

St Andrew Christmas Novena

(Traditionally prayed 15 times per day from 30th November until 25th December)

Hail and blessed
be the hour and moment
in which the Son of God
was born of the most pure Virgin Mary,
at midnight, in Bethlehem,
in the piercing cold.
In that hour vouchsafe,
I beseech Thee, O my God,
to hear my prayer and grant my desires,
(here mention your request),
through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and of His blessed Mother. 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
Fr McCallion (Brocagh): 02887738381
Dean Donaghy (Dungannon): 02887722775
Canon Fee (Clonoe): 02887749184
Fr Tremer (Moortown): 02886737236
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.ballyclogdonaghenry.org

Bulletin Sponsored By:

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Ballyclog & Donaghenry Parish Bulletin

First Sunday in Advent 29th November 2026

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 – 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.

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 **12th December** and Saturday **8th January** in Holy Family Church, Coalisland and Sunday **13th 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 Wednesday or Friday mornings.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, COALISLAND

WEEKEND MASS: Vigil Mass - 6.00pm; Sunday Mass - 9.30am
FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Sunday 29th November - 9.30am - Brian O'Neill
FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Sunday 29th November - 9.30am - Grainne Carberry

ST MARY & ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BRACKAVILLE

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Monday evenings at 7.30pm
WEEKDAY MASS: Tuesday - Friday : 10.00am
FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Monday 30th November - 7.30pm - Ray Lidden
EUCHARISTIC 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
FIRST ANNIVERSARY: 29th November - 11.00am - Marion Devlin
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Monday - 10.00am - 6.00pm
CLEANING FOR DECEMBER: Clare McLernon
SUNDAY READER: 29TH DECEMBER: Martin Kennedy
SUNDAY READER: 6TH DECEMBER: Kieva Daly



"In the end, our love for others is the measure of how much we love God."

St. Francis Xavier
3rd December

COLLECTION: Sunday 22nd November: £4112.00

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: Noel Quinn; Joe McVeigh; Norah Robinson; Seamus Gallagher, Benny McGuigan; David McKitterick; Nicky Campbell; Vincy Jackson; Jim Mulgrew

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 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.

ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER: will take place on **Sunday 13th 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 (ish) until 5.45pm
Rosary will be prayed at 6.00pm.
Benediction will be celebrated following the rosary.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL: will begin this weekend with a second collection at all Masses. Donations can be made at any time during Advent to help the work of St Vincent De Paul in our own community. All donations given remain within the Parish to aid those most in need at this time of year. Any donation, no matter how small, makes a huge difference in the life of somebody else. Many thanks for you kindness.

CONCERN ANNUAL CHURCH GATE COLLECTION: will take place on the weekend of **12th/13th December** at all Masses in the Parish.

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

CARITAS CHOIR: warmly invite anyone who would like to do so to join them in singing the Christmas Vigil mass in Holy Family Church this year. The choir practices weekly in Craic Theatre on Tuesday evenings at 8pm and everyone in most welcome.

DUNGANNON CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and will host a day of prayer in Benburb Priory on Sunday 5th December from 11.00am until 4.00pm, including prayer, guest speaker talk by Fr Pat Collins, lunch and Mass. Everyone welcome.

GRAVE SURROUNDS: In an effort to maximise use of the space available in our cemeteries, the maximum size of any double grave surround is 6ft 8inches wide by 8ft long, and 3ft 4 inches wide by 8 ft long for single plots. Many thanks for your co-operation which ensures fairness for all our Parishioners.

PROVISIONAL 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