PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Fr Micheál McGavigan PP – Fr Roni Zacharias CC – Fr Stephen Ward CC

Sunday 30th November 2025 – First Sunday of Advent – Year A

The 1st Sunday of Advent is a time of waiting and hope. We look forward to Jesus coming again, and we remember His birth in Bethlehem. Advent reminds us to be ready, not just for Christmas, but for the day when Christ will return. It is a season to pray, watch, and live in the light of the Lord. The readings speak about peace, joy, and staying awake. Isaiah gives a picture of all nations coming to God's mountain to learn His ways. The psalm is a prayer for peace in Jerusalem. Paul tells us to wake up and live as people of the light. Jesus warns us to be ready because His coming will be sudden. "*Stay awake so that you may be ready." Mt 25:13*

REQUIESCANT IN PACE
We offer our sympathies to the family and friends of:
Margie Devlin, Carnhill; Thomas Diamond, Culmore Road; Roy Doyle, formerly Blomfield Park, who has died in Australia; Elaine Bradley, 34 Altcar Park.

BAPTISMS
We welcome into the family of God:
Polly Anna Daly; Levi Coyle; Ruebén Eamon Gallagher.

ANNIVERSARIES
Tom McAdams; Bernadette Diamond; Dan McNally; Isobel Clarke; Bill Ferry; Des Ferry; Terence Ferry; Margaret Rose Campbell; Mary Crilly; Anna Heaney; Patrick McGuinness; John Strain; Liam Fleming; Gregory Sharkey; Brona Sharkey; Noel Sharkey; Nellie McElhinney; Hugh Shiels; Mary Frances Shiels; Sheila McFadden; Campbell Families; Divin Families; James Gallagher; George Doherty.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 7th December
1st: Is 11:1-10, Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, R/cfv 7
2nd: Rm 15:4-9. Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

THREE PATRONS PARISH 2026 CALENDARS
On Sale at the Parish Offices and before and after Mass in the Parish Sacristies. Price £3.

THREE PATRONS PARISH MASS BOUQUETS
On Sale at the Parish Offices and before and after Mass in the Sacristies, price £2. Your prayer intentions will be included at Mass on Christmas Morning.

ST VINCENT de PAUL ANNUAL NATIONAL COLLECTION
On the weekend of 6/7th December. Please give generously.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
As we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent we pray for our seminarians and the men discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood, that they will prepare their hearts and minds to welcome the Lord Jesus into their lives.

ANNUAL NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
The Novena continues every Tuesday at 7pm, in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh and concludes on Tuesday 16th December with a Penitential Service and confessions for Christmas.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS
The December Holy Hour for Vocations has been brought forward to Tuesday 2 December at 8pm at St Columb's Church, Chapel Road, Waterside. All are welcome to come and pray for this special intention.

SEASONAL SONGS & CAROLS
On Tuesday 9th December in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn at 7.30pm. Admission free with retiring collection. Presented by the University of Ulster Choir.

THE NET – NOVEMBER 2025
Sharing the fruits of the faith in the Derry Diocese, the latest edition of *'The Net'* is available in print in parish porches, as well as on the Diocesan website. For coverage of faith related stories just email editorthenet15@gmail.com.

WALK WITH ME BOOKS
On sale in the three churches, price £1. For Advent 2025

THE PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP
Tuesday 2 December at the Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty. After the 7.15pm Mass and the Novena, the priest will bless everyone with a first-class relic of St Pio.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION
St Patrick's Church: £2,038 - St Brigid's Church: £2,915 - St Joseph's Church: £1,120
2nd Collection (Maintenance & Pastoral Outreach): £1,072
Thank you for your continued generosity.
BANK DETAILS FOR ONLINE DONATIONS: A/C Name: The Parish of the Three Patrons
Sort Code: 95-06-79 A/C No: 60320021

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Sunday 14th December, in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn. Join, soprano Margaret Keys, Fr Eugene and Fr Martin O'Hagan for a night of festive celebrations. Tickets available (eventbrite.ie or call parish office on 02871262360)

DERRY DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026
Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July (4 nights) ex City of Derry Airport. The Pilgrimage office will open for bookings on Saturday 17 January 2026 at 11am. However, Gift Vouchers to any value are now available (Monday to Thursday) from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street.

ST PATRICK'S PS – OPEN DAY & RICKETY WHEEL
Thursday 4th December – Session 1 at 9.30am, Session 2 at 1pm. The Rickety Wheel is also on 4th December 7pm – 8.30pm.

ADVENT HEALING SERVICE
Beginning with Evening Prayer at 5pm for the 4 Sundays of Advent in St Brigid's Church, Carnhill.

CARE FOR CREATION
Throughout Advent we have many prophecies of the coming Messiah. We witness a people waiting in expectation, trusting that God will fulfil his promises. This hope surely rests on God, whose faithfulness makes hope possible. Christian hope rests in the certainty of Christ's victory over sin and death. Such hope is a source of strength and action. It empowers us to make visible God's reign in our midst by living lives of solidarity, compassion and love for all people and all of God's creation.
The Care for Creation Environmental Group can be contacted through the Parish Office.

PRIVACY NOTICE
Is available on the parish website: threepatrons.org

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE ADVENT APPEAL 2025
This Christmas, we are asking parishioners to support our Advent Appeal. You can collect one of the coin box packs from the Church porch and place it in your home over Christmas. Please then return donations to the chapel in January. Our goal is to give the children of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia a better future they deserve. www.childrenincrossfire.org/addis-ababa-25/

PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP DONAL
This weekend Bishop Donal McKeown shares his Advent Pastoral Letter, Moving Forward Together in Changing Times, inviting all of us to a renewed focus on prayer, listening to the Holy Spirit, and working together in mission. He reflects on the challenges faced by families and communities today and reminds us that Advent assures us of God's closeness and hope. The bishop highlights the importance of parish collaboration — supporting one another in sacramental life, outreach, and faith formation — while recognising the vital role of our priests, parish leaders, coordinators, and volunteers whose dedication sustains parish life. Bishop McKeown goes on to state his intention that ongoing discussions about forming pastoral areas – bringing parishes together in shared mission – will be completed before Easter 2026. He also points to the existing encouraging signs of renewed prayer and growing youth involvement across the diocese. We are encouraged to walk forward in faith: Christ is with us and continues to lead His Church. You are encouraged to read the full letter at derrydiocese.org/pastoral-letter

SAFEGUARDING
If you have any concerns with regard to the Safeguarding of Children or vulnerable adults within the Church, please contact Marie O'Kane, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Peron (DLP) on 07596500793 or at dlp@derrydiocese.org

PARISH GROUPS & MEETINGS

Monday	After 11am Mass	Holy Souls Prayer Group	Our Lady's Chapel, Galliagh
	1pm – 2.30pm	Legion of Mary	Meeting Room, St Joseph's Church, Galliagh
	7pm – 8.30pm	Carnhill Folk Group	St Brigid's Church, Carnhill
	7pm - 9pm	Woman's Craft Group	Kildare Room, Carnhill
Tuesday	After 11am Mass	Devotion to the Holy Face	Our Lady's Chapel, Galliagh
	11.30am - 2.30pm	St. Pio's Café	St. Pio Centre, Galliagh
	12.00pm – 1.00pm	Reflection on Sunday Scriptures	Meeting Room, St Joseph's Church, Galliagh
	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Living Disciples / Bible Study	St. Pio Centre, Galliagh
Thursday	11.30am - 2.30pm	St. Pio's Café	St. Pio Centre, Galliagh
	4.45pm – 5.30pm	St Brigid's Youth Choir	St Brigid's Church, Carnhill
	7pm - 8pm	Holy Hour for the Unborn	Our Lady's Chapel, Galliagh
	7pm – 8pm	Genesis & Church Teaching	Kildare Room, Carnhill
	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Youth Prayer Group	St. Pio Centre, Galliagh
	8.15pm - 10pm	Be Still - Men's Prayer Group	Our Lady's Chapel, Galliagh
Friday	11.30am-12.30pm	Divine Mercy Prayer Group	Our Lady's Chapel, Galliagh
Saturday	11.30am – 12.30pm	God Club	Kildare Room, Carnhill

PARISH SCHEDULE

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, PENNYBURN

Sunday Mass:	Vigil 6.15pm; 9.45am
Weekday Mass:	Monday to Friday: 10.00am; Wednesday: 7pm
Confessions:	Wednesday: 6.15pm – 6.45pm; Saturday: 5.15pm – 6.00pm
Eucharistic Adoration:	Wednesday: 10.30am – 7.00pm
Baptisms:	Saturday: 4.30pm; Sunday: 1.30pm

ST BRIGID'S CHURCH, CARNHILL

Sunday Mass:	Vigil 5pm; 10.30am & 12.30pm
Weekday Mass:	Monday to Friday: 9.30am; Thursday: 7pm; Saturday: 11.00am
Confessions:	Thursday: 6.15 – 6.45pm; Saturday after 11.00am Mass and 4pm - 4.45pm
Eucharistic Adoration:	Daily: 8.00am – 8.00pm in St Carlo Acutis Chapel
Baptisms:	Saturday: 3.30pm

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, GALLIAGH

Sunday Mass:	11.00am; 12.30pm *(An tAifreann Naofa)*; 6.30pm
Weekday Mass:	Monday to Friday: 11.00am; Tuesday: 7pm
Confessions:	Tuesday: 6.15pm – 6.45pm; Sunday: 5.30pm – 6.15pm
Eucharistic Adoration:	Tuesday: 11.30am – 7.00pm in Our Lady's Chapel
Baptisms:	Saturday: 3.30pm