

# HOLY FAMILY CHURCH



Sun 22nd Dec 2024

Vol. 42 No 51

**THE ANNUAL DERRY CITY GOAL MILE WALK** will take place on **Thursday December 26, leaving from Sainsbury's car park at 12noon.** The GOAL Mile is an opportunity for local people to walk in solidarity and show support for those struggling to survive in countries ravaged by war, famine, disease and the effects of climate change. There are no administrative costs associated with the GOAL Mile so every penny raised will go directly to supporting the charity's work with the poorest of the poor. Irish humanitarian charity GOAL is currently working in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Niger, Uganda, Sudan, Colombia, Haiti and Honduras.

**PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS:** Our Lady of Montligeon Prayer Group meets every Monday in St Joseph's, Galliagh (Our Lady's side chapel), after 11.00am Mass, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All welcome.

**PILGRIMAGES TO MEDJUGORJE** 7th –14th May **LOURDES** 4th - 9th July 2025 Deposits and Savings scheme available on Thursdays at Parish Office from 10.30am-12noon. contact Margaret 07732468511

**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. Gift Vouchers are now available which can be used to assuage the cost from the Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. Also, enquiries can be made by email to [derrypilgrim@outlook.com](mailto:derrypilgrim@outlook.com)

**JUBILEE YEAR** For the occasion of the Jubilee Year of Prayer 2025, the Dicastery for Evangelisation has created a handbook to accompany Christian faith communities and parishes on the path of preparation for the Jubilee 2025. The handbook, inspired by the teachings of Pope Francis, is written as an invitation to intensify prayer, understood as a personal dialogue with God, and to lead readers to reflect on their faith, and their commitment in today's world. The booklet contains very useful guides and reminders of occasions of prayer. It can be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/teach-us-to-pray>

**SEAN DAVIS "3 DAY INDOOR CHRISTMAS FUN SOCCER ACADEMY"** takes place at Templemore Sports Complex from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 4th January For boys and girls aged 5 to 18 years. 10:00 am to 3.00 pm daily. For further details Tel. Sean Davis 07787791880.

**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 Liaison person 07956500793/07707311358 or at the Safeguarding Office Pastoral Centre 164 Bishop Street or PSNI or Social Services: Gateway Services WHSC

## MASSES

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm  
Sunday 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm  
Weekdays Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 10.00am  
Tuesday & Thursday 7.15pm

## CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 10.30am-11.30am & 5.15pm-5.50pm  
Tues & Thurs 6.45pm – 7.10pm

## BAPTISMS

Saturday at 4.30pm

## MARRIAGES

Three months notice and marriage preparation necessary

## PAROCHIAL HOUSE

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1 Aileach Road Ballymagroarty BT48 0AZ

Email: [office@holyfamily-parish.com](mailto:office@holyfamily-parish.com)

Website: [www.holyfamily-parish.com](http://www.holyfamily-parish.com)

Webcam: Click on website and follow the links

Parish Office 9.45am-1.45pm Mon– Fri

Parish Priest:  
Fr Joseph Gormley

Curate  
Fr Kevin Mulhern

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**MARY BRINGS CHRIST TO OTHERS**

In today's reading, we see her literally bringing Jesus to another, as she carries him in her womb and goes to her cousin and speaks the words any missionary might pronounce — words which are the beginning of all belief: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."

We can only imagine what other travels Mary took in the course of her life. But we can't forget one in particular, the most difficult of all, as she followed her son on his journey to Calvary.

This Sunday, we realize anew how much Mary's life is closely entwined with ours. All of us, like Mary, are on a journey. All of us are traveling to places we may not understand, to destinations we cannot see. But we ask Mary to help guide us on our way.

The road is long. The journey isn't easy. We pray to have the trust in God that we need to travel whatever road we must take, just as Mary did.

And in these last hours before Christmas, this Sunday reminds us that our mission in life is not that different from Mary's: to take Christ into a broken, wounded, waiting world.

A familiar hymn over these last few weeks has been telling us how we "mourn in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear."

If we needed any reminder, here it is. He is coming. Rejoice! Rejoice! He is near.

*Fr Gormley and Fr Mulhern wish you all a happy and Holy Christmas*

**CONFESSIONS**

**Sunday** 3:00– 4:30pm **Monday** 10:30– 11:30 am 6:45– 7:30pm

**Tuesday** 10:30– 11:30am and all day in St Eugene's Cathedral

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**Tuesday Christmas Eve Vigil Masses 6.00pm & 9.00pm.**

**Wednesday Christmas Day 9.30am, 11.00am and 12.30pm.**

**MASSES FROM ST. STEPHEN'S DAY** will be at **12 noon** on **Thursday, Friday and Saturday**

**ANNIVERSARIES** We pray for the repose of the souls of Tommy McGee, Annie & Roy Beattie, Kathleen Friel, Mary Coyle, Michael McCarron, Packy Gillespie, Liam Lindsay, Nellie Brady, Rose Forbes, Laura Devine, May Garnon, Mary McLaughlin, Albert Faloone, Jim Kelly, Michael Deery, Mary Bradshaw, Fidelma Coyle

**SUNDAY COLLECTION.** 15th Dec £2533.90 and €151.10 Standing Orders £375 Thank you for your continuing generosity to the collection .

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:** We pray for our seminarians and for those considering a vocation to serve as priests in this diocese that, like Mary and Elizabeth, they will be attentive to the power and movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

**INVITATION TO 33 DAYS OF FAMILY PRAYER:** Bishop McKeown will lead the diocese in 33 days of Family Prayer towards Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary, as part of a diocesan programme for the Jubilee Year of 2025, *Pilgrims of Hope*. It will be delivered online on the Diocese of Derry Facebook, each evening at **7.00pm**, starting on **Thursday 9 January 2025** and concluding on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Tuesday **11 February 2025**. Bishop McKeown explains, "*It is a journey I set out to make to entrust myself and my priesthood to Christ through the Mother of God. I extend an invitation to you and your families from the parishes of the diocese to join me*". Details and times of the prayer programme with a video message from Bishop McKeown can be viewed at [derrydiocese.org/consecration](http://derrydiocese.org/consecration) .

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** We are deeply grateful to Our Folk group for organising the wonderful Christmas concert in the church last Sunday. It was a truly memorable night in which all the musicians that took part worked so hard to prepare for .We are so grateful to them all, those who were able to come and thank you all for the donations to church funds which came to £915 and €15

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** Anyone wishing to contact St. Vincent De Paul Society can leave a note in the parochial house or contact Oznam House 71 265489 .

**ACCORD DERRY MARRIAGE PREPARATION WORKSHOPS**

January 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> February 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> April 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>  
May 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> June 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> To book contact 546 [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com)