Holy Family Church at 7.00pm over the next 2 Sundays of Advent. All welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL 'GIVING TREE' can be in the Holy Family Church porch. People wishing to donate a gift are asked to take a label from the tree and return your gift wrapped and with the label attached to the outside. Please return your gift to the Sacristy or to Rita O'Neill of 9 Morgan's Terrace **before Sunday 15th December** to allow time for distribution.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE CHOIR PRACTICE: In Preparation for the Parish Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December at 7.00pm a Choir Practice will take place in Brackville Church on Wednesday 18th December from 7.30pm until 8.30pm. All choir members are invited and welcome to join together for this Service.

PRIMATE DIXON P.S. CAROL SERVICE - Tuesday 10th December at 7.30pm in Holy Family Church. All are welcome and invited to attend.

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE - Tuesday 17th December at 7.00pm in St Mary & St Joseph's Church, Brackville. All are invited and most welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S GRAMMAR, DONAGHMORE - annual Carol Service in St Patrick's Church, Donaghmore on Tuesday 18th December at 7.30pm. All are very welcome to join for this service.

NOT FORCE NOR MIGHT - a new book of reflections on the Oliver Plunkett Statue in Armagh Cathedral and reflecting on Martyrdom in the world today has been edited by Canon Fee. Copies will be available to buy in the Church this weekend and Canon Fee will be present to sign copies.

COALISLAND CLONOE COMHALTAS COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA. Hope to perform at several events between the two parishes between Christmas & New Year. We would like to invite ANY musicians - traditional or classical who would like to participate. We will be playing Classic Christmas tunes/carols and it is suitable for all acoustic melody instruments. Rehearsal dates - Fri 13th (6-7:25pm) Sun 22nd (10:15-11:45am) For details please contact Mary 07719451523

CHURCHES TOGETHER: Annual carol singing around Coalisland will take place on Tuesday 17th december, beginning at 6.30pm at Landi's in the tpwn centre, calling at Foster Memorial Hall, Sanville Care Home, Player's Hill, Newtownkelly and Brackville Hall. all are welcome to join.

THE MID-ULSTER ASSOCIATION FOR COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY present A Very Irish Christmas 2. Craic Theatre Coalisland, Sat 14th December from 8pm. Join us for an evening of live Irish music & entertainment featuring Singers Bernadette Morris, James Bradley, Musicians Eoin Kelly & Adam Costa, Irish dancers - The Sherry Sisters and Compared by Patsy O'Hagan. Tickets £18.50 available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/craicartscentre

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION in aid of Sr Consillio's will take place at all Masses next weekend, with proceeds going to help those battling addictions and their families. Sr Consillio's shop in Harbour Arcade welcomes all clothes, shoes, bedding, unwanted gifts etc.

RESPECT FOR GRAVES: a number of Parishioners have recently raised concerns about people walking over and disturbing their family graves, something which I'm sure we all find so disrespectful and one which if it were to happen to any of our own graves, we would find a distressing worry. there is almost certainly no intended ill will in the actions of some, but I'd encourage everyone to treat all graves with respect both for the dead and for their families who still struggle greatly with loss. Thank you.