



Fourth Sunday of Advent (A) 22nd. December 2019. Vol.17 No. 17.

www.stbernadettesparish.org e-mail: info@stbernadettesparish.org

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Celebrating the Liturgy of Christmas Week.

Monday

9.30a.m. Mass

Christmas Eve

9.30a.m. Mass & Novena Prayers to Our Lady followed by Confessions.

7p.m. Vigil Mass for Families with Congregational singing.

10p.m. Vigil Mass with the Adult Choir.



Christmas Day

9.30a.m. Mass. Congregational singing.

11a.m. Mass with the Folk Choir.

No Evening Mass

St. Stephen's Day.

11a.m. Mass.

Saturday 28th.
6p.m. Vigil Mass.

Confessions at 6.45p.m.

Sunday 29th.
10a.m. Mass.
12p.m. Mass.

Notices for the Parish Bulletin should be sent by **e-mail only** to: info@stbernadettesparish.org

First Reading (Isaiah 7:10-14) King Ahaz of Judah is a frightened man. Threatened by foreign powers, he is tempted to ignore God's promise of protection and seek godless alliances instead. God invites him to ask for any sign of God's presence, but Ahaz is committed to seeking help elsewhere, and he appeals to the pious notion of not putting God to the test.

Second Reading (Romans 1:1-7) St. Paul opens his magisterial letter to the Romans by describing himself as a servant, or slave, of Christ Jesus. Paul can rejoice in being a servant, because he knows the goodness of the One he serves.

Gospel (Matthew (1:18-24)) Near the beginning of Matthew's Gospel, the prophecy made by King Ahaz is taken up: Jesus is Emmanuel, 'God-with-us.' Jesus himself will take up this theme again, in the last line of this Gospel: 'Know that I am with you always, until the end of the age.' ©Intercom



Festival of Carols

"Carols By Candlelight" with readings & reflections will take place today **Sunday at 6p.m.** with the **Folk Choir, Parish Choir,** and guest soloists.

As a Parish family, we come together to meditate on the events leading up to the birth of Our Saviour in a serene and peaceful atmosphere. Please make a special effort to attend with your family and friends.



Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Christmas Eve** will be from **9 a.m.** until **12pm.** Adoration will not take place on **31st. December.** We resume on **Tuesday 7th. January** after the Christmas & New Year break.

Diocese of Down & Connor

The latest edition of the Diocesan Newsletter will be distributed at Masses this weekend. Bishop Treanor has published his Christmas Message entitled "Christmas: the Season of Hope and Joy". It can be read online at: www.catholicbishops.ie/2019/12/20/christmas-2019-message-by-bishop-noel-treanor/

The Priests and staff of the Parishes of St. Bernadette's and Holy Rosary wish you a very Holy and Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. May the blessing of this Christmas Season bring hope and joy into your hearts and homes.

If you would like to book Anniversary Masses, Baptisms, Marriages etc., please call into the Sacristy or Tel. 9040 1975 and leave a message or send an e-mail to the following address: info@stbernadettesparish.org

Our Faithful Departed



Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Betty McCafferty R.I.P.,** of Knockbreda Gardens, whose funeral took place on Saturday.

Anniversaries

Ursula Curran, Eileen McNulty, Patrick Carville, Edward Carvill, Lena Bennett, Michael Green, Frank Noble, Brendan Gogarty, Frances McArt.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Our **Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group** offers listening and support to those who have been bereaved. Tel. 077 3377 3758.

Feast of the Nativity



St. Bernadette's Church

Christmas Eve : Vigil Mass for Families at 7p.m.

Midnight Mass at 10p.m. with the Adult Choir.

Christmas Day Masses: 9.30a.m. & 11a.m. The Folk Choir invites all of the children of the Parish to sing with them at the 11a.m. Mass.

Good Shepherd Church

Christmas Eve : 7pm & 10pm

Christmas Day Masses: 9am, 10.30am, 12pm.

Please note there will be no evening Masses on Christmas Day.

Mass Times

A leaflet with the times of all of the Masses for St. Bernadette's Parish & Holy Parish is available in the church porches. Please collect your copy.

Copies of the **Down & Connor Directory for 2020** will be on sale after all of the Masses this weekend. Priced at £4 each, it includes lots of useful information on Mass times in every Parish, contacts for priests, religious orders, schools, and all Diocesan organisations.



Parish Collections

Last week's Parish collection amounted to £1,733. Sincere thanks for your generosity.

The **Christmas Voluntary Collection** will be taken up at all of the Masses for Christmas Day.



Retirement Association

Friday 27th. December - Ten Pin Bowling at the Ice Bowl, Dundonald from 11am. Concession rate £2.20 per game. All members invited to take part.

Wednesday 22nd. January - Percy French: Melodies of Unforgotten Years at the Lyric at 8pm. Percy French is brought to life in this witty and amusing show. Tickets £15. Limited availability. Contact **Anne** Tel. 9064 3031 as soon as possible to secure your ticket.



Looking for a way to get into the true spirit of Christmas **Trocaire Gifts** are the perfect way to give a gift that will make a real difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest people. You can buy a sustainable and ethical gift from the Trocaire Gifts range from equipment to provide clean water, farm tools, farm stock, children's educational and domestic needs, and so much more. Pick up a catalogue from the Lourdes Chapel porch or visit: www.trocaire.org/gifts



Poinsettias For Christmas

This year you are invited to donate a Poinsettia for Christmas in memory of a loved one. The star-shaped leaf pattern symbolises the star of Bethlehem. The red colour is the blood sacrifice through the crucifixion of Jesus. Please leave your poinsettia in the church from 21st. December, with a card with the name of your loved one. A Mass will be offered during the Octave of Christmas for all those whose names we receive.



Children's Liturgy

The Living Church Office will host the second of three Development Days for leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word on Saturday 25th. January, in our offices at, 120, Cliftonville Road commencing at 9.30am and finishing at 3.30pm. There is no charge for the day. Lunch and all necessary resources will be provided. To book your place, please contact **Caren** at c.collins@downandconnor.org or ring the Living Church Office Tel. 9069 0920



Diocesan Pilgrimages

NURSES! We need volunteers to join our nursing team to care for our pilgrims travelling to Lourdes from **8th. to 13th. July 2020**. Registered nurses active on the NMC live register & newly registered nurses are welcome. For more information, please send your contact details to: lourdes@downandconnor.org.



Parish Centre News

The Centre will be closed for the holiday period.

Please check with your group leader when your particular activity will resume. We wish all of our User Groups a very happy Christmas!

Ministers of the Eucharist



December - Group 2.

Team Leader - Flo McGarrigle.

Ministers of the Word



Sunday 29th. December.

Group 9.

500 Club



Congratulations to the lucky winners in the Draw for Week 14: **Patricia McFlynn & Margaret King**
Each receives £50.

We offer a confidential, non-judgemental service to anyone in need. We can provide direct financial assistance and essential items such as food, fuel, and household items. Do you need our help? Tel. 9035 1561.



School Events



Transfer students and parents are invited to attend the following schools for admission in September 2020:

January 9th. St. Louise' College at 4.30p.m. & 6.30p.m.

January 11th. St. Dominic's High School from 9.30a.m. - 1p.m.

January 15th. & 16th. St. Malachy's College from 7p.m. - 9.30p.m.

January 16th. St. Mary's C.B.G.S. at 7p.m.

January 16th. St. Joseph's College from 7p.m. - 9p.m.

January 18th. Our Lady & St. Patrick's College Knock from 9.15a.m. - 12.30p.m.

January 18th. Rathmore Grammar School from 9a.m. - 1p.m.

St. Mary's University College is at present accepting applications for courses beginning in September 2020. On offer are places on undergraduate courses for the BEd (Hons) Primary teaching degree, the BEd (Hons) Post - Primary teaching degree, and the BA (Hons) Liberal Arts. The closing date for applications for these undergraduate courses is **Monday 13th. January 2020**. Also on offer are places on a postgraduate course for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Irish - medium Education) Primary. The closing date is Friday 28th. February 2020. For further details contact the College on 9026 8320 or visit the College website at:

www.smuch.ac.uk

What's On!



January 10th. Alpha at St. Colmcille's, Ballyhackamore at 7.15pm. Exploring life, faith and meaning in a warm friendly and relaxed setting. You are invited to evenings with coffee and dessert, great chat, talks that make you think - a place where you can be yourself - Interested? email: stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org Tel. 9065 4157

May 19th. - 24th. NI Cancer Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Belfast. Full board and accommodation at the Hotel Agena based on twin/double/treble rooms. Price £695 (price reduction for cancer patients). Travel insurance cover for persons up to 85 years on date of return. Please contact **Jean** Tel. 079339 38981 or by email to: mail@nicancerpilgrimage.org.uk