



**Feast of the
Immaculate
Conception
8th December**

**Prayer to
the Immaculate Virgin Mary**

O Virgin Immaculate,
Mother of God and my Mother,
from thy sublime height
turn upon me thine eyes of pity.
Filled with confidence in thy goodness
and knowing full well thy power,
I beseech thee to extend to me
thine assistance in the journey of life,
which is so full of danger for my soul.
And in order that I may never
be the slave of the devil through sin,
but may ever live with my heart humble and pure,
I entrust myself wholly to thee.
I consecrate my heart to thee for ever,
my only desire being to love thy divine Son Jesus.
Mary, none of thy devout servants has ever perished;
may I too be saved. Amen.

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:

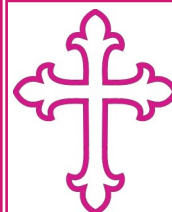
Fr O'Neill (Brackaville): 02887740221 Canon Fee (Clonoe): 02887749184
Fr McCallion (Brocagh): 02887738381 Fr Tremer (Moortown): 02886737236
Dean Donaghy (Dungannon): 02887722775 Fr McCamley (Dungannon): 02887722631

Parish Office is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10.00am until 2.00pm to arrange for Baptisms, Anniversaries or to collect Certificates

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

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**Ballyclog & Donaghenny
Parish Bulletin**

First Sunday in Advent

3rd December 2023

Every day of our life, whether it's the best or the worst, lasts only 24 hours and no matter what that day holds, no matter how much we look forward to it or dread it, in a very quick blink that day will be added to the great bank of our memories. But probably no other day of the year gets a heavier share of preparation and a bigger measure of expectancy than Christmas Day. These days the TV is filled with Christmas adverts for food, toys, treats and who knows what else, and to entice us that little bit more we have the great Black Friday offers – never have so many emails of sales been received!! No matter who we are we all buy into the idea of trying to make that extra effort for Christmas – doing something to make it special. As a day of gift ripping and turkey shredding, Christmas does only last a day – another 24 hours, but as a spiritual season, as a Christian time, Christmas should last so much longer. Just like we prepare for the temporal side of Christmas, as people of faith we're asked to prepare for the spiritual dimension of Christmas, the root of the Feast for us who believe. Today we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent and this marks the start of our preparations for Christmas. In every Church building the countdown to Christmas Day is marked by the lighting of the Advent wreath – 4 candles (no Two Ronnie's jokes please) – one for each Sunday – and those 4 candles represent the 4 things we're asked to reintroduce to the world in preparation for Christmas and to try in some small way to help Christmas make the world better for the next 365 days. The four lights represent hope, peace, love and joy, four great virtues that can transform any life or any day. Hope is that belief that life will always get better, difficulties will diminish and happiness will grow – who do you know that needs hope this year and where do you need hope in life yourself? Can you do anything about it? Peace is the freedom to be ourselves in the world and with other people, the freedom to have our wrongs forgotten and be given a second chance. Is there someone in your life who you can give that gift of peace to? We all have someone who fits in there and in truth we all need that gift of peace and forgiveness from others ourselves too. Don't wait – just do it. Love is the gift of being accepted and of being seen as someone special in the eyes of someone else. Love sees beyond the darkness of our lives and always sees the little bit of light, goodness and grace. Who needs to know that you love them? Put them together and we can all find joy this Advent and Christmas. In a world that can sometimes be a tad grim and gloomy, Christmas comes as a little nugget of happiness – but for happiness to last and make a difference it takes work from us all. With a little effort to put some hope, peace, love and joy into every day, not just 24 hours the spirit of Christmas can last forever. This year – give it a go in a way that counts and to the people that count or need it most.

With best wishes for the week – Fr O'Neill

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

THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: Wednesday @ 3pm in St Mary & St Joseph's.

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 16th December in Holy Family Church, Coalisland and Sunday 14th 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

WEEKDAY MASS: Friday - 10.00am, followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet

CONFESSIONS: Available on request after weekday Mass

ST MARY & ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BRACKAVILLE

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Monday evenings at 7.30pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Tuesday - Thursday: 10.00am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Wednesday - 10.30am - 6.30pm

FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Fri 8th December - 7.30pm - Patrick Gerard McLernon

ROSARY: Tuesday & Thursday - 9.30am, Wednesday - 6.00pm

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: Wednesdays - 3.00pm

CONFESSIONS: Tuesday & Wednesday: 9.15am - 9.45am

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STEWARTSTOWN

WEEKEND MASS: Sunday - 11.00am

CLEANING FOR DECEMBER: Helena Lowe & Caoimhe McCormick

SUNDAY READER: 3RD DECEMBER: Catriona McErlean

SUNDAY READER: 10TH DECEMBER: Martin Kennedy

SUNDAY READER: 17TH DECEMBER: Eileen Devlin

SUNDAY READER: 11.00AM - 24TH DECEMBER: Martin Kennedy

COLLECTION: Sunday 26th November: £4117.00

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: Philomena McMullen; Fr Brian White; Cathal Corr; Raymond McGlinchey; Sue Monaghan; Eugene Larkin; Peter Lawless; Rosaleen Maughan

MONTH'S MIND: Sunday 3rd December - 12pm - Tara Hill Church, Gorey - Brendan Barrett

WEDDINGS 2024: All couples who plan to marry in **2024** 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 at 5pm / 6pm 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS: are now available from all our Sacristies. All Christmas Masses will be offered for these intentions and all donations will go towards the Sick and Retired Priests Fund for the Diocese.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: is celebrated on Friday 8th December and is a Holy Day of Obligation. In honour of the Feast, Mass will be celebrated on Friday morning at 10.00am in Holy Family Church and at 7.30pm in St Mary & St Joseph's Church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL: begins this weekend. A second collection will be taken up to assist the Appeal at all Masses in Holy Family Church this weekend and at Mass in St Mary's Church next weekend. All donations help those struggling most in our own Parish and donations can be made at any time over the next few weeks.

MARY'S MEALS – DOUBLE THE LOVE: provides a daily school meal to over 2.4 million children in 18 countries. Our Double the Love Campaign has launched, and all donations made to Mary's Meals until 22nd January 2024 will be doubled up to £1million. Find out more and browse our Christmas gift cards at marysmeals.org.uk.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE: will be held on **Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm** in St Mary & St Joseph's Church, with carols and readings to help us all remember the true meaning of Christmas. Caritas Choir will lead the service and a basket for donations will be in the Church on the night. All donations go towards helping to raise funds for our Choir to travel to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage in May 2024 to lead the music at all services and to assist pilgrims. Many thanks for your generosity and support.

PRIMATE DIXON PS CAROL SERVICE: Thursday 14th December at 7.00pm in Holy Family Church. All school friends invited.

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE: Tuesday 19th December at 7.00pm in St Mary & St Joseph's Church. Everyone welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL DONAGHMORE: host their annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 9th December from 1pm until 4pm. All very welcome.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR: as in previous years anyone and everyone who would like to join the Choir for Christmas Mass in Holy Family Church are warmly welcome. Practices for the Christmas Vigil Mass will take place in the coming weeks and it affords us all an opportunity to come together in a spirit of friendship and community to celebrate one of the most important Feasts in the Church's year.

CHRISTMAS WEEK: there will be no weekday Mass in Christmas week except for funerals. All anniversaries for the week will be prayed for at weekend Masses. Many thanks for your understanding

PARISH BOOKINGS: Baptisms, weddings and anniversaries can all be booked at any time through the parish email: coalislandparish@yahoo.co.uk.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Knock Shrine, All night vigil on 7th December. For more information contact Gabrielle 07933521105 or Catherina 07899810181.