



Parish of St. Bernadette



3rd. Sunday of Advent Sunday 11th. December 2016. (A) Vol.14 No. 16

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

Fr. Paul Armstrong P.P. 28 Willowbank Park. Tel. 9079 3023

Mass Times Sunday

10a.m. with the Adult Choir.

12p.m. Children's Liturgy for P2 - P5.

Weekdays

9.30a.m. except on Tuesday.

Tuesday

7.30p.m. (with Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help)

Saturday

6.00p.m. Vigil Mass with the Folk Choir every second Week.

Holy Days of Obligation

10a.m.

Other Mass times may vary and will be published in the Parish Bulletin and on the church notice boards, and Parish website.

Confessions Saturday

6.45p.m. after the Vigil Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday from 8a.m. to 7.15p.m.

Baptisms

On the first Sunday of each month. By appointment only four weeks in advance.

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

First Reading (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10) Courage all faint hearts. God's beloved people are assured by the Prophet Isaiah that the Lord is coming to save and to heal. The wilderness will blossom. All weary hearts will revive. Imagine the arid desert dramatically transformed by desert flowers: pinks, reds, yellows, gold.

Second Reading (James 5:7-10) Farmers waiting for the earth to bear fruit: the cycle of the seasons calling us to slow down, to foster patience, to muster as much good-will as we can towards friends, family members and fellow struggling believers, avoiding any semblance of judgment or complaint.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 11:2-11) The Lord anoints John the Baptist as his spokesperson with unstinting praise: no one greater than John the Baptist has ever been seen. John is the last and the greatest of all the prophets. The time for waiting is almost past. The time for unstinting praise and thanksgiving is now.



Preparing for Christmas

A special leaflet will be distributed after all of the Masses this weekend with the programme of important celebrations for the final two weeks of Advent and throughout the Christmas holiday period. Please take a copy home with you.

Key Dates

Wednesday 21st. December

Parish Penitential Service at 7.30p.m.

Christmas Eve

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

Christmas Day

9.30a.m. Mass and congregational singing.

11a.m. Mass with the Folk Choir. We invite all of the children of the Parish to come and sing with us at this Mass.

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

All of the information in the leaflet can be found on the Parish website at: www.stbernadettesparish.org and on the church notice boards.



Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held each Tuesday in the Lourdes Chapel from 8a.m. until 7.15p.m. As part of your Advent preparation, why not drop in for a few minutes of quiet reflection, away from the rush and strain of daily life, and say a silent prayer or simply just sit and rest in the very presence of the Lord?

Reflections on the daily Mass readings during Advent are available at the back of the church. It only takes a few moments to read them each day and anything which helps to direct our minds to a spiritual preparation for Christmas is more than worthwhile.

Our Faithful Departed



Anniversaries

Paddy Corr, Nellie O'Neill, Kathleen Curran, Mary Ellen O'Hara, James Rainey, James Daly, Dymphna McFerran, Eileen Steele, John Craig, Mathavi Kannan, Margaret Heaney, Jack Lee, Bridie McGrath, Veronica McElkerney.

Vera Clifford, Thomas McGrattan, Christina Orr, Irene Maguire, Daniel McKenna, Mary Nichol, Brigid Presley, Agnes Carvill, Martin McGonigle, Frank Daly, Annie Murray.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Parish Carol Service



"Carols By Candlelight" with readings & reflections will take place next Sunday at 6p.m. with the Folk Group, Parish Choir, & the Youth Choir. As a Parish family, we will come together in peace and serenity to meditate on the events leading up to the birth of Our Saviour. Please make a special effort to attend with your family and friends.

Reflection



Today is "Gaudete Sunday" from the first word of the Entrance Song in Latin. *Gaudete* means 'Rejoice!' The pink or rose candle on our Advent wreath is lit today. We are called to prepare the way for Jesus to come into our own hearts but also to prepare other people's hearts so that they, too, may "experience the joy of salvation", that healing, wholeness and holiness we all long for and which alone gives real meaning to our lives. Christmas is a time of gifts -both giving and receiving. Let us make sure that among the gifts we offer to others is some of the Christian joy which we ourselves have received. 1999- 2016 Living Space



Parish Collections

Last week's collection amounted to **£1,859**. Sincere thanks for your generosity.

Team 4 will help with the collection this week.



Retirement Association

Wednesday 14th. December - Monthly Coffee Morning in the Lounge in the Parish Centre at **10.15a.m.** Everyone is welcome! Meet other members & make new friends!

Thursday 15th. December - Weekly Walk at **10.15a.m.** Meet in the church car park.



Apostolic Workers

Our recent Coffee Morning in the Parish Centre raised **£1,300**. Thanks to everyone for your most generous support. The money will be used to help fund the work of Irish missionaries overseas. We wish everyone a peaceful and Happy Christmas! Help us to help the Missions!



St. Bernard's P.S.

Our annual **Carol Service** will be held in the church on **Monday** at **7p.m.** Parishioners are warmly invited to join the children and their families for a wonderful evening of **Christmas** music and reflection on the story of the Nativity. Everyone welcome! Come and enjoy the great talent of the children in our school.



Parish Centre News

For information & bookings: Tel. 9040 1169 or call in and speak to Paul on weekdays from 9a.m. to 1p.m.

Monday 12th.

10.15a.m. Drop in for tea/coffee & a chat after Mass.
10.30a.m. Mothers & Toddlers.
7.30p.m. Pilates (2 sessions).
7.30p.m. Wynchurch Art Group.
8p.m. Bowling Club.

Tuesday 13th.

7p.m. Zumba.
8p.m. - 9.15p.m. Relaxing Yoga Class.

Wednesday 14th.

10.30a.m. Mothers & Toddlers.
2p.m. Speech & Drama.
5p.m. Children's Soccer.
5.30p.m. Irish Dancing Classes.
7p.m. - 9.30p.m. Active & Relaxing Yoga.
8p.m. Taekwondo.

Thursday 15th.

4.30p.m. Speech & Drama.
7p.m. Adult Painting Class.

Friday 16th.

9.30a.m. Pilates.
7p.m. Youth Club - registered members only!

Saturday 17th.

10a.m. Taekwondo.
1p.m. - 4p.m. Junior Badminton.

After School Club

Rosetta 2-4 Club for P1 - P7 children from **Monday - Friday** from **2p.m. - 4p.m.** For more information please contact **Sinead** Tel. **07816 779910**.

Ministers of the Eucharist



Group Leader for **December** - **Flo McGarrigle**.

Ministers of the Word



Sunday 18th. December - Group 5

**Sean O'Hare, Carl Stewart,
Sandra McKillop.**

500 Club



Week 12: Congratulations to the lucky winners in the **Weekly Prize Draw: John Friel & Eileen Lynch.** Each winner receives **£50**.

Our **Christmas Food Collection** for needy families is underway. Christmas can be a very difficult time for individuals and families who are already struggling to manage on extremely tight budgets. Increased winter fuel bills, and the pressure of choosing between heating and eating, will sadly push many families into terrible food crisis. Your gift of food will make such a difference to those who most need our help. Please donate **non-perishable items or small gifts** and place them in the collection bins at the back of the church **before Tuesday 13th. December.** Hampers will be made up with the items received and delivered in time for Christmas.

Latest News



Our **Annual Christmas Appeal** will take place at all of the Masses throughout Ireland this weekend. The strong message accompanying this year's campaign is **"Don't let any family have an empty Christmas"**. A member of our Parish Conference will speak for a few minutes at each Mass to ask for your financial support. Gift Aid forms are available in the church porches. The Society will receive an additional payment from HMRC for the money you donate at no extra cost to you.

Our annual **Christmas Gift** campaign has been launched to help families in Third World countries to become independent and self-sufficient. You can buy an olive tree, chicks, goats, seeds, tools, clean water kits, and lots more! The gift is sourced locally and sustainably from the country where it is needed. So the gifts not only support families in the world's poorest places, they help grow the local economy. Pick up a brochure in the Lourdes Chapel porch or visit: www.trocaire.org/gifts



What's On!



December 12th. Stormont Candlelight Rosary Vigil For Life for the protection of Ireland's unborn babies at **Stormont (Main Gates) Upper Newtownards Road** at **7.30p.m.** to coincide with the Assembly debate on the Abortion Bill. For more information: **Rosary Crusade for Ireland** Tel. **9027 8484** or info@preciouslife.com

December 15th. Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School Annual Carol Service in **Good Shepherd Church** at **7p.m.** All are welcome!

December 21st. "Welcoming Christmas" a service of song and reflection for friends and families in **Drumalis** from **7.30p.m. to 9p.m.** Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Everyone welcome - voluntary donation.