



**The Exaltation
of the Cross
14th September**

Prayer Before the Crucifix

Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus
while before Your face I humbly kneel,
and, with burning soul,
pray and beseech You
to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments
of faith, hope, and charity;
true contrition for my sins,
and a firm purpose of amendment,
while I contemplate,
with great love and tender pity,
Your five most precious wounds,
pondering over them within me
and calling to mind the words which David,
Your prophet, said to You, my Jesus:
"They have pierced My hands and My feet,
they have numbered all My bones." 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 is open every **Wednesday and Friday** from 10am - 2.00pm. Bookings for Baptisms, Weddings, Certificates, Anniversaries etc can be made by email or simply pop it through the door.

Telephone: 02887740221

email: coalislandparish@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Website: www.ballyclogdonaghenny.org

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Ballyclog & Donaghenny Parish Bulletin

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 13th September 2026

Every faith has its symbol, and for Christians the greatest faith, the True faith has the cross as the universal symbol of Christianity, known by all the world, and reminding us of the Christ who lived His life under the shadow of the Cross, knowing that he had come to suffer and die, to win for us all the reward of the resurrection and to give the ultimate hope to all people of all ages, that this life would pass away but the next life would be perfect, never-ending and in Paradise. The Cross was the way God changed everything – death to life, horror to glory, hate to love. This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, which remembers the discovery of the true cross on which Christ died after years of being lost. The story of the finding of the cross starts early in the fourth century, when Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. Her son had converted the Roman Empire to Christianity in 313 when he saw a vision of the cross in the sky before battle and heard a voice say "*in hoc signo vinces*" – under this sign you will triumph. He won the battle, he became the first Christian Emperor and the Cross was emblazoned all around the empire. When she got to Jerusalem his mother tumbled the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over Christ's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman. The cross immediately became an object of veneration. The feast really celebrates the finding of the Cross, the dedication of the Basilica where it rests and above all the lesson and the promise of the Cross for us all. The real lesson of the cross can often be lost on us, because when we think of it it's in a sanitised way, made more beautiful by artists or sometimes we hear it mentioned that often in Mass or in the readings that we don't really think that deeply about it. But for the early church it was very different. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who dared to believe in Christ or who dared to go against the grain in any way. We like to think things have moved on and we now have a tolerant world, and yet even the casual observer can't miss the reality of a current intolerance towards the Christian, and we're often asked to step up and shoulder our own cross of faith in a world that might not want us to and to remember too to not let ourselves slip into disrespect of the faith or our God by our words and ways. Maybe it's time to find and show the bravery and commitment that other faiths do, especially if you love that faith - defend it, promote it and put its good teaching and mores at the heart of life. It can take courage to be a Christian, to hold confidently to our values and beliefs, to trust in God and not the world alone, to be humble enough to pray, to be big enough to thank God for what He does for us. This Feast is maybe a little reminder to us all of what Christ really did for us – the real suffering all out of love, and maybe it's a gentle reminder to us to try to repay that love by our love and loyalty and devotion. Always be proud of your faith, and if life is hard right now, trust in the Christ of the cross to help you to a better day soon, for in the sign of the Cross you too will find victory maybe not in this world but definitely in the next.

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 **19th September** and Saturday **10th October** in Holy Family Church, Coalisland and Sunday **11th October** in St Mary's Church, Stewartstown. To book please email the Parish Office at: coalislandparish@yahoo.co.uk or telephone the Parish Office on Wednesday or Friday 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

MONTH'S MIND: Monday 14th September - 7.30pm - Francie Talbot

MONTH'S MIND: Friday 18th September - 7.30pm - Ita O'Neill

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Wednesday: 10.30 am - 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 SEPTEMBER: Eileen Devlin

SUNDAY READER: 13TH SEPTEMBER: Eileen Devlin

SUNDAY READER: 20TH SEPTEMBER: Catriona McErlean

***"As we grow older and realise more clearly the limitations
of human happiness, we come to see that the only real
and abiding pleasure in life is to give pleasure to other people"***

P.G. Wodehouse

COLLECTION: Sunday 6th September: £4027.00

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: Ita O'Neill; Kevin Symington; Francie Talbot; Patricia Shields; Oliver Hurle; Solange Forge; Una O'Neill; Annie Michael; Margaret Hughes; Mary Devlin

WEDDINGS 2027: All couples who plan to marry in **2027** 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 you or anyone you know is hoping to marry in 2027 please bring this to their notice as soon as possible. Many thanks.

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS: is celebrated on Monday 14th September. The relic of the true Cross will be present at 7.30pm Mass in St Mary & St Joseph's Church for anyone who would like to venerate it after Mass.

JOHN PAUL II AWARDS SCHEME: Any Year 13 or Year 14 students who hope to sign up for the John Paul II Awards Scheme with their school this year are invited to contact the Parish to take part in activities as either a Eucharistic Minister, Reader, Choir member or Volunteer with graveyard maintenance over the coming months to fulfil the requirements of the scheme.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: Curious about Catholicism? Or maybe you're feeling the call to renew your faith and step more deeply into the life of the Church? Our OCIA journey begins this September, a gentle, faith-filled space for anyone who: Wants to become a Catholic, return to the Church or deepen or rediscover or re-connect with their faith. It's a place to explore, ask questions, and discover what God might be stirring in your heart. Welcome Evening: Mid-September (Date to be confirmed) St Patrick's, Dungannon. To register your interest, simply drop us a message on Facebook or Instagram and we'll get back to you. Or contact Dungannon Parish Office: 028 8772 6893 or Email - info@parishofdungannon.com All are welcome.

CPC BOWLING CLUB: invite anyone who is interested in playing indoor bowls to join us every Thursday evening at the Parochial Centre. Coaching will be provided.

ANNUAL VENERABLE MATT TALBOT MASS SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2026: in Lady of Lourdes Church Sean Mc Dermott Street Dublin at 3.00pm. Anyone wishing to travel is asked to contact Eugene O Hagan 02886736259. Bus leaving Armagh City Hotel at 10.30am and Newry 10.45am. Fare £25.00 (Bus) £35.00 Meal) Total £55.00 and this includes tea and evening meal in the Carrickdale Hotel Dundalk. Names to Mary Livingstone 07974629994 on or before 25th September 2026

IRISH MASS: The first Irish Mass after the Summer break will be celebrated in St Malachy's Church, Armagh, on the third Saturday of this month, 19th September at 4.00pm. All welcome: Irish speakers and those interested in learning Irish.

GRAVEYARD LIGHTING: as we enter the autumn and winter months please be aware that the graveyard lighting goes off roughly around 9.00pm each night. Please always remember that not all visitors to the cemeteries visit for pious reasons, so do ensure your own safety at all times.

BULLETIN NOTICES: pertaining to faith based or community activities can be included in the weekend bulletin subject to availability of space. Please deliver any notices to the Parish Office by Wednesday evening in writing through the letterbox or by email to the Parish Office : coalislandparish@yahoo.co.uk.

POOR CLARES GALWAY, MONASTIC EXPERIENCE DAY: for women 18-35. An opportunity to experience Poor Clare life and spirituality from 10am until 5pm on Saturday 19th September. For more information contact poorclaremonasticday.eventbrite.ie