

# PARISH OF BANAGHER

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent  
18<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

## Mass Times

### Weekday Mass Times:

Monday: St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: 9.30am  
Tuesday: St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.00am  
Wednesday: St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: 7:00pm  
Thursday: St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.00am  
Friday: St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: 9.30am

### Weekend Mass Times for next weekend: 24<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Vigil 7.00pm & 9:15am  
St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.30am

### Weekend Mass times in Neighbouring Parishes:

St Patrick's Church, Dungiven: Vigil 6.00pm; Sunday 9.00am & 11.30am  
St Matthew's Church, Drumsurn: Sunday 10.15am  
Immaculate Conception, Gortnahey: Vigil 4.30pm  
St Joseph's Church, Craighbane: Sunday 10.00am  
St Patrick's Church, Claudy: Vigil 6.30pm; Sunday 11.30am

### Confessions

Grotto Chapel Friday: 10:00am  
St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Saturday: 6.30pm

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Chaplet

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Friday 10.00am – 11.00am

**Lent 2024:** Stations of the Cross will take place in St Mary's Church, Altinure for the Sundays of Lent at 6pm.

**Walk with Me** A daily reflection on the scriptures and a prayer for each day during lent. These books are available at Church porches and are priced £1.

**Lourdes Hospitalité** collection amounted to £900. Thank you for your generosity.

**Confirmation Retreat:** The P7 children from the three parish primary schools will be attending a Confirmation retreat day on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. This retreat day will be one of the final stages in their sacramental preparation before they make their Confirmation on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. We keep all the P7 students in our prayers as they embark on this important stage of their faith journey.

**February Do This in Memory Mass - Foreglen:** Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February will be the Do This in Memory Mass for the Primary 4 children in Foreglen, as part of their Sacramental preparation. This month the children will receive a bottle of holy water at the end of Mass. When they receive their holy water, the children will be reminded of their baptism and their union with Christ. The imagery that is associated with holy water is "washing", which helps us to remember that we need to be cleansed and forgiven for our sins. This is important for the children as they come closer to receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We as a parish, pray for the children in P4 as they continue to prepare for their First Holy Communion.

**Children's Liturgy:** Children's Liturgy will take place every Sunday during the 10:30am Mass in St Mary's Church, Altinure. Children's liturgy is open to all children in P1, P2 and P3, and is a great opportunity for them to experience the Word of God in a way that is more accessible to young children. These sessions will be led by the Parish's Pope John Paul II Award students, along with a group of dedicated parent volunteers. At the beginning of Mass, the children will be invited to go to the sacristy along with the JP2 students and parent volunteers, where the children will listen to the children's version of Gospel and do short activity. They will then re-join everyone in the main Church just before the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

**10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £1185      St Mary's Church, Altinure: £655  
Please consider online contributions and Gift Aid. Online Contributions to:

**Parish of Banagher Sort Code: 950306 A/c 51052659**

*Please note that the above figures do not include donations made online directly to the parish bank account. This total figure will be published at the beginning of each month.*

**Webinar on Vocations:** Will take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March from 8-9pm. The webinar is hosted by 'The Hook of Faith' platform ([www.thehookoffaith.com](http://www.thehookoffaith.com)) and is organised in collaboration with the National Vocations Office. The webinar is entitled '*The Last Priest in Ireland? It Depends on You*'. It is a follow up of a RTE documentary broadcast in January entitled '*The Last Priest in Ireland*'. The keynote speaker will be Breda O'Brien. There will be a panel of responders. The webinar is a Church response to the programme and an opportunity for dialogue about the future of vocations to the priesthood in Ireland. The provocative title hopefully promotes a desire to create a culture of vocations for which we are all responsible. The initiative is part of the year of prayer and promotion to the diocesan priesthood '*Take the Risk for Christ*'.

**Meeting** in the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbaca, Derry, every Sunday at 3.00pm, for adult children of alcoholic and dysfunctional families. This is an anonymous programme for those 18 years and over who grew up in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional homes.

**Vocations:** "Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour." These lines from today's Psalm are our prayer for our diocesan seminarians and for those currently discerning a vocation to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry. The annual inter-diocesan Vocations Retreat will take place in Drumalis, Larne, from 8-10 March. Anyone aged 18 or older, interested in attending should contact Fr Pat O'Hagan at pgoh2111@gmail.com or on (028) 79386259.

**Tour:** Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024. £799.00 pps. Price includes return bus from NI, 5 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia on 07740 175557 or 087 1890 236 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

**Synodal Gathering:** Fr Peter O'Kane and Tony Brennan, along with the Diocesan Synod Working Group, have been organising the next diocesan steps of the Synod, and are offering two opportunities to reflect on the current stage of the process.

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday 17 February 2024 - 11:00am - 4:00pm – St Pio House, in the grounds of St Joseph's Church, Fairview Road, Galliagh, Derry (Lunch included) or,  
Sunday 25 February 2024 - 2:00pm - 6:00pm – St Joseph's Parish Hall, Church Street, Omagh (refreshments provided) If you are Interested In attending either of these gatherings as a representative for Banagher parish, please contact the parish office or email charlotte.deeny@derrydiocese.org

**Prepare for the Sunday Gospels of Lent** with Fr Patrick Lagan: Would you like to spend a little time each week of Lent preparing for the Sunday Gospel before you hear it at Sunday Mass? Lent is a time to consider a commitment to prayer, fasting and giving. 'Prepare' will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to gather with others to pray, share and reflect on the Sunday Gospels during the weeks of Lent leading up to Palm Sunday and Holy Week. 'Prepare' will be delivered via Zoom and facilitated by Fr Patrick Lagan, Diocese of Derry. Beginning on Monday, 19th February at 7:00pm-8:00pm it will continue each Monday until 18th March. Using the prayer practice of Lectio Divina, Fr Patrick will lead the group to read, listen to, respond to and rest with the Word of God. As a group, it is a wonderful opportunity to place the Word of God at the centre of our prayer and spiritual life as we strive to deepen our relationship with Christ and each other. To book your place please click on the link: <https://forms.gle/5xdNdKWYazYjGKddA> or Email: [tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org](mailto:tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org)

**ACCORD Derry Marriage Preparation Courses** February 2024 to March 2024; February 23rd/24th 2024 & March 22nd/23rd 2024. Venue: Everglades Hotel, Prehen Road Derry. Please note that these courses are NOT Virtual and are in person.

**Feast Days this Coming Week: Wednesday 21st: St Peter Damian (1007 - 1072)** was born in Ravenna in 1007 and studied theology and canon law, becoming a renowned teacher in both Parma and Ravenna. In his late twenties he abandoned all this and joined the hermitage of Fonte Avellana, near Gubbio, where he became prior in 1043: a position he held until his death. He strongly promoted the religious life in many parts of Italy. The Church at that time was in a terrible state and he supported the Popes in their efforts at reform, both by his writings and as a papal envoy.

**Friday 23rd Feb: St Polycarp (- 155)** was a disciple of the Apostles, bishop of Smyrna, and a friend of St Ignatius of Antioch. He went to Rome to confer with Pope Anicetus about the celebration of Easter. He was martyred at Smyrna in about 155 by being burnt to death in the stadium. Polycarp is an important figure in the history of the Church because he is one of the earliest Christians whose writings still survive. He bears witness to the beliefs of the early Christians and the early stages of the development of doctrine.

**Safeguarding Notice:** If you have any concerns with regard to Safeguarding children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at 07596 500 793 or at the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ or PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) 101 or Social Services: Duty Social Worker, Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090

**Privacy Notice:** The Diocese of Derry complies with GDPR regulations. A privacy notice is available on the Parish Website or by contacting the Parish Office. Live stream and recordings of Mass and Services in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn and St Mary's Church, Altinure are available online. Parishioners should note that the first three rows of seats are visible online in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn and the first six rows of seats in St Mary's Church, Altinure. Please also note that the outside areas and the interiors of St Joseph's Church, Fincairn and St Mary's Church, Altinure and covered by CCTV.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**St Mary's GAC, Banagher:** Lotto numbers for 13/2/2024 were 1,3,9,16. Winning £20 each was Maria Cartin, Shannon O'Kane, Orla Deighan, Carol Ann McGinty, Sarah McGowan. Next week's Jackpot is £3,700.

**Dungiven Outdoor Bowling Club fundraiser draw:** Over £4K in prizes to be won. Draw will take place LIVE on Facebook on Monday 8th April 2024. £20 each / £30 for 2/ £50 for 4. Please see Dungiven Outdoor Bowling Club Facebook page for more details.

## PARISH CLERGY

**Fr Micheál McGavigan Adm. JV**

42 Glenedra Road, Feeny, BT47 4TW

Tel: 028 7778 1223 Email: [mcgavigan@derrydiocese.org](mailto:mcgavigan@derrydiocese.org)

## CONTACT US

To arrange a Baptism, Wedding or Anniversary Mass, please call Fr Micheál or the secretaries on 028 7778 1223 or email [banagherparish@derrydiocese.org](mailto:banagherparish@derrydiocese.org).

**Parish Office** opening hours next week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9.30am - 12.30pm.

**Mass is Live on the Webcam at [www.banagherparish.com](http://www.banagherparish.com)**

**SVP Confidential Helpline: 07593954973**