



PRAYER FOR STRENGTH in Times of Temptation

Heavenly Father
I come before You,
seeking Your divine protection from
the temptations that surround me.
Safeguard my heart and mind, O Lord,
and shield me from the allure
of worldly desires.
Wrap Your loving arms around me,
so that I may resist
the lures that seek to lead me astray.
Thank You for being my refuge
in times of need,
and I offer my gratitude
for Your unwavering protection.
Amen

The Temptation in the
Wilderness

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.ballyclogdonaghery.org

Bulletin Sponsored By:



15-18 The Square, Stewartstown - 02887738742



Ballyclog & Donaghery Parish Bulletin

First Sunday in Lent 9th March 2025

There's a legend from the 16th Century that tells the tale of Dr Faustus, supposedly a German genius who made it as far as he possibly could on his own brains and with all his learning and still felt that greatness eluded him. Whichever of the great learnings of the day he looked at – medicine, law, science, theology – he felt none of them had anything to offer him, so he looked elsewhere. He was given a choice of paths in life – a good Angel offered him eternal life if he lived by his conscience, the Devil offered him power and happiness in this world for 24 years but at the end of it the Devil would come for his soul. Faustus took the easy path and gave into the temptation of the Devil, made a pact and had a wonderful time for the 24 years he was given. But time ticked on and the years ran quickly in, and one night at 11.00 the clock struck and Faustus realised he had only one more hour before he had to surrender his soul to Satan. Suddenly he was terrified. He cried out in fear “Stand still, you ever moving spheres of heaven, that time may cease, and midnight never come; Fair Nature's eye, rise, rise again and make perpetual day; or let this hour be but a year, a month, a week, a natural day, that Faustus may repent and save his soul.” But it was all too late, at midnight the Devil came and claimed his own. It's a sad tale with a clear message to us all, the temptation to go the easy way in life is great, but giving in to temptation can never end well and can never make us happy. In life, we always come to times and situations where we sell out. Sometimes we sell out for good and sometimes for bad. We sell out either to God or to the Devil. God's way will always be a more difficult path to tread, but it's the one that brings long term happiness, peace and the gift of being able to look the world in the eye and stand proudly before God at the last. The easy way is to give in to the temptation for the quick fix, the easy answer, the path that doesn't cost us, exert us and ask anything of us – the instant result. But the instant result rarely brings a happiness that lasts because deep down we know we could have done things better or just done things right. We sell out to temptation for handiness, appearances, popularity or sometimes even fear, but deep down we know it's not right. Today's Gospel tells of Christ being tempted in the wilderness – how easy it would have been for Him to give in and sell out too, think of the pain and suffering He could have avoided, but He knew the path of good and the path of God was the only way to live, the only one that gave lesson, example and the long-term happiness of all mankind. To say no to temptation isn't easy, it takes courage, but when you doubt your ability to do what is right, think of Christ and His example given in today's Gospel and try to be brave too, be good and do things as best as you can. Do always what is right.

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 **22nd March** and Saturday **12th April** in Holy Family Church, Coalisland and Sunday **6th April** 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

MONTH'S MIND: Saturday 15th March - 6.00pm - Pam O'Neill

FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Saturday 15th March - 6.00pm - Patrick & Stella Currie

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday - 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: Monday 10th March - 7.30pm - Monika Sharkey

FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Monday 10th March - 7.30pm - Colette O'Farrell

FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Monday 10th March - 7.30pm - Jarlath Ferguson

FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Monday 10th March - 7.30pm - Margaret Magee

EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Wednesdays - 10.30am - 6.30pm

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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STEWARTSTOWN

WEEKEND MASS: Sunday - 11.00am

EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Monday 10.00am - 4.00pm

CLEANING FOR MARCH: Alison Dillon

SUNDAY READER: 9TH MARCH: Catriona McErlean

SUNDAY READER: 16TH MARCH: Eileen Devlin

“Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them cheerfully, remembering Whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid.”

St. Mary MacKillop

COLLECTION: Sunday 3rd March: £4097.00

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: Monica Sharkey; Seamus Cullen; Tom Mongan; Josephine Murray; Stephen Hughes; Msgr Ray Murray, Ray Ryan; Baby Rowan McClure; Pat Comac; Callum Quinn

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.

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 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.

TRÓCAIRE BOXES: are available in all our Church porches as we begin our annual Lenten season and campaign. Even the smallest donation still makes a huge difference.

FIRST CONFESSIONS: will be celebrated in the Parish this week for all our P4 students. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to prepare for these days.

NEW DIOCESAN LEVY ON PARISHES: Every Parish in the Diocese has always contributed to the running costs of the Diocese by a levy system based upon the number of families in each Parish. For the past number of years our Parish annual contribution has been £16800. As of January 2025 a new levy system has been introduced based upon a 12% figure payable to the Central Diocesan Fund (running costs) and taken from the total of envelope and basket collections, shrine and candelabra income and Gift Aid claimed from HMRC. A further levy of 6% of the same incomes has been introduced to go towards a Diocesan Education of Priests Fund. The new total that we must pay as a Parish this year has risen to an eye watering £45612. Over the past months a number of meetings have taken place at which the Diocesan Financial Administrator explained these changes and at which Clergy and Finance Committees made corrections, recommendations and made every possible effort to ensure that Parishes are not levied excessively. However, we have been reminded that we must pay to this new fund. Parishioners may wish to note that the following are exempt from any levy - Donations made to the Parish and specifically marked as donations; any monies donated to the Parish Building and Development Fund, legacies, fundraising, rent and monies donated to specific collections - Dues, Insurance of Parish Properties, Upkeep of Cemeteries, Trócaire, Mission Sunday, Peter's Pence, Sick and Retired priests. A pamphlet has been provided by the Diocese explaining this new levy and can be found on the Church noticeboards. While not wholly in the spirit of the new levy, we will be striving to ensure that the most resources possible remain in the Parish for the upkeep and maintenance of the Parish and to help provide for our own future needs.

IRISH LANGUAGE CHURCH GATE COLLECTION: will take place at all Masses in the Parish this weekend. All proceeds go towards the promotion and support of the Irish Language locally.