

PRAYER FOR
the Immaculate Conception



Feast of the
Immaculate Conception
8th December

Father,
the image of the Virgin
is found in the Church.
Mary had a faith that your Spirit prepared
and a love that never knew sin,
for you kept her sinless
from the first moment of her conception.
Trace in our actions the lines of her love,
in our hearts her readiness of faith.
Prepare once again a world for your Son
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
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 10am - 2pm to arrange for Baptisms, Weddings, Certificates, Anniversaries and all other bookings.

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

Bulletin Sponsored By:



Ballyclog & Donaghenny
Parish Bulletin

Second Sunday in Advent - 7th December 2025

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 because we all know habits, failings and comfort sins make us less good than we can be – either selfish, heartless or just indifferent to what's right. How much better would we be if we let those things 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 then find that its fist wouldn't come out through the hole. Because 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 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 be brave and change. We'd like to think that we're smart enough to let go of something to gain our freedom and especially something that harms us; but the truth is we all find it so hard to ditch the bad, give up the wrong and keep on trying to be bigger, better people. We refuse to change because we're 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 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 **13th December** and Saturday **20th December** in Holy Family Church, Coalisland and Sunday **14th December** 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

ST MARY & ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BRACKAVILLE

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Monday evenings at 7.30pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Tuesday - Friday: 10.00am.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Friday 12th December - 7.30pm - Sally Gervin

EUCARISTIC 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

EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Monday - 10.00am - 6.00pm

CLEANING FOR DECEMBER: Lisa Mulgrew

SUNDAY READER: 7TH DECEMBER: Catriona McErlean

SUNDAY READER: 14TH DECEMBER: Kieva Daly

"This Christmas, you have a decision to make.

It's not about what toys or gifts you're going to have under the tree.

It's a decision about God's grace.

What are you going to do with the goodness of God that He bestowed on you this past year, and that you look forward to in the year that is to come?"

COLLECTION: Sunday 30th November: £4077.00

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: Mae Taggart; Maureen McCormack; Evelyn Trindade Soares Branco Sarmiento; James Currie; Marie Forker; Anne O'Donnell; Marie Brady; Bridget Dillon; Pat Daly; Grainne Carberry; Marie Devlin; Brian O'Neill; Margaret Kelly

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.



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: will be celebrated on Monday 8th December. Masses for the Feast will be offered at 10.00am and at 7.30pm in St Mary & St Joseph's church, Brackaville. The Rosary will be prayed before morning Mass that day, beginning at 9.30am.

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: Tuesday 16th 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

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.** Bring a duster if you can.

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

