



Parish of St. Bernadette

6th. Sunday of the Year (B) 11th. February 2018. Vol.15 No. 24.

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 (Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46) This reading recalls the rules regarding leprosy, which the Hebrews regarded as contagious and a punishment by God. For the person afflicted, the consequence was exclusion from society. The priesthood was intrinsically linked to the process of exclusion.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1) Paul wants to totally imitate Christ and asks us to live in similar imitation. He enters into communion with all cultures, not to advance his own popularity, but because he hungers for the salvation of all; he seeks to be the minister of Christ's healing to all.

Gospel Reading (Mark 1:40-45) The encounter of Jesus with the leper shows the difference between the ministry of Jesus and the rabbinical traditions, according to which a leper was to be excluded from society, as required by the prescriptions of the Pentateuch. Rabbinic schools believed that leprosy was the result of transgression of the law; the victim of leprosy was to be ostracised. In his encounter with the leper, Jesus does the unspeakable: he touches him. Jesus' touching of the leper occurs only after we are told that he was *moved with pity*. It should also be noted that Jesus is not afraid of contamination. He will later take on himself the contamination of our sins. Jesus sends the leper to the priests so that they will perceive that he heals the sick. If their eyes are open, they will perceive that the awaited Messiah is in their midst. In publicising the healing of Jesus, the leper hinders the ministry of Jesus, in that Jesus cannot now enter a town openly without being perceived as a medicine man. He remains in deserted places and people come to him. Maybe it is in deserted places that real revelation is possible. © Intercom

✠ The Season of Lent

Wednesday 14th. February is Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of the **Season of Lent** which is seen in the Church as a journey of faith and renewal and our acceptance of Christ's call to take up our cross and follow Him, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. ***Lent challenges us to seek changes in our lives so that we may come closer to God and each other.***

Ash Wednesday is a day of **Fast & Abstinence**. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at the **9.30a.m. & 7.30p.m. Masses**. This Holy Season of Lent is an opportunity for each of us to reflect on how we will respond to the words "***Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel***" spoken as ashes are placed on our foreheads.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues on **Tuesday** in the **Lourdes Chapel** from **8a.m.** until **7.15p.m.** New adorers are needed to ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is always attended throughout the day. Drop in for a few minutes of quiet reflection, away from the strain of daily life.

Reflections on the **daily Mass readings** during **Lent** 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 Easter is more than worthwhile.

Our Faithful Departed ✠

Anniversaries

Cissie Rodgers, Sarah Reavey, Fred Murray, Walter Walker, Margaret McConvey, Lucy Taylor, Hilary Leyden, Nell Gilmore, Kevin Canavan, Bridget Carney, Danny McKay, Catherine Hasson.

John Burns, Brigid Murray, Madeline Collins, Una O'Callaghan, Eileen Daly, Mary Watson, Hugh Joseph Marshall, Elizabeth McArdle, Leo, Peter and Mary McQuillan.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Our **Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group** visits those who have been bereaved over the last few years, to offer listening and support. To make contact with the Group members directly, please Tel. **077 3377 3758**.

World Day of Prayer For The Sick

The theme for 2018 is provided by the words that Jesus spoke from the Cross to Mary, his Mother, and to John: "**Woman, behold your son ... Behold your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home**" (*Jn 19:26-27*). We pray for the sick and infirm in our families and in the Parish and also for those who care for them in the health professions or as volunteers. This day coincides with the feast of **Our Lady of Lourdes**.



Parish Collections

Last week's collection amounted to **£1,598**. Sincere thanks for your generosity.

2017 Parish Accounts

The key item in the accounts this year is the ongoing cost of completing the refurbishment of the church that commenced in 2015. Over £1.1m has been spent to date which covered the completion of the first two phases of the renovation programme. The third and final phase is the replacement and improvement of the lighting in the church. The budget needed for this is approx. £100k. Work begins this week to test the electrical cabling to determine if this needs to be replaced before the new lights are installed. It is planned to begin the installation immediately after Easter. This will signal the completion of the three-year refurbishment project.

In 2017, we received **£26,880** from the Revenue for Gift Aid. While we are able to claim a limited amount of Gift Aid from the loose plate, (i.e. money donated without an envelope), it would be possible to increase significantly that payment if Parishioners, who pay tax on their earnings and/or savings, and who are not using the envelope system, would now take envelopes. This money has already been taken in tax from you. Revenue will give that tax, with your permission, to any charity to which you have donated. If you would like to sign up for Offertory Envelopes, please leave your details in the Sacristy.



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

No Mothers & Toddlers today!

7.30p.m. - 8.30p.m. Pilates Class.

8p.m. Bowling Club.

8.30p.m. - 9.30p.m. Pilates Class.

Tuesday

7p.m. Zumba Class.

Wednesday

No Mothers & Toddlers today!

2p.m. Speech & Drama.

5p.m. Children's Soccer.

5.30p.m. Irish Dancing Class.

7p.m. - 8p.m. Active Yoga Class.

8p.m. Taekwondo.

8.15p.m. - 9.15p.m. Relaxing Yoga Class.

Friday

9.30a.m. - 10.30a.m. Pilates Class.

7p.m. Youth Club - registered members only!

Saturday

10a.m. Taekwondo.

1.30p.m. Junior Badminton.

Rosetta 2-4 After School Club

From **Monday - Friday** for P1 - P7 children from **2p.m. - 4p.m.** Contact **Sinead** Tel. **07816 779910**.

Ministers of the Eucharist



Group Leader for **February** - **Anne Sharvin**.

Mass Rota

6p.m. **A. Sharvin, T. McGonigle, F. Presley**.

10a.m. **M. Cassidy, S. Mullan, Sr. A. Kilroy**.

12p.m. **D. McSorley, M. Carnie**.

Ministers of the Word



Sunday 18th. February - **Group 11**

Robert Madine, Faustina Graham,

Roseanne Hanna, Maura Presley.

500 Club



Week 21: Congratulations to the lucky winners in the **Weekly Draw: John Martin & Anne Gray**.

Each winner receives **£50**.

Diocesan Pilgrimages



The **Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** will take place from **July 10th. - 17th**. Prices per person sharing:

5 nights - July 11th. - 16th. £650.

7 nights - July 10th. - 17th. £725.

Youth Team July 8th. - 17th. £590 (age 16 - 25).

Full board for sick & infirm pilgrims with medical & nursing care in Accueil Notre Dame: **5 nights - July 11th. - 16th. £550**. All flights from Belfast International. Further information for sick and infirm pilgrims from the **Pilgrimage Office** Tel. **9064 6040** or contact us by email to: **dcpilgrimage@gmail.com**. A limited number of application forms are available from the Sacristy.

We need nurses (on the NMC live register - working in any area) to join the volunteer staff of the Diocesan Pilgrimage from 11th.-16th. July). Subsidised fare for nurses is £520. Please Tel. **9064 6040** or by e-mail to : **lourdes@downandconnor.org**

Retirement Association



Wednesday 14th. February - **Monthly Coffee Morning** in the **Lounge** in the **Parish Centre** at **10.15a.m.** Everyone is welcome! **Thursday 15th. February** - **Weekly Walk** at **10.15a.m.**

Wednesday 21st. February - "I'll Tell My Ma" at the **Lyric** at **7.45p.m.** A new comedy starring Christina Nelson. Adm. £15. If you wish to attend please contact **Anne** Tel. **9064 3031** as soon as possible.

Friday 23rd. February - **Monthly Lunch** in the **Belfast Indoor Bowls Club** at **1p.m.** 2 courses £17. Please contact **Geraldine** Tel. **078459 33371** *before* Monday 19th. February.

Tuesday 27th.-Wednesday 28th. February - **Annual trip to Malahide**. Cost €195 p.p.s B & B for two nights, with dinner on Tuesday evening. Single room occupancy €275. To book, contact **Geraldine** Tel. **0784593 3371**

The **Trócaire Lenten Campaign** is under way. **Trócaire Boxes** are now available in the church. Please take a box home with you, fill it, and return it at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.



"Love is not rude, it is not harsh. Its actions, words and gestures are pleasing and not abrasive or rigid. Courtesy is a school of sensitivity and disinterestedness, which requires learning how to listen, speak and at times, to keep quiet." Amoris Laetitia - The Joy of Love, Pope Francis.