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The Rise and Shine Trust would like to sincerely thank all parishioners who contributed to an extremely generous total of £7,368.00 and €115. Your donations will benefit so many people in our pilgrimage next Easter. Your intentions will be remembered in our prayers at the grotto next Easter.



Last week's Offertory Collection **£1,610.00. Thank you.**



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.



St Vincent de Paul (Bellaghy) Family Appeal: In previous years our community has generously donated to the Family Christmas Appeal. Once again we are requesting that vouchers be donated as this will enable families to get whatever is necessary. Deadline for vouchers is **7 Dec.** Thanking you in anticipation.

The special SVP Christmas Collection will take place on 6 & 7 December.

Fr Pat hopes to attend the Sick and Housebound as follows:

Mon 8 Dec: Bellaghy B Tues 9 Dec: Bellaghy C

Parish Prayer Group: Thursday 6.30pm—7.30pm in the Prayer Room of St Mary's Church to reflect on the coming Sunday's readings, and to pray for the intentions of our parishioners. Everyone welcome.

Legion Of Mary: Wednesday at 6.15pm in the Prayer Room of St Mary's Church. All are welcome, both men and women.



Baptism Dates:

January 3 —Bellaghy.

January 17 — Greenlough.

To arrange a Baptism please contact Sally-Ann or Paddi in either of the Parish Offices.



**St Mary's, Bellaghy/St Joseph's, Ballyscullion.
30 November 2025.
First Sunday Of Advent.**

Advent Pastoral Letter from Bishop McKeown

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

We hope to offer training to altar servers in the very near future. Anyone interested in becoming a server, from Primary 5 upwards (there's no upper age limit!) is welcome. Parents should, please, contact the parish office to receive a consent form. The date and time for training will be announced soon.

Bellaghy Parish Christmas Bouquets are available from the sacristy and Parish office. **Minimum donation £2. All proceeds will go to the Macmillan Unit, Antrim Area Hospital.**

The Annual Carol Service

Will take place in St Mary's Church,
Bellaghy on Sunday 21 December at 6pm.



December Schedules:

St Mary's:

Eucharistic Ministers: Weekdays: Marietta Duffin.

Vigil: T McGoldrick, B McMenamin, J McGoldrick, S McCann.

11am: M Scullion, C Scullion, P Diamond, K O'Neill.

Readers: Vigil: Louise Steele **11am:** Fidelma McClenaghan

Weekdays: Mon: M Scullion **Wed:** A Scott

Church Cleaners: John Paul 11 Group

Stewards: Vigil: Francis Diamond & Aidan Diamond.

11am: Brian Scullion & Peter Diamond.

Car Park: Pius Diamond & Chris Diamond.

Altar Society: Kathleen McGoldrick

St Joseph's:

Eucharistic Minister: G Trainor **Collector:** Cathal McErlain

Reader: Liturgy Group **Altar Society:** Altar Society group.

BAMBINELLI BLESSING: It's a tradition in some countries to pray a special blessing over the 'Baby Jesus' figurine which will be placed in our cribs. The idea is to pray the blessing and then wrap up the 'bambino' and keep it safe until after Mass on Christmas Eve. Then we're invited to open the package and receive it as God's first (and greatest) gift to us. We place the Baby Jesus in the crib and thank God for sending Jesus to save us.

We invite all children and families to bring their baby Jesus figurine to be blessed during the Masses next weekend 6/7 December.

Prayer of blessing: Heavenly Father, we thank You that You love us so much that You gave us your only Son, Jesus, as a most precious gift. We ask you to bless this crib that we have prepared. Let it remind us of your presence with us in all the ups and downs, the joys and sorrows of our human lives. We thank You for the gifts we are about to receive; let them remind us of the gift You gave us; Jesus, your Son, who became one of us and taught us to be fully human. Help us to be generous like You. Help us to follow the example of Jesus in all we do. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

St Mary's, Bellaghy:

Mon, 9.30am

Sat Vigil, 7pm Sun, 11.30am

Adoration, Friday from 2pm—8pm (Rosary at 7.30pm).

St Oliver Plunkett, Clady:

Fri, 9.30am

Tues, Rosary at 7.30pm

Adoration 9am - 5pm Thursday.

Sat Vigil, 5.30pm

Sun, 9am

St Joseph's Ballyscullion: Sun, 10.15am.

Monday 8 December is The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

and is a holyday of obligation.

Mass Times on Mon 8 Dec:

Greenlough: 8am

Bellaghy: 9.30am

Ballyscullion: 7pm

Deaths: We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of

Peter Murphy (Belfast/Ballyscullion) who died recently.

ANNIVERSARIES

Sat/Sun 29/30: Raymond Craig (Month's Mind at 7pm), Margaret Doherty (Month's Mind at 11.30am), Caroline Artt (Anniversary Mass at 6.15pm in Magherafelt), Liz Hutchinson, Emmet McNally, Joseph McPeake, Sarah O'Neill. Gerry McGlinchey, Philomena Cushley, Kevin Milne, Ellen & James Duffin, Joachim McErlean, Michael Gallagher, Brian O'Neill,

Sat/Sun 6/7: Annie Donnelly (Anniversary Mass at 7pm), Lily Diamond (Anniversary Mass at 2pm on Sun 7 Dec), Liam McCloskey, Jamesie O'Neill,

May they rest in peace.

