



PRAYER FOR GAUDETE SUNDAY

Heavenly Father,
as we enter the Third Week of Advent,
fill my heart with holy joy.
Lift my spirit, lighten my burdens,
and let my soul rejoice in Your faithful love.

Lord Jesus,
You are my Joy and my Salvation.
Come into my heart this week,
shine in my life,
and renew the hope and gladness
that only Your presence can bring.

Holy Spirit,
kindle in me a joy that endures -
a joy stronger than worry,
deeper than sorrow,
and alive even in moments of struggle.
Help me reflect Your light and goodness to others.
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 Tremmer (Moortown): 02886737236
Dean Donaghy (Dungannon): 02887722775	Fr McCamley (Dungannon): 02887722631

PARISH OFFICE will close this Wednesday for the Christmas Holiday and will reopen on Tuesday 6th January. Bookings for Baptisms, Weddings, Certificates, Anniversaries etc can still be made by email or simply pop it through the door..

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

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Ballyclog & Donaghenry Parish Bulletin

Third Sunday in Advent - 14th December 2025

Gaudete Sunday is the traditional name for this Third Sunday of Advent, based on the opening antiphon of the Mass "Gaudete in Domino semper" – rejoice always in the Lord, and it's a refreshing thought to think that this is a day specifically set aside to just be happy and to remind ourselves to always look for a reason to be happy. The second reading tells us just that – "Be happy at all times". Sometimes I think people are determined to convince us that the world is a fiercely gloomy place – there are some unfortunate souls who have an almost freakish talent for spotting what is wrong, or spotting a fault or mistake, or just seeing the downsides of everything. More fool us if we listen to them too long because they'll inevitably drag us down. Sometimes though we meet people who always seem to raise a smile or say and do just enough to make us think life is good, the world is nice, people are decent and that with them beside us we can do all things ourselves. It's a stark difference between the two types and yet we all know which ones we like to be with. This Sunday is God's reminder to us all to try to be that joyful and happy person when and where we can. And truth be told we all have some reason to be happy in life. We're all blessed in some way – with family or friends who just make life good, with memories that can cheer us all up, with a little comfort to brighten the darker days, with peace, food, warmth the good things that make life well. We're all surrounded by people who work hard to try to make things as good as they can – charitable people, caring people, people who quietly do the little things that make everything come together. If we look – there's always a reason to be happy and joyful in life, always a reason to be thankful. Today why not spend a minute or two thinking of what your blessings are, and if there's someone who makes life good – let them know! If you're one of the poor sorts that too often sees the gloom or the negative, why not for one day deliberately chase the morbid thoughts and look instead to the good in your life and in other people. We all know that none of us is perfect, but I genuinely believe that we're all far more good than we're ever bad, and the world is actually filled with infinitely more good people, works and acts than we ever recognise. It's odd what a little positivity can do – it shakes the gloom away, it helps us just appreciate all we have rather than sit moaning and mumbling about what we don't have, it encourages other people to smile more widely, to strive to be ever better and in that it makes the world we live in so much better for everyone. "Be happy at all times" isn't bad advice, and Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday isn't a bad thing either. For the last week of Advent, give it a go – shush the sharpness and let the happiness come out, quiet the negative and let the positive take over for a while. Smile and grateful for who you are, who you have and what you have, be appreciative of what others do and help other people find happiness by bringing a little happiness to their life when you can. Rejoice and give thanks because God has blessed you.

With best wishes for the week – Fr O'Neill

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

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: Wednesday 3.00pm & 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 **20th December** and Saturday **10th January** in Holy Family Church, Coalisland and Sunday **11th 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

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Monday evening at 7.30pm

ST MARY & ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BRACKAVILLE

WEEKDAY MASS: Tuesday - Friday: 10.00am.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Friday 19th December - 7.30pm - Martin Kerr

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Wednesday - 10.30am - 6.30pm

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

CONFESSIONS: Wednesday: 5.00pm - 5.45pm

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STEWARTSTOWN

WEEKEND MASS: Sunday - 11.00am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Monday - 10.00am - 6.00pm

CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS: Volunteers

SUNDAY READER: 14TH DECEMBER: Kieva Daly

SUNDAY READER: 21ST DECEMBER: Eileen Devlin

**"The world promises us pleasure,
but it is only in Jesus that we find joy."**

St Therese of Lisieux

COLLECTION: Sunday 7th December: £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: Marie Forker; Anne O'Donnell; Marie Brady; Pat Daly; Bridget Dillon; Grainne Carberry; Marion Devlin; Brian O'Neill; Margaret Kelly; Peter Devlin; Gerard Laird, Sam Devlin

WEDDINGS 2026: All couples who plan to marry in **2026** 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 2026 please bring this to their notice. Many thanks.

ADVENT DAY OF ADORATION: will take place on **Sunday 14th December** in St Mary & St Joseph's Church to offer an opportunity for us all to focus on our spiritual preparations for Christmas.

Adoration will begin at 9.00am and will continue through to 6.00pm that evening.

Confessions will be available from 2.30pm until 5.30pm

Evening Prayer of the Church will be prayed at 5.45pm

Rosary will be prayed at 6.00pm.

Benediction will be celebrated following the rosary.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL: continues throughout the Season of Advent. All donations can be left to the Red Collection Boxes or to the Sacristy at any time. Many thanks for your generosity.

PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS BOUQUETS: are now 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.

PARISH CAROL SERVICES: will be hosted by our Schools again this year:

St Joseph's College: Monday 15th December—St Mary & St Joseph's Church

Primate Dixon PS: Tuesday 16th December - Holy Family Church

St Mary's PS: Thursday 18th December - St Mary's Church

NOVENA MASS: will be offered on Monday evening at the usual 7.30pm but in the Church of the Holy Family for this week only.

PLEASE NOTE: in the booking of anniversaries that there will be no Mass on Friday 26th December or on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st December apart from funeral Masses. All anniversaries for these days will be offered at the weekend Masses.

CHURCH CLEANING: to spruce up our Churches for Christmas I ask and invite volunteers to come together some evening before Christmas to have everything look it's best for our celebrations. Volunteers are invited to gather in Holy Family Church for a big clean and tidy on **Wednesday 17th December at 7pm.** Many thanks to all volunteers.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE: will take place in Holy Family Church on **Sunday 21st December at 11am** - everyone welcome to join for the Christmas Vigil Mass.

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

