

# PARISH OF BANAGHER

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

### Mass Times this Week

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 Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: 7.00pm Vigil

St Mary's Church, Altinure: 10.30am

St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: 12pm Noon

### Confessions

St Mary's Church, Altinure: Thursday 10.30am

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

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Saturday: 6.30pm

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

St Mary's Church, Altinure: Thursday 10.30am-11.30am

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

**A First Anniversary Mass** will be celebrated for Aloysius (Whishie) Feeney, RIP, in St Mary's Church, Altinure on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am.

**Baptism** We welcome onto God's family Freddie Owen O'Neill.

**Trócaire Christmas Gifts of Love** will be on sale across the parish before and after the Masses next weekend (8th December). These Gifts are an alternative way to support Trócaire's work in an ethical and sustainable way. The money goes toward buying life changing products for some of the poorest people in the world, and for people severely affected by climate change and conflict. Trócaire are also working with their partners in Gaza and the Middle East and money raised will also support their essential work there. Please visit us after Mass, alternatively visit the Trócaire website for ways to donate. Thank you for your support.

**Digital Advent 2024 Calendar** with the theme of 'Hope' is available daily throughout Advent on the Irish Bishops' Conference website, [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie). Appropriately, the theme of 'Hope' is based on the upcoming Jubilee Year 2025, announced by Pope Francis, with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Each day of Advent, open a digital door of the calendar to uncover the short, inspiring reflections, prayers, and messages of hope aimed at guiding us through this sacred season. The Digital Calendar is a convenient, but special way to reflect, pray, and prepare with hope for Christmas and for the upcoming Jubilee 2025. The Advent journey begins today, Sunday 1 December, so open the door of hope!

December	St Joseph's Church, Fincairn		St Mary's Church, Altinure
	7.00pm	9.15am	10.30am
Readers	Brenda Duddy	Jack McColgan	Patrick Conway
Eucharistic Ministers	Joanne Donaghey	Geraldine McCloskey	Sally O'Kane
Flowers	Pauline McGrellis		Sheila Byrne
Cleaning	Lucy McLaughlin, Jean O'Neill		Roisin McInroy, Sheila Byrne
Counters	Ann Hasson, Marian & Anthony O'Neill Patricia McCloskey		Anna Smyth, Anna Gormley
Collectors	Paul Campbell Pat McCullagh	Liam Campbell Sean Roe McCloskey	Gerald, Conor, Sean & Shane Kerlin

**Relics of Venerable Matt Talbot** On Monday 2nd December at 7.30pm at the monthly Matt Talbot Prayer Society Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral there will be relics of Venerable Matt Talbot present and available for veneration. The relics are coming from the Church in Sean McDermott Street in Dublin where Matt Talbot's remains lie. This veneration is in preparation for the celebration of the centenary Matt Talbot's death. Matt Talbot is a powerful intercessor for those suffering from addiction of any kind. This Mass is offered for all those enrolled in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society, all those suffering from addiction, all those recovering from addiction and all those affected by addiction. If you or someone you know struggles with alcohol or drugs, or want to abstain, you will have the opportunity to commit to abstinence by signing up after Mass. Everyone is welcome to this Mass.

**Prayer for Vocations** For those considering a vocation to serve the Church as priests of the Derry diocese we pray in the words of St Paul in our second reading, that they "...will make more and more progress in the kind of life [they] are meant to live, the life that God wants..."

**Advent Course for Young People** The youth department of the Catechetical Centre, in conjunction with Youth link NI, will be delivering a four-week course for Advent in two venues - Derry City and Maghera, for young people, including those doing the JPPII Award this year. If you would like to attend, please email your name to [lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org](mailto:lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org).

**Dominican Friars - Online Advent Retreat** for parishioners. The speaker is Fr Stephen Cummins OP. The title of the retreat is: 'Keeping Vigil for the Vulnerable God'. To sign up for the Retreat the link is: <https://prioryinstitute.com/events/2024-online-advent-retreat>

### Derry Diocesan Trust

Diocesan Youth Coordinator

35 hours per week (including evening & weekend work)

1 Year Fixed Term Contract with possible extension

For Job Description and Application Pack please contact the Diocesan Office on

02871 262302 or email [recruitment@derrydiocese.org](mailto:recruitment@derrydiocese.org)

Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop's House,

St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to

[recruitment@derrydiocese.org](mailto:recruitment@derrydiocese.org) no later than 4.30pm on 11th December 2024.

Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

*We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.*

## OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

**23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £1,130      St Mary's Church, Altinure: £860

St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: £681.90

**Sick & Retired Priests Collection:** £1,265

Please consider online contributions and Gift Aid. Online Contributions to:

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

***Thank you for your continued generosity.***

**Advent Retreat** Emmanuel - He meets you where you are: This Advent season, step away from the busyness of life and enter a sacred space of quiet reflection and prayer. Join the Columba Community for their retreat on Sunday 8 December at 11.00am in St Anthony's Retreat Centre, Dundrean, Burnfoot, Co Donegal, Eircode: F93NF76. Find stillness, experience guided prayer, with Adoration and Eucharist. Deepen your spiritual journey during this holy season as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ. Booking is essential tel: (00353)0749384866. A Light lunch is provided, suggested donation £20.

**Christmas Carols by Candlelight** The Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother at Crossroads, Killygordon, invite you to Christmas Carols by Candlelight followed by Live Crib at 5pm, at St Patrick's Church, Crossroads, Killygordon, on Sunday 15 December. Hot Chocolate will be served! Everyone is welcome.

**Mary's Meals Double the Love Appeal** Amongst the many challenges we see in today's world, your little acts of love can bring hope to desperately hungry children with a daily school meal with Mary's Meals. At this time, all donations made to Mary's Meals are being doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £900,000. Please keep us in your prayers during this Advent season that we can reach even more children around the world with our life-changing school meals this Christmas. There are many ways to give, including our gift cards and online Christmas Trees of Hope. Find out more at [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk) or freephone 0800 698 1212.

**Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025** led by Bishop Donal McKeown, from Monday 30 June to Friday 4 July, leaving from City of Derry Airport. Price £849 plus insurance and single supplement if required. The Pilgrimage Office at 164 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6UJ will not be open for booking until Saturday 1 February 2025, 11.00am to 1.00pm (and each following Saturday and Thursday at the same time unless notified). However, Gift Vouchers are now available from the Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. Also, enquiries can be made by email to [derrypilgrim@outlook.com](mailto:derrypilgrim@outlook.com)

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje** direct from Belfast from 5th to 12th September 2025 with Spiritual Director, Fr. Michael McCaul. Price: Flights and half board in 4 star Leone Hotel is £849 Special offer of £100 discount if paid in full extended until Friday, 6th December. Contact Maria Bradley at 02881648357 or WhatsApp 07768395038.

### Feast Days this Week

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: St Francis Xavier** (1506 - 1552) was born in the Basque country of Spain in 1506. He met Ignatius Loyola when he was a student in Paris, and he was ordained priest in 1537. In 1541 the Pope sent him as part of a mission to India, and he spent the rest of his life in the East, preaching the Gospel in Goa and Malacca. He made

many converts and fought against the exploitation of the native population by the Europeans. He spent two years on a successful mission to Japan, laying the foundations of many Christian communities; and in 1552, after entering China secretly to preach the Gospel there, he died of fever and exhaustion on the Chinese island of Shangchwan.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December: St Nicholas** was bishop of Myra, in Lycia (now part of Turkey) and died about the middle of the fourth century and venerated throughout the Church, especially since the 10th century. He is the patron saint of pawnbrokers, for his help to the poor. The pawnbrokers insignia of three golden balls represent the three purses of gold he is said to have given secretly to a poor man who could not afford dowries for his three daughters.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**St Mary's GAC, Banagher:** Lotto numbers for 26.11.2024 were 4, 7, 9, & 11. Winning the jackpot of £7,700 was Declan Robinson. Thanks to everyone who continues to support our club Lotto. It is greatly appreciated. Next week's Jackpot is £1000.

**Learmount Community Development Group** This incoming week in Park: **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Time For Me 60+ Ladies: 10.30am - 12.30pm; Ladies Yoga: 7pm - 7.45pm; Men's Yoga: 8pm - 8.45pm; Art Class: 7.30pm - 8.30pm: **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Crochet Class (wk 8) 10.30am - 12.30pm; Men's Hobby Workshop: 10.30am - 12.30pm; Advice NW (Citizen's Advice): 2pm - 4pm; Christmas Wreath Making workshop (1): 7pm - 8.30pm; **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>:** DEED's Dementia Social Group ~ Christmas Dinner: 2pm - 4pm; Christmas Wreath Making workshop (2): 7pm - 8.30pm; **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>:** PO Outreach Service: 9am - 12pm (Res. Centre); Painting For Pleasure Art Class: 10.30am - 12.30pm; Park 60+ Luncheon Club: 12pm - 2pm; **Friday 6<sup>th</sup>:** Learmount Walking Group: 10.30am; Christmas lights switch on in Park at Learmount Resource Centre: From 7pm with Santa, Mrs Claus and special guests. For further info please contact Karen or Min at the Community Centre on 028 77781881 or 07592 995229 or email: [admin@learmountgroup.org](mailto:admin@learmountgroup.org) or / and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

**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. Please 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.

## PARISH CLERGY

**Fr Dermot McGirr PP**

42 Glenedra Road, Feeny, BT47 4TW

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

## CONTACT US

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

**Parish Office** opening hours next week: Monday – Friday: 9.30am - 12.30pm.

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

**SVP Confidential Helpline: 07593954973**